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## Short Communication

# ***Chlorophytum laxum*, R.Br. (Liliaceae): A threatened medicinal herb of soliga tribe from B.R.Hills, Karnataka, India**

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## ABSTRACT

B. R. Hills has numerous medicinal plants in which some of the plants are used Soliga tribe to cure different ailments as a folk medicine. *Chlorophytum laxum*, R.Br. is one of the important medicinal plant in this area, is commonly called "Bhoomi sakkare". The over exploitation of this plan for its medicinal property, the plant is under threaten condition. Hence, urgent need to conserve the plant through tissue culture technique.

**Key words:** *Chlorophytum laxum*, Liliaceae, threatened medicinal plants.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Soliga is an indigenous community of Biligiri Rangaswamy temple wildlife sanctuary (BRT; lat.11° 40' -1209N and long. 77°05' -77°01' altitude 600-1800msl), Karnataka, India. The tribe has a long history of curing most of its ailments using traditional medicine (Wakdikar.S, 2004). At high altitude regions as well as in most rural areas of our country, traditional healthcare system is the only accessible form of treatment for a majority of the people, both logistically as well as economically (Dhar et al.,2002). In such traditional healthcare system, medicinal herbs are of vital importance as they are the major ingredients of local medicines.

*Chlorophytum laxum* is an important medicinal herb of soliga tribe belonging to family *Liliaceae* is growing in BRT, small plant rarely exceeding 1 ft height; root –fibrous usually with small oblong tubers hanging from them. Leaves 6-12, grass –like subdistichous, usually spreading and recurved, longer than scape, narrowly linear, falcate, flat or folded, acute, glabrous with numerous conspicuous nerves. Scape very flexuous slender scape (Figure 2) 1-3 in. long. Naked flowers few, greenish-white, very distinct (sometime 1 in. apart), in lax very slender simple or forked racemes 3-10 in. long, with scarious ovate –lanceolate acuminate bracts 5/8 in. long at the base of the branches when forked ; bracts of the inflorescence the flore ¼ , the upper 1/8 in. long at the base of the branches when forked ;bracts of the inflorescence the flower ¼, the upper 1/8 in. long, ovate acuminate; pedicels jointed about the middle, short, becoming longer and drooping in fruit the lowers sometimes germinate. Perianth-segments 1/8 -1/6 by 1/16in., oblong, obtuse, obscurely 3 –nerved stamens alternately short and long, the longer 1/12 the shorter 1/16in long; anthers 1/30in long. subglobose, green. Style 1/25in long. Capsules 1/6 by 1/4in., broadly obcordate, three winged the cells 1-4 seeded. Seed 1/8in. across, irregularly angled, black minutely papillose (Wodder in jour 1899) Flowering (Figure 2) and fruiting: June and august.

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*Chlorophytum laxum* (Figure 1) species is commonly called “Bhoomi Sakkare” it means earth sugar by soliga tribes. Ethnobotanically the species tubers (Figure 3) has been used for treatment of Piles and as well as an Astringent by Soliga tribes extensively even today. The species is vanishing rapidly from the natural habitat due to over exploitation of the tubers for its medicinal value. Therefore urgent need to conserve the species through mass propagation using modern techniques like tissue culture is suggested.



**Fig: 1** *Chlorophytum laxum* in nature.



**Fig 2:** Flowering (arrows) stage of *Chlorophytum laxum*.



**Fig 3:** Tubers of *Chlorophytum laxum*.

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