

Research Article

Documentation of Wild Ornamental Plants (WOPs) of District Rudraprayag of Uttarakhand (Western Himalaya) India

Ankit Singh¹, Vandana Shukla¹, Zubair A. Malik^{2,3,*} and M.C. Nautiyal¹

¹High Altitude Plant Physiology Research Centre (HAPPRC), Post Box: 14 H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar Garhwal - 246174, Uttarakhand, India

²Department of Botany and Microbiology, HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar Garhwal Uttarakhand -246174, India

³Presently at Department of Biology, Govt. HSS Hardturoo Anantnag (J&K)- 192201, India

*Corresponding Author's E-mail: malikzubair081@gmail.com

(Received: September 24, 2022 ; Revised: June 01, 2023; Accepted: September 01, 2023)

ABSTRACT

The present study was carried out to document the wild ornamental plants (WOPs) of District Rudraprayag of Uttarakhand, India. The WOPs were documented from three different altitudinal zones *viz.*, sub-tropical zone (500-1500 m asl), temperate zone (1600-2600 m asl) and sub-alpine/alpine zones (2700-4000 m asl). Data was collected via key informants and random sampling with interview of 156 informants. A total of 208 species of WOPs (belonging to 142 genera and 51 families) were reported from the study area. The number of WOPs increased with increasing altitude. The highest WOPs (118 species) were reported from upper altitude, followed by middle (64 species) and lower altitude (26 species). Orchidaceae was the highest WOPs family (32 species) followed by Asteraceae and Ranunculaceae (17 species each). Herbaceous life form was dominant in the entire altitudinal range and most of the WOPs had medicinal utility also. Due to the continuous extraction and over exploitation, some of the reported WOPs (especially those having medicinal importance) have declined in their natural habitats. Domestication and cultivation of WOPs is one of the viable options to meet the growing demands from the industries and to reduce the extraction pressures in the natural habitats of WOPs.

Key words: floral diversity, Himalaya, ornamental plant, Rudraprayag , wild

