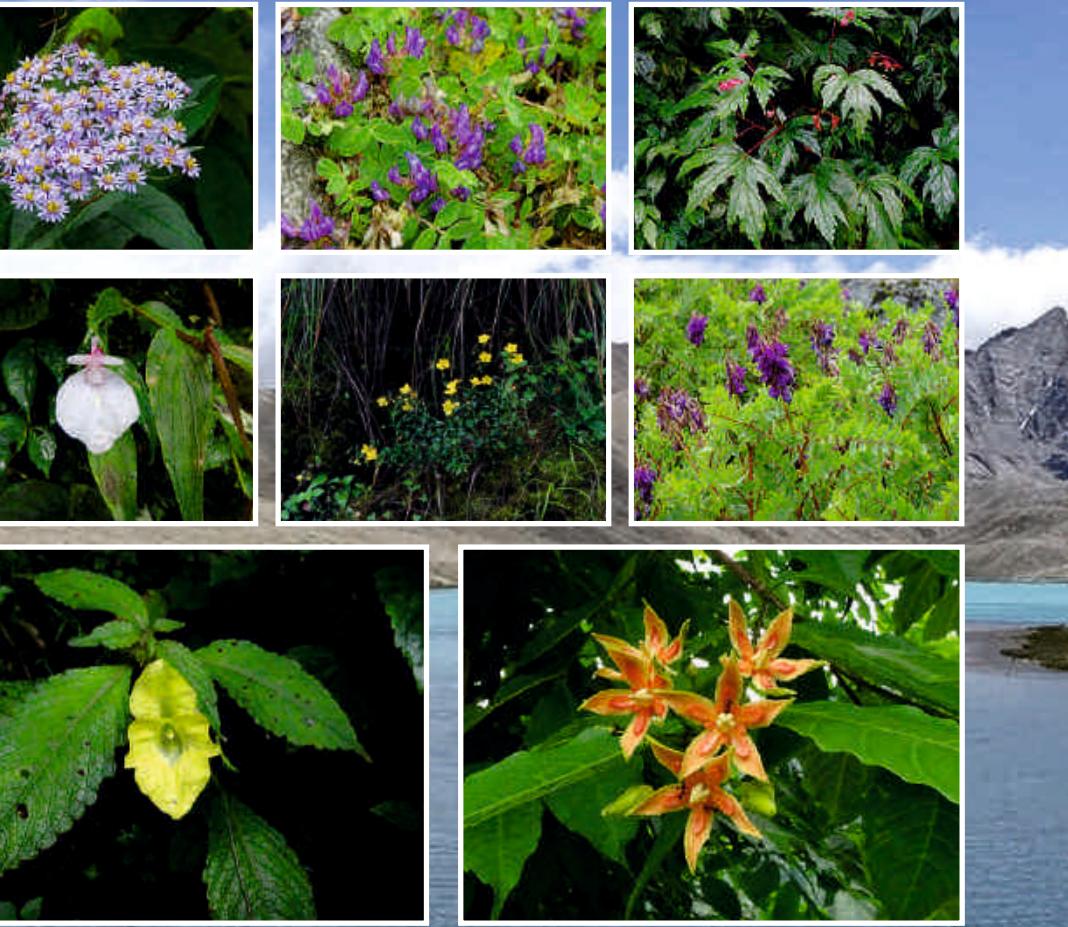


FLORA OF SIKKIM

A Pictorial Guide



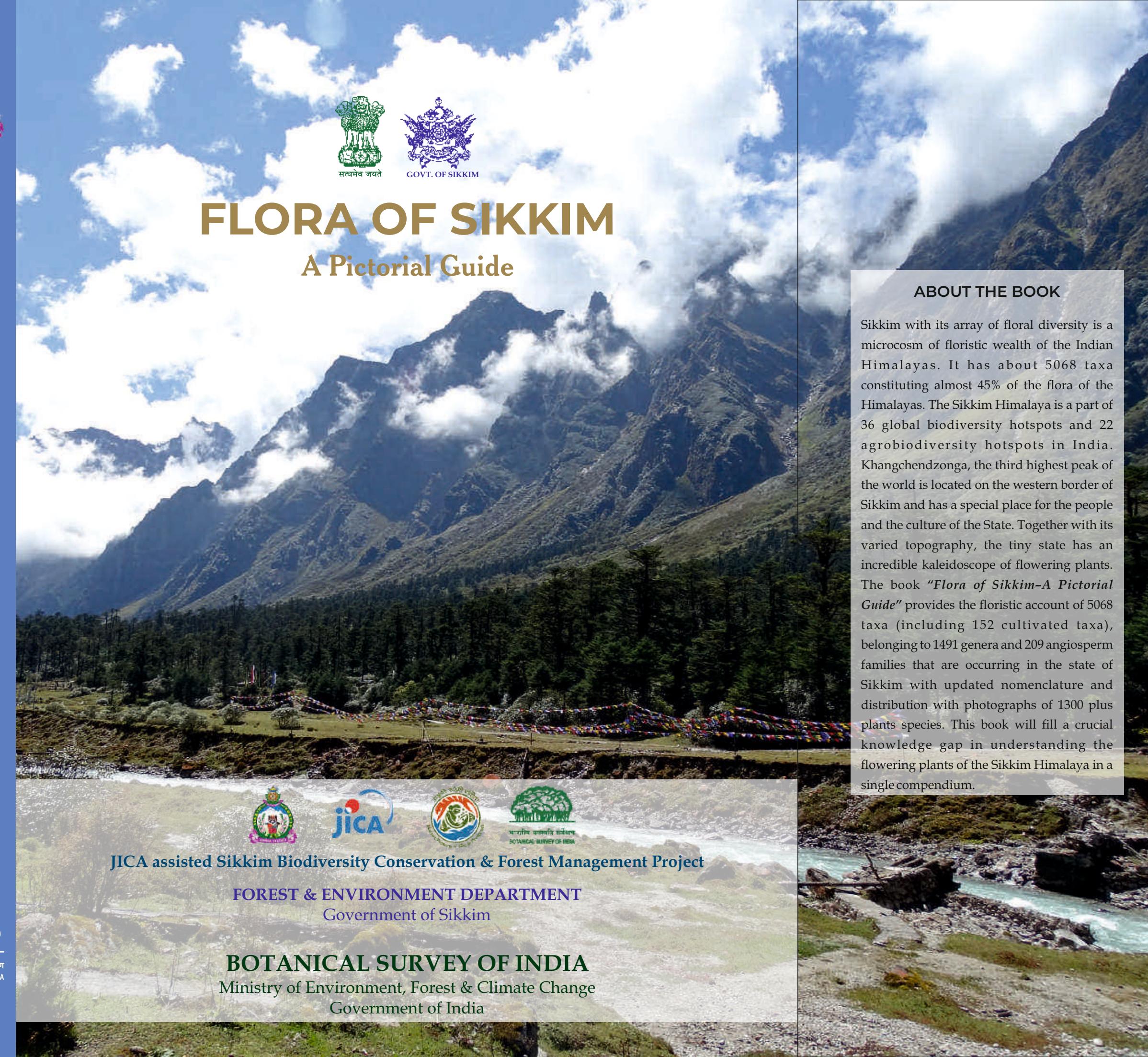
2021

भारतीय वनस्पति संशोधन
BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA



FLORA OF SIKKIM

A Pictorial Guide



ABOUT THE BOOK

Sikkim with its array of floral diversity is a microcosm of floristic wealth of the Indian Himalayas. It has about 5068 taxa constituting almost 45% of the flora of the Himalayas. The Sikkim Himalaya is a part of 36 global biodiversity hotspots and 22 agrobiodiversity hotspots in India. Kangchendzonga, the third highest peak of the world is located on the western border of Sikkim and has a special place for the people and the culture of the State. Together with its varied topography, the tiny state has an incredible kaleidoscope of flowering plants. The book "Flora of Sikkim-A Pictorial Guide" provides the floristic account of 5068 taxa (including 152 cultivated taxa), belonging to 1491 genera and 209 angiosperm families that are occurring in the state of Sikkim with updated nomenclature and distribution with photographs of 1300 plus plants species. This book will fill a crucial knowledge gap in understanding the flowering plants of the Sikkim Himalaya in a single compendium.



JICA assisted Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation & Forest Management Project

FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Government of Sikkim

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Government of India



Khangchendzonga range seen from Namchi, South Sikkim



Cyananthus lobatus Wall. ex Benth.



FLORA OF SIKKIM

A Pictorial Guide

Rajib Gogoi
Norbu Sherpa
J. H. Franklin Benjamin
Dinesh Kumar Agrawala
Sundar Kumar Rai
Sudhansu Sekhar Dash¹

(Botanical Survey of India, SHRC, Gangtok, Sikkim &
¹BSI Headquarters, Kolkata)



JICA assisted Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation & Forest Management Project

FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Government of Sikkim

BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
Government of India

2021

Flora of Sikkim

A Pictorial Guide

January, 2021

© JICA assisted Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation & Forest Management Project

Forest & Environment Department, Government of Sikkim

&

Botanical Survey of India, Government of India

Rajib Gogoi

Norbu Sherpa

J. H. Franklin Benjamin

Dinesh Kumar Agrawala

Sundar Kumar Rai

Sudhansu Sekhar Dash

Published by

JICA assisted Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation & Forest Management Project

Forest & Environment Department

Government of Sikkim, Forest Secretariat,

Deorali, Gangtok – 737103

&

The Director

Botanical Survey of India

CGO Complex, 3rd MSO Building, Block - F, 5th & 6th Floor, DF - Block,

Sector - I, Salt Lake City

Kolkata - 700 064

www.bsi.gov.in

Citation: Gogoi, R., Sherpa, N., Franklin Benjamin, J.H., Agrawala, D.K., Rai, S.K. & Dash, S.S. 2021. Flora of Sikkim - A Pictorial Guide. Botanical Survey of India, Kolkata and Forest & Environment Department, Sikkim. 566pp.

All rights reserved

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner.

Price: ₹5500/-

ISBN: 978-81-9507250-7

ISBN 819507250-X



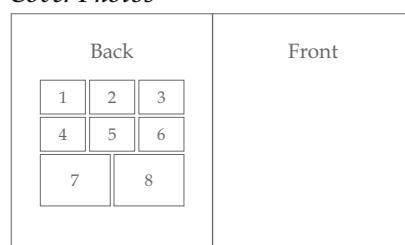
Designed & Printed at

Berakah Printing & Stationery

Girls' School Road, Deorali, Gangtok – 737102

Mobile: 9434191791, Email: berakahprinters@gmail.com

Cover Photos



Front: Yumthang Valley

Back : Gurudongmar Lake

1. *Aster sikkimensis*
2. *Astragalus sikkimensis*
3. *Begonia sikkimensis*
4. *Caulokaempferia sikkimensis*
5. *Saxifraga sikkimensis*
6. *Hedysarum sikkimense*
7. *Impatiens sikkimensis*
8. *Wrightia sikkimensis*

This book is dedicated to the people of Sikkim



Rhododendron niveum Hook.f.
State Tree of Sikkim



© A. A. Mao

Rhododendron cinnabarinum Hook.f.



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

PREM SINGH TAMANG (GOLAY)
CHIEF MINISTER
SIKKIM



MESSAGE

The Indian Himalayan Region is one of the global biodiversity hot spots, with diverse ecosystems evolved over millions of years, that supports high diversity of flora. This region is now recognised as the third pole of the earth which provides a wide range of ecosystem services, including an important role in global atmospheric circulation, the hydrological cycle, food security and economic activities of the people of Indian subcontinent.

Sikkim, one of the Himalayan states of India having an area about 7096 sq.km is a naturalist's paradise. Sikkim provides a wide variety of habitats that supports and sustains rich flora and fauna. The vegetation ranges from tropical to subtropical to temperate, sub-alpine and alpine. Sikkim probably harbours the highest density of floristic elements per unit area in the world. This intense array of floral biodiversity of the state needs to be properly documented for harnessing its value and also imparting conservation measures. I am happy to know that, Botanical Survey of India, the apex research organization in the country on floristic inventorization and documentation is publishing the book "*Flora of Sikkim: A Pictorial Guide*" in collaboration with Forest & Environment Department, Government of Sikkim. I am also delighted to know that, this book is the outcome of the taxonomic research in the region since J.D. Hooker in 1849 and more specifically by the Botanical Survey of India since its inception in Sikkim from 1979. The book contains an exhaustive checklist of 5068 taxa (including 152 cultivated taxa), belonging to 1491 genera and 209 angiosperm families that are occurring in Sikkim with updated nomenclature and distribution. The book details the geography, ecology, vegetation pattern and forest types of Sikkim. A good number of photographic representations of the plants is a delight for the stakeholders to identify and conserve the precious floral diversity and also to further promote tourism in the state of Sikkim. I congratulate the entire team of authors and both the departments for bringing out this important book. I believe this book will be useful to all stakeholders including students, academicians, researchers, environmentalists, policy makers and the overseas botanical fraternity to know about the plant wealth of this Himalayan state with staggering biodiversity.

(Prem Singh Tamang)

Date : 18.01.2021

Place : Gangtok



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM



SHRI KARMA LODAY BHUTIA,
MINISTER
Forest and Environment Department
Government of Sikkim
Sikkim

MESSAGE

Sikkim as a state and culture always strives to conserve its nature and natural resources. These innate qualities have endeared to many visitors primarily interested in its unique natural beauty with lush green forests, lofty snow capped mountains, glaciers, pristine alpine meadows, and wide valleys full of colourful wild flowers, snow fed rivers, springs and alpine lakes. Studies emanating from the scientific community reveal that the entire Himalayan ecosystem is adversely affected due to natural and man-made interventions, including climate change, and Sikkim is also vulnerable to it. To understand these impacts, knowledge on the plant diversity is crucial. Botanical Survey of India (BSI) has been studying floral diversity in Sikkim and documenting its composition for several decades now. It is a matter of great delight and satisfaction that BSI in collaboration with Forest & Environment Department, Govt. of Sikkim is publishing pictorial guide of flowering plants of entire state of Sikkim which is first of its kind. This publication, "*Flora of Sikkim - A Pictorial Guide*" enumerates correct botanical names of 5068 taxa (including 152 cultivated taxa), belonging to 1491 genera and 209 angiosperm families with a good number of photographic representations of the species. I congratulate the relentless efforts of Director, BSI and his team of Scientists in bringing out the information of Sikkim plants, otherwise scattered in sporadic publications. This book while appealing to a wide range of stakeholders, will specifically be useful to the personnel of the Sikkim Forest Department as a field guide in identifying and thereby conserving flowering plants of Sikkim. To document the biodiversity of the state is first step towards its conservation and I am happy that JICA assisted Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project (SBFP) of Forest & Environment Department is concerned with such documentation and this book brought under its auspices should serve the forest department and other stakeholders to conserve the bewildering floral diversity of Sikkim.



19/01/2021
Minister

Forest & Env. and Mines & Geology
Science & Technology Departments
Government of Sikkim



GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM

Mr. Y. P. Gurung, IFS
SECRETARY,
Forest and Environment Department
Government of Sikkim



MESSAGE

The fruitful collaboration between the Botanical Survey of India and Forest & Environment Department, Government of Sikkim has yielded the enormously popular books like '*Mushrooms of Sikkim*', '*Fern and Fern Allies of Sikkim, I & II*'. In this illustrious lineage, I am delighted that BSI has documented and updated the entire flowering plants of Sikkim and is bringing out in a pioneering publication "*Flora of Sikkim - A Pictorial Guide*". That this book is brought out in collaboration with JICA assisted Sikkim Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Management Project (SBFP) of the Forest & Environment Department, Government of Sikkim is an added feather in the conservation cap of the Sikkim Government. This pictorial inventory of the floristic wealth of the state would certainly boost the conservation efforts.

This book enumerates 5068 taxa (including 152 cultivated taxa), belonging to 1491 genera and 209 angiosperm families with a good photographic representation of plants and would definitely update our knowledge on the floral diversity of Sikkim. It is certain that such a monumental work would have been possible only as a result of dedication and hard work of the Scientists of Botanical Survey of India. I congratulate all of them for this accomplishment.

Date : 19.01.2021

Place : Gangtok

Secretary
Forest and Environment Department
Government of Sikkim



डॉ. ए. ए. माओ
निदेशक

Dr. A. A. Mao
Director



भारतीय वनस्पति सर्वेक्षण
Botanical Survey of India



FOREWORD

As a premier research organisation on plant taxonomy, the Botanical Survey of India has been engaged in documenting the floral diversity from diverse ecosystems of our country. Through continuous, extensive survey and exploration in different phytogeographic zones, this organization has assembled enormous information on occurrence and distribution of plant species of our country. Many of the publications of BSI have been recognized as the integral referral taxonomic literatures. The Sikkim Himalaya Regional Centre of BSI was established in 1979 for survey, exploration and documentation of floristic wealth of Sikkim region. In this lineage, BSI gathered ca. 55000 plants specimens in its herbarium at Gangtok from the state consisting of more than 5000 species of flowering plants. BSI is publishing "*Flora of Sikkim - A Pictorial Guide*" based on data collected from the last 40 years in collaboration with Forest & Environment Department, Government of Sikkim. This book with enumeration of 5068 taxa (including 152 cultivated taxa) in 1491 genera and 209 families is a valuable addition to understand the biodiversity of the state and the entire Indian Himalayan Region. It would also act as a ready reckoner and field guide for different stakeholders and nature enthusiasts. The floral biodiversity in Sikkim can be gauged by the fact that it has 45% of the taxa present in the entire Indian Himalayan region.

This exhaustive information on flowering plants of Sikkim would indeed serve as a valuable baseline data for researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders which will enhance our knowledge on the flowering plants of Sikkim and thereby protect and conserve this amazing floristic wealth. I congratulate the authors for their dedicated effort to bring out this book.

A. A. Mao

12th January, 2021

PREFACE

Sikkim distinguishes itself as one of the smallest states in India, yet one of the most diverse in terms of biodiversity, eco-climatic conditions, altitudinal features, with the imposing Mt. Khangchendzonga looming in its western side. The biodiversity of Sikkim has always been held in high admiration in the scientific community, especially that of flowering plants, with explorers being enthralled by the vibrant array of mesmerising plant diversity of Sikkim. Nevertheless, a comprehensive account of all the flowering plants of Sikkim in a single compendium was elusive and its need was acutely felt in these times of rapid climate change. Botanical Survey of India has data of flowering plants of Sikkim stretching almost two centuries. This book, "Flora of Sikkim - A Pictorial Guide" gives an up-to-date data available with BSI and other published records on the flowering plants of Sikkim.

This book draws upon the illustrious pioneers of botanical exploration, chief among them, Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, who blazed a trail in plant exploration of Sikkim. Floristic accounts were given by C.B. Clarke (1877, 1886), Griffith (1847), J.D. Hooker (1854, 1872-1897), T. Anderson (1869), King & Pantling (1898), Gammie (1894a, 1894b), Smith & Cave (1911), Bruhl (1926), Rao (1964), Mehra & Bir (1964), Biswas (1967), Hara (1966, 1971), Ohashi (1975), Grierson & Long (1983, 1984, 1987, 1991, 1999, 2001), Pradhan & Lachungpa (1990), Pradhan (1990), Srivastava (1993, 1996, 1998), Rai & Rai (1994), Noltie (1994, 2000), Dash & Singh (1996, 1998a,b,c, 1999, 2011), Singh & Chauhan (1997), Dash & Chauhan (2002), Maity (2005), Chhetri & al. (2007, 2008, 2009), Lucksom (2007), Tambe & Rawat (2008), Chhetri (2010), Arrawatia & Tambe (2011), Rawat & Tambe (2011), Pradhan (2015, 2018), Mao & al. (2017), Gogoi & al. (2018), Maity & al. (2018), Singh & al. (2019a), Singh & al. (2019b), Sinha & al. (2019) and others. Various publications, herbarium specimens were consulted to compile this inventory.

In the present endeavour, we have documented the flowering plant diversity of Sikkim with updated nomenclature and detailed distribution. Gammie (1894) in his assessment stated that the number of flowering plants in Sikkim to be about 4000 species. In over a century since, the number increased to 4450–4600 taxa. The current inventory includes 5068 taxa in 1491 genera belonging to 209 families which are reported for the first time in this book in a comprehensive manner. The book also provides a detailed introduction on the geography, ecology, vegetation pattern of Sikkim.

All the families are arranged alphabetically. The accepted names are given in bold while the basionyms or synonyms are given in italics. The checklist divided into dicotyledons and monocotyledons, families within groups, genera within families and species and infra-specific taxa within genera are arranged alphabetically for the sake of convenience; at the end of the enumeration, an index to the family and generic names is also included. All the taxa are provided with their distribution in Sikkim. Digital images of over 1300 species of plants are given.

We hope, the book will be useful to the general public, national and international botanical fraternity, policy makers and foresters of not only Sikkim but also throughout the Himalaya.

The checklist in the book contains 5068 taxa including 152 cultivated taxa. Many of the cultivated taxa has economic importance as floricultural, horticultural, ornamental or as edibles and medicinal plants, hence they are also presented herewith coloured images for easy identification by different stakeholders.

Authors

© Yadav Dewan

Koenigia campanulata (Hook.f.) T.M.Schust. & Reveal



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to extend their deep gratitude to Dr. A. A. Mao, Director, BSI, Kolkata, without whose keen interest, this book would not have been possible to be published. We express sincere thanks to Shri Y. P. Gurung IFS, Secretary, Forest & Environment Department, Government of Sikkim for his support and cooperation. We are highly thankful to Shri N. W. Tamang IFS, Project Director, SBFP-JICA; Shri Tshering P. Bhutia, Joint Director-cum-Nodal Officer, NTFP/SMPB and Mrs. Shewani Pradhan, DFO-cum-Nodal Officer, JFMC SBFP-JICA, Forest & Environment Department, Government of Sikkim, whose initiative and unflinching support has helped to bring this book to publication.

We express sincere thanks to all the ex Heads and Scientists/Researchers of BSI, SHRC especially Drs. P. K. Hajra, B. Krishna, D. C. S. Raju, R. C. Srivastava, V. Singh, N. R. Mandal, S. Kumar, A. S. Chauhan, P. Singh, G. P. Sinha, T. M. Hynniewta, A. A. Ansari, A. K. Sahoo, Tapas Chakrabarty, Kanad Das, B. S. Khelia, M. Gangopadhyay, A. K. Maity, Shri Subhash Pradhan, D. Maity, Nilima Pradhan, Geetamani Chhetri, David Biate, Sankara Rao Mudadla, Chandan Singh Purohit for their valuable contribution in enriching the BSI herbarium (BSHC) at Gangtok, which is the main source of data for this publication. Authors also expresses their heartfelt gratitude to Drs. P. V. Prasanna, V. P. Prasad, Subir Bandyopadhyay, M. U. Sharief, Pratibha Gupta, V. Sampath Kumar, S. L. Meena, S. S. Hameed, C. Murugan, S. K. Singh, Kumar Ambrish, Arti Garg, Nripemo Odyuo, Tapan Seal, Harish Singh, R. K. Gupta, Vinay Ranjan, Sandeep K. Chauhan, Lalji Singh, Jagdeesh Ram T.A.M., Onkar Nath Maurya, V. K. Rawat, Manish K. Kandwal, A. Benniamin, P. K. Pusalkar, J. Jayanthi, J. S. Jalal, U. Tiwari, K. Karthigeyan, Ladan Rasingam, Devendra Singh, Chaya Deori, W. Arisdason, K. A. Ahmed Kabeer, Avishek Bhattacharjee, Kumar Avinash Bharati, Sitaram Panda, M. Murugesan, Krishna Chowlu, Achuta Nand Shukla, Mahua Pal, Deepu Vijayan, B. B. T. Tham, Shyam Biswa, Debasmita Dutta Pramanik, Monalisa Dey, Sudhir Kr. Yadav, Anand Kumar, Gopal Krishna, Anant Kumar, Kothareddy Prasad, Santanu Dey, Shri Sanjay Kumar, Shri Uday Biswas, Shri Manohar Pradeep Xalxo, Shri Than Singh Nirajan, Shri Prabal Kumar Baske, Shri P. P. Ghosal for their constant help and support.

We express our gratitude to Shri K. C. Pradhan, ex Chief Secretary, Govt. of Sikkim and also to Shri Arvind Kumar IFS, Dr. Anil Mainra IFS, Dr. Thomas Chandy IFS, Shri C. S. Rao IFS, Shri. M. L. Srivastava IFS, Shri B. P. Pradhan IFS, Dr. S. Anbalagan IFS, Shri D. C. Nepal IFS, Dr. D. Manjunatha IFS, Shri Udai Gurung IFS, Mrs. Usha Lachungpa ex Principal Scientist, Shri M. R. Rai ex Joint Director, Shri Nischal Gautam Jt. Director, Mrs. Karma Choden Bhutia DFO, Mrs. Yangchen Bhutia DFO, Mrs. Merab Basnett DFO, Mr. Chewang T. Bhutia ACF, Dr. Bharat Kumar Pradhan, Dr. Sabita Dahal of Forest & Environment Department, Govt. of Sikkim for their help in different ways in completion of the manuscript of this book.

We would like to thank Dr. C. R. Magesh, Sr. Scientist, NMNH, New Delhi; Dr. Sadhan Kr. Basumatary & Dr. Anil Kumar Pokharia, Sr. Scientist, BSIP, Lucknow; Dr. Henry Noltie and Ms. Leonie Paterson, RBGE, UK; Dr. Alan Paton & Dr. Alex Monro, RBG, Kew, UK; Dr. David Allen, IUCN, Cambridge, UK; Dr. Wojciech Adamowski, University of Warsaw, Poland; Dr. Magnus Lidén, Uppsala, Sweden; Dr. Peter J. Matthews, Osaka University, Japan; Dr. K. N. Gandhi & Dr. David Boufford, Harvard, USA; Dr. Xue-Jun Ge & Dr. Sheng-Xiang Yu, CAS, China; Dr. Rajesh Joshi, Regional Head, G. B. Pant Inst. (NIHE), Pangthang, Gangtok; Dr. Tika Prasad Sharma, Dept. of Agriculture, Govt. of Sikkim; Dr. Souravjyoti Borah, Gauhati University; Shri Partha Sharathi Das, National Library, Kolkata; Dr. Sonam R. Lepcha, Deputy Director, S&T, Sikkim; Dr. R. K. Avasthe, Jt. Director, ICAR-NOFRI, Gangtok; Dr. Shriprakash & Dr. Ashok Sinha, RARI (AYUSH), Gangtok; Dr. T. N. Deka & Dr. S. S. Bora, ICRI, Spices Board, Gangtok; Shri Yadav Dewan, Shri Nandan Guria, Shri Kailash Prasad Kushwaha, Shri Anshuman Dwivedi, Ms. Dukchen Bhutia, Shri Mihir Saha, Shri Ashutosh Kumar Upadhyay, Dr. Rijupalika Roy, Ms. Shreyasi Nayak, Ms. Sanchayita Sengupta, Shri Sayak Chakraborty, Shri Shuvadip Sarkar, Ms. Oindrila Chakraborty, Shri Ratan Giri, Shri R. K. Ram, Mrs. Passang Lahmu, Mrs. Kumari Biswakarma, Shri A. Mahato, Shri Sachit Rai, Shri Prakash Tamang, Shri Prem Sharma, Shri Dhan Bahadur Chettri, Shri Dilip Kumar of BSI-SHRC, Gangtok and Shri Santosh Rai of Chandmari, Gangtok for their valuable help.

Authors are also highly thankful to Mr. Rohit Paul Rai, Beracah Printers and to Mr. Tharchen Dorjee Moktan for typesetting of the manuscript.

Rajib Gogoi
Norbu Sherpa
J. H. Franklin Benjamin
Dinesh Kumar Agrawala
Sundar Kumar Rai
Sudhansu Sekhar Dash



Agapetes serpens (Wight) Sleumer

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Preface | i |
| Acknowledgements | ii |
| Introduction | 1 - 37 |
| Vegetation | 6 - 15 |
| Protected Areas of Sikkim | 16 - 19 |
| Phytogeographical Affinities | 20 - 22 |
| Endemism | 22 |
| Plant Resources | 23 - 24 |
| Threatened Plants of Sikkim | 25 - 26 |
| Analysis of the Flora | 27 |
| Scheme of Presentation | 27 - 28 |
| Pioneers in Botanical Exploration in Sikkim | 29 - 37 |
| Enumeration and Photographs | 38 - 544 |
| Dicotyledons | 39 - 413 |
| Monocotyledons | 414 - 543 |
| Excluded Taxa | 545 - 549 |
| References | 551 - 557 |
| Index | 559 - 564 |



Jacobaea raphanifolia (Wall. ex DC.) B.Nord.



Dinetus grandiflorus (Wall.) Staples

INTRODUCTION

The mighty Himalayas is a biodiversity hotspot stretching in an arc over 3000 kilometres of northern Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan and the northwestern and northeastern states of India, the Himalaya hotspot includes all of the world's mountain peaks higher than 8000 meters and covers 7,50,000 km². This massive mountain range is divided into two regions: The Eastern Himalaya, which covers parts of Nepal, Bhutan, the northeast Indian states, southeast Tibet, and northern Mynamar; and the Western Himalaya, covering Kumaon-Gharwal, northwest Kashmir and northern Pakistan (Anon., 2020). The Eastern Himalayan region covers an area of 5,24,190 km² stretching from Eastern Nepal to Yunnan in China, of which 52.03% of the areas lies in India (Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Darjeeling-West Bengal, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura). Eastern Himalayas have inherited multiple biogeographic origins being at the intersection of Indo-Malayan Realm, Palearctic Realm and the Sino-Japanese Region (Sharma & al., 2008).

Sikkim, is one of the tiniest Indian State, nestled in a wedge between Nepal and Bhutan, and loomed over by the tableland of Tibet. This tiny state harbours an incredible array of biodiversity and is indeed 'the microcosm of the Himalayas' as succinctly observed by the legendary Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (Gammie, 1894; O'Brien, 2017). Since the pioneering exploration by Sir. J.D. Hooker in 1848–49, many explorers have often trodden this array of diversity, making it one of the most explored regions of the Himalayas. The number of taxa reported in the Indian Himalayan Region ranges from 10503 (Rana & Rawat, 2017) to 11157 (Singh & al., 2019). Sikkim has about 5068 taxa, almost 45% of the entire plant diversity of the Indian Himalayan region, ensconced in so minuscule a region.

The Indian State of Sikkim with a total area of 7096 km² extends approximately 115 kms from north to south and 65 kms from east to west, has no open valley and no plains but carries elevations ranging from 300 to 8598 m above mean sea level consisting of lower, middle and higher hills, alpine zones and snow bound land, the highest elevation 8598m, being the top of the Mt. Khangchendzonga itself. This third highest mountain of the world lies on the border with Nepal and is the guardian deity to Sikkimese and venerated as the holiest. Tista and Rangit are two main rivers which flow in a north to south direction through gorges and valleys. The state is the major catchment of river Tista that originates from Tso Lhamo lake in the north. The Tso Lhamo or the Sikkim plateau lies in the Trans-Himalayan region covering an area about 400 km² and probably representing India's smallest biogeographic province (Rawat & Tambe, 2011) and supports populations of four of the eight ungulate species of the Tibetan plateau (Chanchani & al., 2010). Sikkim's fauna is diverse, including 150 species of mammals, 550 species of birds, and 48 species of fishes, in addition to many reptiles, amphibians and insects. Amongst endangered or rare mammal species are Red Panda, Snow Leopard, Musk Deer, Tibetan wolf, Red fox, Indian wild dog, Hog Badger, Tibetan Sheep, Serow, Goral, Tibetan Wild Ass (Kiang), etc. For the richness of avian diversity, Sikkim has been placed within the Eastern Himalaya Endemic Bird Area. The faunal components are further enriched by the presence of over 627 species of butterflies and insects (Anon., 2012).

The state of Sikkim exhibits a contiguity of habitats from sub-tropical of Sal (*Shorea robusta*) to cold deserts within a distance of less than 100 kms, owing to a wide altitudinal gradient and fairly high degree of slopes. These habitats are cloven along the two main rivers, the Tista and Rangit and their numerous tributaries. Sikkim encompasses the lesser Himalaya, Central Himalaya, and the Tethys Himalaya. It has also the steepest landscape in the country since the width of the Himalaya across its entire length is narrowest here. Slopes are on an average of 45° representing one of the steepest altitude gradients anywhere in the world (Anon., 2014). The mountain system as whole trends towards east-west direction while the ridges, run in a north-south direction like the Singalila and Chola ridge, with another ridge separating Rangit valley from the Tista valley. It is estimated that about 84 glaciers are available in Sikkim covering an area of 440 km². The glaciers are found as low as 3700 msl near Khangchendzonga, but generally are present at 4000 msl. Of the prominent glaciers, Tista Khangse is the origin of the river Tista. The melt waters of the glacier often accumulate in tarns and the spill waters of tarns forms streams and rivulets. The spill waters of lake Tso Lhamo and a series of small lakes ultimately forms the headwaters of river Tista. The Lhonak glacier gives rise to Lhonak/Goma Chu, an important sub-tributary of river Tista. From Zemu glacier originates the Zemu Chu, one of the chief feeders of Tista. Another important river, the Rathong Chu in West Sikkim originates from Rathong glaciers and contributes to Rangit, the largest of Tista tributaries (Choudhary, 2006). Sikkim also consists of 534 lakes

Syzygium claviflorum (Roxb.) Wall. ex Steud.
Eugenia claviflora Roxb.
East Sikkim: Melli.

Syzygium cumini (L.) Skeels
Eugenia gambolana Lam.
Myrtus cumini L.
South Sikkim: Melli.

Syzygium formosum (Wall.) Mason
Eugenia formosa Wall.
South Sikkim: Melli.

Syzygium jambos (L.) Alston [Nep. *Aambake*]
Eugenia jambos L.
Sikkim.

Syzygium kurzii (Duthie) N.P.Balakr. [Nep. *Aambake*]
Eugenia kurzii Duthie
East Sikkim: Pangthang.

Syzygium nervosum A.Cunn. ex DC.
Sikkim.

Syzygium ramosissimum (Blume) N.P.Balakr.
Clavimyrtus ramosissima Blume
Sikkim: Rangit Valley.

Syzygium praecox (Roxb.) Rathakr. & N.C.Nair
Eugenia praceox Roxb.
South Sikkim: Kitam.

Syzygium tetragonum (Wight) Wall. ex Walp.
Eugenia tetragona Wight
Sikkim.

Syzygium toddaloides (Wight) Walp.
Eugenia toddaloides Wight
Sikkim.

Syzygium venosum DC.
Sikkim.

NYCTAGINACEAE

2 genera; 2 species

Boerhavia Vaill. ex L.
Boerhavia diffusa L.
East Sikkim: Rangpo, Ranipool.

Bougainvillea Comm. ex Juss.
Bougainvillea spectabilis Willd
Cultivated.

NYMPHAEACEAE

1 genus; 1 species

Nymphaea L.
Nymphaea nochiali Burm.f.
South Sikkim: Jorethang, Melli

OCHNACEAE

1 genus; 1 variety

Ochna L.
Ochna obtusata DC.
var. **pumila** (Buch.-Ham. ex DC.) Kanis
O. pumila Buch.-Ham. ex DC.
Sikkim.

OLACACEAE

1 genus; 1 species

Erythropalum Blume
Erythropalum scandens Blume
Modacopsis vaga Griff.
East Sikkim: Ranipool, Gangtok.

OLEACEAE

9 genera; 18 species

Chionanthus L.
Chionanthus ramiflorus Roxb.
Linociera marcophylla Wall. ex G.Don
South Sikkim: Melli, Kitam.

Chrysojasminum Banfi
Chrysojasminum humile (L.) Banfi
Jasminum humile L.
North Sikkim: Lachung, Lhonak.

Fraxinus Tourn. ex L.
Fraxinus floribunda Wall. [Nep. *Lakunree*]
Sikkim.

Fraxinus suaveolens W.W.Sm.
F. sikkimensis (Lingelsh.) Hand.-Mazz.
North Sikkim: Lachen.

Jasminum L.
Jasminum arborescens Roxb.
J. latifolium Roxb.
Sikkim.

Jasminum dispermum Wall.
West Sikkim: Yuksom.

Jasminum elongatum (P.J.Bergius) Willd.
J. amplexicaule Buch.-Ham. ex G.Don
Nyctanthes elongata P.J.Bergius
Sikkim: Tista Valley.

Jasminum mesnyi Hance
Cultivated.

Jasminum nepalense Spreng.
J. glandulosum Wall. ex G.Don
East Sikkim: Rongli.

Jasminum nervosum Lour.
J. subtripinnerve Blume
West Sikkim: Sombaria.

Ligustrum L.
Ligustrum compactum (Wall. ex G.Don) Hook.f. &
Thomson ex Brandis
Olea compacta Wall. ex G.Don
West Sikkim: Dentam.





Psidium guajava L.



Syzygium kurzii (Duthie) N.P.Balakr.



Boerhavia diffusa L.



Myrsine semiserrata Wall.



Maesa rugosa C.B.Clarke

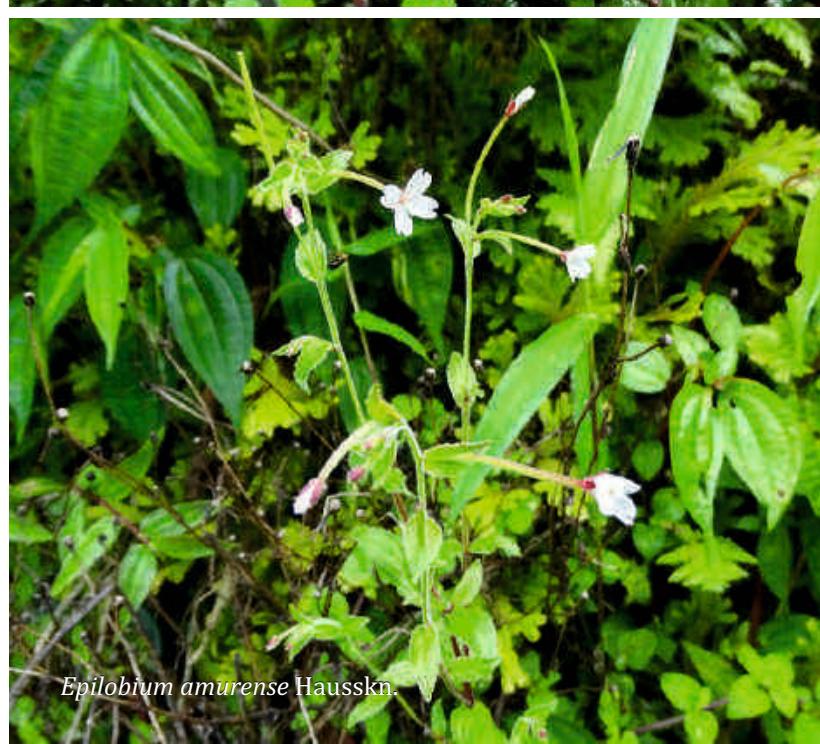


Bougainvillea spectabilis Willd.



Jasminum mesnyi Hance

| | |
|--|---|
| Ligustrum confusum Decne Sikkim. | Epilobium gouldii P.H.Raven North Sikkim: Kishong. |
| Myxopyrum Blume Myxopyrum smilacifolium (Wall.) Blume <i>Chionanthus smilacifolius</i> Wall. Sikkim: Rangit Valley. | Epilobium laxum Royle East Sikkim: Tamze, Tsomgo. |
| Nyctanthes L. Nyctanthes arbor-tristis L. [Nep. <i>Parijat</i>] East Sikkim: Assam Lingzey, Singtam. | Epilobium leiophyllum Hausskn. East Sikkim: Chamnago. |
| Olea L. Olea dioica Roxb. South Sikkim: Jorethang. | Epilobium roseum Schreb. North Sikkim: Zemu Valley; East Sikkim: Tsomgo. |
| Olea gamblei C.B.Clarke Sikkim. | Epilobium royleanum Hausskn. North Sikkim: Zemu. |
| Osmanthus Lour. Osmanthus fragrans Lour. <i>Olea acuminata</i> Wall. ex G.Don. var. <i>longifolia</i> DC. West Sikkim: Bhareng to Gorkhey, Uttaray. | Epilobium sikkimense Hausskn. <i>E. sikkimensis</i> Hausskn. subsp. <i>ludlowianum</i> P.H.Raven North Sikkim: Zukophyak. |
| Osmanthus suavis King ex C.B.Clarke [Nep. <i>Silingay</i>] <i>Siphonosmanthus suavis</i> (King ex C.B.Clarke) Staph East Sikkim: Phusum; West Sikkim: Singalila. | Epilobium tibetanum Hausskn. <i>E. pseudo-obscurum</i> Hausskn. West Sikkim: Dzongri. |
| ONAGRACEAE | |
| 5 genera; 29 taxa (27 species, 2 sub-species) | |
| Circaeae L. | Fuchsia Plum. ex L. |
| Circaeae alpina L. subsp. micrantha (Skvortsov) Boufford <i>C. micrantha</i> Skvortsov North Sikkim: Yumthang. | Fuchsia boliviiana Carrière Cultivated. |
| Circaeae alpina L. subsp. imaicola (Asch. & Magnus) Kitam. <i>C. alpina</i> L.var. <i>imaicola</i> Asch. & Magnus West Sikkim: Bakhim, Dzongri. | Fuchsia hybrida Hort. ex Siebert & Voss. Cultivated. |
| Circaeae repens Wall. ex Asch. & Magnus North Sikkim: Lachung. | Fuchsia triphylla L. Cultivated. |
| Epilobium L. | Ludwigia L. |
| Epilobium amurense Hausskn. <i>E. amurense</i> Hausskn. subsp. <i>laetum</i> (Wall. ex Hausskn.) P.H.Raven East Sikkim: Menmechu lake, Tamze, Tsomgo. | Ludwigia adscendens (L.) H.Hara <i>Jussiaea adscendens</i> L. Sikkim. |
| Epilobium angustifolium L. Sikkim. | Ludwigia hyssopifolia (G.Don) Exell. <i>Jussiaea hyssopifolia</i> G.Don East Sikkim: Pakyong, Rangpo; South Sikkim: Namchi. |
| Epilobium clarkeanum Hausskn. North Sikkim: Lachen; West Sikkim: Dzongri. | Ludwigia octovalvis (Jacq.) P.H.Raven <i>Oenothera octovalvis</i> Jacq. Sikkim. |
| Epilobium conspersum Hausskn. <i>E. reticulatum</i> C.B.Clarke North Sikkim: Zukophyak. | Ludwigia perennis L. <i>L. parviflora</i> Roxb. Sikkim. |
| Epilobium cylindricum D.Don North Sikkim: Lachen, Zema-I. | Ludwigia prostrata Roxb. East Sikkim: Rishikhola. |
| Oenothera L. | |
| Oenothera biennis L. Sikkim. | |





Epilobium conspersum Hausskn.



Epilobium sikkimense Hausskn.



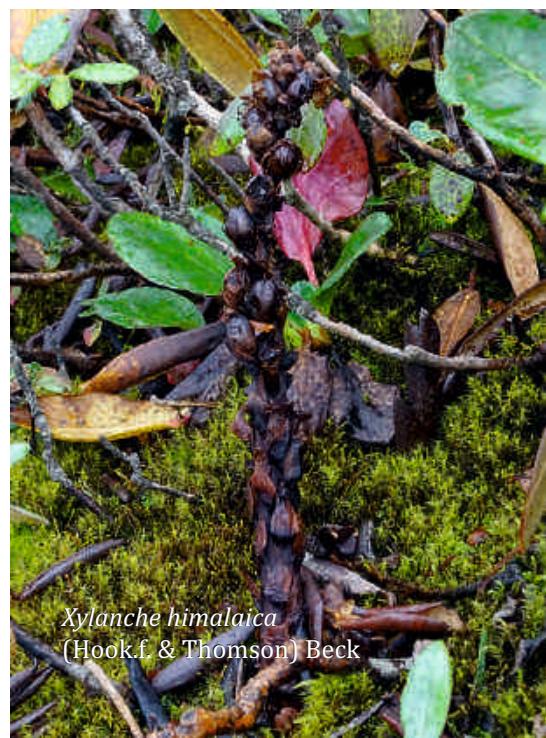
Fuchsia boliviiana Carrière



Aeginetia indica L.



Epilobium wallichianum Hausskn.



Xylanche himalaica
(Hook.f. & Thomson) Beck

Oenothera drummondii Hook.
West Sikkim: Pemayangtse.

Oenothera rosea L'Hér. ex Aiton
Sikkim.

OPILIACEAE

1 genus, 1 species

Lepionurus Blume

Lepionurus sylvestris Blume
L. oblongifolius (Griff.) Mast.
South Sikkim: Jorethang.

OROBANCHACEAE

5 genera; 7 species

Aeginetia L.

Aeginetia indica L.
East Sikkim: Machong.

Aeginetia acaulis (Roxb.) Walp.
A. pedunculata Wall.
Orobanche acaulis Roxb.
Sikkim.

Christisonia Gardner

Christisonia hookeri C.B.Clarke ex Hook.f.
Sikkim: Rangit Valley.

Lathraea L.

Lathraea purpurea H.A.Cummins ex King
West Sikkim: Singalila.

Lathraea squamaria L.
Sikkim.

Orobanche L.

Orobanche cernua Loefl.
Sikkim.

Xylanche Beck

Xylanche himalaica (Hook.f. & Thomson) Beck
Boschniakia himalaica Hook.f. & Thomson.
East Sikkim: Tukla.

OXALIDACEAE

3 genera; 7 species

Biophytum DC.

Biophytum reinwardtii (Zucc.) Klotzsch
Oxalis reinwardtii Zucc.
South Sikkim: Jorethang.

Averrhoa L.

Averrhoa carambola L. [Nep. Kantra]
South Sikkim: Jorethang.

Oxalis L.

Oxalis corniculata L. [Nep. Chari Amilo]
East Sikkim: Gangtok.

Oxalis corymbosa DC.

O. debilis Kunth
East Sikkim: Gangtok, Bhushuk.

Oxalis latifolia

Kunth
East Sikkim: Gangtok, Bhushuk.

Oxalis leucolepis

Diels
O. acetosella Hook.f.
North Sikkim: Yumthang.

Oxalis griffithii

Edgew. & Hook.f.
North Sikkim: Lachung.

PAPAVERACEAE

2 genera; 14 species

Argemone L.

Argemone mexicana L. [Nep. Satyanaasi]
Sikkim: Tista Valley.

Papaver L.

Papaver bellum (Prain) Christenh. & Byng
Meconopsis bella Prain
West Sikkim: Dzongri.

Papaver cathcartia

Christenh. & Byng
Cathcartia villosa Hook.f.
Meconopsis villosa (Hook.f.) G.Taylor
North Sikkim: Muguthang;
East Sikkim: Cho-la, Thegu.

Papaver discigerum (Prain) Christenh. & Byng
Meconopsis discigera Prain
West Sikkim: Goche-La.

Papaver grande (Prain) Christenh. & Byng
Meconopsis grandis Prain
West Sikkim: Dzongri.

Papaver guilelmi-waldemarii (Klotzsch) Christenh.
& Byng

Meconopsis aculeata Royle
M. guilelmi-waldemarii Klotzsch
Sikkim.

Papaver horridulum (Hook.f. & Thomson)
Christenh. & Byng

Meconopsis horridula Hook.f. & Thomson
North Sikkim: Lhonak Valley, Tankra-La.

Papaver lyratum

(H.A.Cummins & Prain)
Christenh. & Byng
Cathcartia lyrata H.A.Cummins & Prain
Meconopsis lyrata (H.A.Cummins & Prain) Fedde
West Sikkim: Singalila.

Papaver napaulense

(DC.) Christenh. & Byng
Meconopsis napaulensis DC.
South Sikkim: Maenam; West Sikkim: Singalila.

Papaver paniculatum

D.Don
Meconopsis paniculata (D.Don) Prain
North Sikkim: Zukophyak; South Sikkim: Maenam.



Biophytum reinwardtii (Zucc.) Klotzsch



Oxalis corymbosa DC.



Oxalis corniculata L.



Oxalis latifolia Kunth



Oxalis leucolepis Diels.



Oxalis griffithii Edgew. & Hook.f.

Androcorys monophylla (D.Don) Agrawala & H.J.Chowdhery
Herminium monophyllum (D.Don) P.F.Hunt & Summerh.
Neottia monophyla D. Don
West Sikkim: Legship.

Androcorys pugioniformis (Lindl. ex Hook.f.) K.Y.Lang
Herminium pugioniforme Lindl. ex Hook.f.
North Sikkim: Yumesamdong.

Ania Lindl.
Ania penangiana (Hook.f.) Summerh.
Tainia hookeriana King & Pantl.
T. penangiana Hook.f.
East Sikkim: Rumtek, Andheri, Pakyong.

Anoectochilus Blume
Anoectochilus brevilabris Lindl.
A. sikkimensis King & Pantl.
East Sikkim: Rorathang, Rhenok, Rongli.

Anoectochilus roxburghii (Wall.) Lindl.
Chrysobaphus roxburghii Wall.
Sikkim: Tista Valley.

Anthogonium Wall. ex Lindl.
Anthogonium gracile Wall. ex Lindl.
East Sikkim: Gangtok 3rd Mile, Bhushuk.

Aphyllorchis Blume
Aphyllorchis alpina King & Pantl.
North Sikkim: Lachung to Katao.

Aphyllorchis montana (Thw.) Reichb.f.
A. prainii Hook.f.
Apaturia montana Thw.
East Sikkim: Rhenock, Rongli, Rigchu.

Apostasia Blume
Apostasia wallichii R.Br.
Sikkim: Tista Valley.

Appendicula Blume
Appendicula cornuta Blume.
Dendrobium bifarium Lindl.
Sikkim: Tista Valley.

Arachnis Blume.
Arachnis labrosa (Lindl. & Paxton) Rchb.f.
Arhynchium labrosum Lindl. & Paxton
West Sikkim: Rishi.

Arundina Blume
Arundina graminifolia (D.Don) Hochr.
A. bambusifolia Lindl.
Bletia graminifolia D.Don
East Sikkim: Majitar, Rhenock; North Sikkim: Tung.

Ascocentrum Schltr.
Ascocentrum ampullaceum (Roxb.) Schltr.
Aerides ampullaceum Roxb.
Vanda ampullacea (Roxb.) L.M.Gardiner
South Sikkim: Kamrang, Sirisay.

Bhutanthera Renz.
Bhutanthera albomarginata (King) Renz
Habenaria albomarginata King
Herminium albomarginatum (King) X.H.Jin, Schuit., Raskoti & Lu Q.Huang
East Sikkim: Gnathang, Tsomgo.

Bhutanthera alpina (Hand.-Mazz.) Renz
Habenaria alpina Hand.-Mazz.
Herminium handelii X.H.Jin, Schuit., Raskoti & Lu Q.Huang
West Sikkim: Bikhbari.

Biermannia King & Pantl.
Biermannia bimaculata (King & Pantl.) King & Pantl.
Sarcochilus bimaculatus King & Pantl.
Sikkim: Tista Valley.

Bulbophyllum Thouars
Bulbophyllum affine Wall. ex Lindl.
East Sikkim: Samdong, Ranipool, Gangtok.

Bulbophyllum andersonii (Hook.f.) J.J.Sm.
Cirrhopetalum andersonii Hook.f.
East Sikkim: Tista Valley; West Sikkim: Daramdeen.

Bulbophyllum apodum Hook.f.
B. ebulbum King & Pantl.
Sikkim: Tista Valley, Rangit Valley.

Bulbophyllum appendiculatum (Rolfe) J.J.Sm.
B. putidum (Teijsm. & Binn.) J.J.Sm.
Sikkim.

Bulbophyllum bifurcatoflorens (Fukuy.) J.J.Verm., Schuit. & de Vogel
Ione andersonii King & Pantl.
I. bifurcatoflorens Fukuy.
North Sikkim: Chungthang, Menshithang.

Bulbophyllum bisetum Lindl.
East Sikkim: Penangla, Rataychu.

Bulbophyllum careyanum (Hook.) Spreng.
B. careyanum (Hook.) Spreng. var. *sikkimense* Lucksom
Anisopetalon careyanum Hook.
East Sikkim: Rangpo, Samdong.

Bulbophyllum cariniflorum Rchb.f.
B. densiflorum Rolfe
B. pantlingii Lucksom
North Sikkim: Chungthang, Tung;

Bulbophyllum caudatum Lindl.
East Sikkim: Assam Lingzey, Pasangding.

Bulbophyllum cauliflorum Hook.f.
B. cauliflorum Hook.f. var. *sikkimense* N.Pearce & P.J.Cribb
East Sikkim: Samdong.

Bulbophyllum cornu-cervi King
Sikkim: Rangit Valley.

Bulbophyllum crabro (C.S.P.Parish & Rchb.f.) J.J.Verm., Schuit. & de Vogel
Monomeria barbata Lindl.
M. crabro C.S.P.Parish & Rchb.f.
East Sikkim: Rumtek.



Bulbophyllum affine Wall. ex Lindl.



Bulbophyllum careyanum (Hook.) Spreng.



Bulbophyllum caudatum Lindl.



Bulbophyllum cauliflorum Hook.f.



Bulbophyllum guttulatum (Hook.f.) N.P.Balakr.



Bulbophyllum cylindraceum Wall. ex Lindl. 457