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An Orchid Survey of the Southern part of Annapurna conservation Area, Central Nepal

Annapurna Conservation Area (ACA) is the largest conservation area in Nepal and covers an area of 7,629 sq. km. ACA is visited by over 45,000 foreign trekkers every year and more than 120,000 people of various ethnic groups inhabit in the region. ACA is managed by the King Mahendra Trust for Nature Conservation. The Southern part of Annapurna Range is covered by thick forest and rich in orchids. Richness in orchids in this area is due to the heavy rainfall and great altitudinal variation. This area is sweet home to many types orchids due to the presence of many undisturbed natural forest. A survey of Southern part of Annapurna Conservation Area shows that it is home to more than 120 species of terrestrial and epiphytic orchids, which is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total orchid species of Nepal. The status of every species of orchids is recorded from the fieldwork. From the fieldwork it is found that *Coelogyne nitida*, *C. prolifera*, *Eria spicata*, *Oberonia pachyrachis*, *Dendrobium transparens*, and *D. amoenum* are frequent, while *Oberonia nepalensis*, *Nervilia crocifformis*, *Gastrochilus distichous* are less frequent and *Eria musicola*, *Trichostesia dasyphylla* and *Oberonia parvula* are very rare in the study area. One new species of *Eria* and one new variety of *Gastrochilus calceolaris* are also recorded from the study area. Orchids of this area are well conserved due to awareness, conserved forest and well management. Besides Park management has discouraged collection of wild orchid.