

Project Update: July 2019

Habitat Monitoring

Two members of research team visited the core habitat in July 2019 to observe the habitat condition. The vegetation coverage of the orchid habitat has changed, and the supporting grass grown up which is good sign for habitat restoration in 2019 compared to 2018. The previous year there was a little portion of elephant grass on the east side of the plot. However, this year a single orchid sapling hasn't been found with associated grass vegetation.



Figure 1: The core habitat covered by grass and shrubby vegetation during July 2019

Habitat Survey

This survey concentrated to identify potential grassland habitat where *Eulophia obtusa* might grow. The survey activities conducted during the monsoon in July. The survey was conducted at different locations in the Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj areas where similar types of grassland still exist. More than 50 people were interviewed about the occurrence of target species *Eulophia obtusa*. Among them, a few people told us they had seen the orchid plants but unfortunately no signs of orchid plant were found in the surveyed grassland. People were interviewed with questionnaires and also leaflets with photographs were distributed so that if they found any new places for this orchid, they could get to know about the occurrence of this rare ground orchid.

Table 1: Feedback from the locals

Name of the Interviewee	Age	Location	Comments
Kobiraj Naimul Hossain	60	Baliaghata	Have not seen ever. Can be found in Safina Park
Jomshed Mia	55	Baliaghata	Very hardly seen inside the elephant grass field
Mesbaoul	38	Miapara	Might be found in their adjacent areas
Safikul	25	Godagari	Have seen around 15-20 years ago inside the elephant grass and also might pick up some individual also
Nantu	30	Joitha Bottola	Said that the flower of <i>Eulophia obtusa</i> also come out with elephant grass
Sakurdi	70	Joitha bottola	Have seen in Bizra mouza
Milon	30	Mirjapur	Have seen inside the jungle of elephant grass around 10 years ago
Sahidul islam	45	Thakur Joubon	Have seen in Ram Nagar inside the elephant grass around 20 years ago. Earlier it was abundant he also added
Monirul	35	Thakur Joubon	Have seen in Ram Nagar and the scenario is still floating in his imagination in his eye. Have seen two to four years ago
Abu Bakkar	70	Digha	Mentioned it usually grows in elephant grass jungle. Have seen around 10 years ago in the field of <i>chor</i> (grass land)
Mokhlesur Rahman	70	Digha	Seen in the field of <i>chor</i> and that place was close to water body. It is possible to found in the lake beside the Godagari college
Hasan	28	Balia Hata	Said possibly he has seen in the field of <i>chor</i> in Ram Nagar
Aizul	60	Godagari	He has seen in the field of <i>chor</i> in Ram Nagar around 10 years ago
Ekramul Islam	75	Godagari	He has seen in the field of <i>chor</i> behind Ram Nagar around 10 to 12 years ago. Earlier the whole place in Ram Nagar was <i>chor</i> field he added
Mostofa		Godagari	Has seen in the field of <i>chor</i> or elephant grass in ram nagar around 10 years ago
Sadekul	40	Godagari	He said that the plant was grown naturally in the field of elephant grass or in the field of <i>chor</i> in Ram Nagar. He also added new place where this rare orchid can be found and that is Kamar Para
Sre Tapan	45	Godagari	Has seen in the in the field of <i>chor</i> in a plenty. They kept the flowers while they used to work in the field. The root or <i>bison</i> was feed by boar

Name of the Interviewee	Age	Location	Comments
Ratan	30	Usol kuri	Last year he saw in a place named Tetoila
Karim	50	Digha	Said possibly he has seen the orchid in grass land of Digha
Motiur Rahman	60	Babudanga	Said that the orchid can be found along the pond at Vodra
Awal	25	Babudanga	The orchid can be found at Vodra

Tissue Culturing Initiative

An orchid plant has been given to the Rajshahi University tissue culture center for conservation of its genetic resource and future sapling generation. This plant tuber had been collected a few years ago from the core habitat for ex-situ conservation.



Figure 2: A *Eulophia obtuse* plant in top and transfer to Rajshahi University Tissue Culture Center (July 2019)

Outreach activities

During the habitat survey, several outreach activities were conducted with local people and promotional material such as leaflets was distributed to local people about this orchid plant.



Figure 3: Views of outreach activities during the field survey (July 2019).