vicinity (Valle del Cauca, Colombia). Field and herbarium work were carried out, and material from each species found was collected and documented with pictures and field notes; several specimens from VALLE and CUVC herbaria were also studied. As a main result, 121 species of 53 genera were reported, 10 of which are new species and 2 unrecorded species for the Colombian flora. New species and records are represented as following for these genera: *Campylocentrum* Benth. (1 new species) *Epidendrum* L. (5 new species), *Lepanthes* Sw. (3 new species and a new record), *Stelis* Sw. (1 new species), and *Telipogon* Kunth (1 new record). Many educational workshops were conducted with several community members in order to communicate to them the importance of orchid diversity and conservation of cloud forest. Cloud forests of Dapa vicinity are highly diverse and host an important number of Colombian endemic orchid species, although they were disturbed in the last 30 years by the surrounding community that selectively extracted timber trees and orchids. Primary conservation strategies concerning protection of wild orchid populations and their habitats should be formulated and executed in concert with local community and environmental authorities in order to stop the habitat loss of wild orchid populations.

Distribution pattern, conservation status, and traditional therapeutic uses of orchids with particular reference to Solan district, Himachal Pradesh, India

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The state of Himachal Pradesh in India situated between 30º22’40” to 33º12’40” North latitude and 75º45’55” to 79º04’20” East longitude, with an altitudinal range of 350 m to 6,975m, forms the part of Trans and North Western Himalayan biogeographic provinces. Presently, extensive field surveys were made in the Solan district in the state of Himachal Pradesh during which frequent visits were made in and around the orchid-rich grasslands and forest belts. During the survey, local people and community were also interviewed to gather information on traditional therapeutic uses of these orchids, and a simple questionnaire was prepared for this purpose. The present communication provides brief notes on the distribution pattern, flowering period, conservation status, and traditional therapeutic uses of some of the orchids from the district. However, the great orchid diversity of Himachal Pradesh is progressively declining for a number of reasons, including habitat destruction and illegal and unregulated commercial collections for ornamental and/or medicinal purposes. These factors have detrimentally affected the size and frequency of natural populations of these orchid species, and the existence of many others is threatened. If the depletion of orchids continues unchecked, a large number of species may vanish even before their existence and biological/economic importance is established**.** Hence, there is an urgent need to identify and document orchids from the region and find appropriate conservation strategies to protect these from becoming extinct.