Ceropegia (family Asclepiadaceae) is a well-known genus owing to its special corolla structure. Forty-five species of Ceropegia have been reported in India, among which 28 are endemic. Unique among these is Ceropegia odorata Hook.f. owing to fragrant flowers that are not observed in any other species of this genus. It is also the rarest Ceropegia as it is known only from four localities, Salsette (Mumbai), Abu (Rajasthan), Paragadi (Gujarat) and Tarubanda (Melghat Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra) in 163 years since its first report by Graham. The description of this plant was mainly based on old herbarium collections and its fragrance was doubted by McCann, who renamed it as Ceropegia blatteri. The name C. odorata was reinstated by Huber, but its fragrant nature was doubted by McCann, based on various old collections. However, he could not observe the flowering of the wild population in natural conditions and hence there was no report on the phenology, fragrance or pollinators of this species in the wild. Since then, this species has remained elusive, though the area of its occurrence has been extensively surveyed. Mishra and Singh reported this as a threatened species. In view of data deficiency about the species, this note is in place to record the occurrence of living population of C. odorata in Toranmal forest, Nandurbar district, Maharashtra. The population was first noted in September 2002 in the Toranmal Medicinal Plant Conservation Area located at the village Legarpari, Ratnagiri range, Toranmal. The identification was confirmed when flowering occurred in September 2003. The species has a small population of 12 plants in 900 ha area in the wild. *C. odorata* is an extensive climber which grows mostly in shrub thickets in inaccessible regions. The peak of flowering occurs at the end of September and remains only for five to seven days. The flowers have a strong fragrance reminiscent of Jasmine species, which is present throughout the day and night but is stronger in the morning. Insect visitors, mostly flies were also observed on the flowers (Figure 1).

This note will facilitate identification of the plant in the wild. It is necessary to take up a detailed survey of the entire western Indian region to locate populations of this rare species. The earlier known localities of this plant are now under heavy biotic pressure and it is doubtful whether the plants continue to survive in those localities. Evolution of fragrance in the otherwise non-fragrant genus is an interesting phenomenon. Whether this character has any ecological significance needs to be verified with further studies. In view of low population and rarity of this species, extensive in situ as well as ex situ conservation programmes are needed.

**Figure 1.** a. Ceropegia odorata inflorescence; b. Corolla tube cut open to show flies.