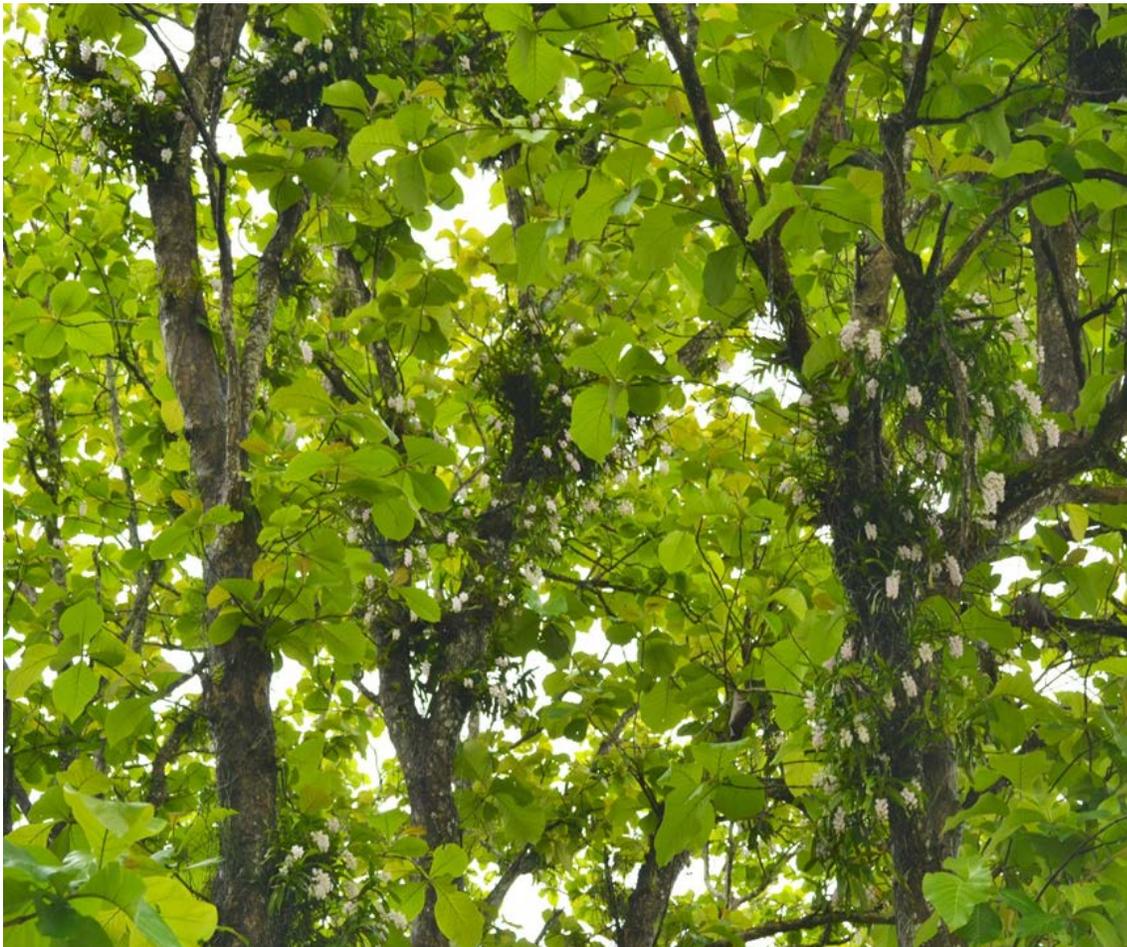


Project Update: August 2018

Field visits were undertaken and data (GPS coordinates; habit and habitat; plant morphometrics) along with samples (leaves and roots for DNA; whole specimen for herbarium) were collected for orchids found during the period. Locals living in areas adjacent to study sites were informed about the objectives of the project and made aware about the necessity of orchid conservation.

Since this quarter coincided with peak monsoon months in the region, occurrence of storms, floods and landslides were frequent causing restricted access to field sites. On one occasion, the project leader was rescued by an accompanying forest guard when he slipped off a cliff during sample collection of *Bulbophyllum affine* in Jampui Hills.

A total of 28 orchid species have been identified thus far (since March 2018 i.e., before the grant was awarded in June, 2018), including 16 new records for the state. We are currently in process of constructing a paper on ten of these new reports and aim to communicate it by the end of September 2018.



Aerides odorata during peak flowering in Pecharthal Reserve Forest.



Synchronous flowering of *Eria acervata* in Jampui Hills



Micropera obtusa blooming in Jampui Hills