



STOMATAL STUDIES OF EPIPHYTIC ORCHIDS

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ABSTRACT

Leaf anatomy was investigated in six epiphytic orchids under Orchidaceae family. Five species of orchids such as *Acampe praemorsa*, *Aerides ringens*, *Bulbophyllum sterile*, *Dendrobium aphyllum* and *Oberonia brachyphylla* were studied. Anomocytic stomata were recorded and stomatal index ranges from 7.69% to 28.6%. The minimal stomatal index was recorded in *Dendrobium aphyllum* (7.69%) where as maximal is in *Acampe praemorsa* (28.66%). The number of stomata in a definite area of leaf varies from plant to plant. Low value of stomatal index is an adaptation of orchid plants to survive in different climatic conditions by conserving water. A detailed study is needed to reveal these differences in stomatal density.

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