



## A Preliminary Distribution Analysis of Rhododendron in North Sikkim

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### Keywords

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**ABSTRACT:** Sikkim Himalaya is rich in Rhododendron diversity as it harbors 20 species. The Rhododendrons are known worldwide for their flowers for ornamental purpose. But the changing climate as well as anthropogenic disturbances is causing the species to restrict themselves to particular areas or habitats. The factors responsible for decline in the inhabited areas of rhododendrons are: global warming, landslide and soil erosion and biotic factors are construction of roads, expansion of human settlement, clearing of forest for agriculture, over-grazing and economic use of species. In the state of Sikkim we have surveyed some areas and assessed the different species for their spread. In the Pangthang (East Sikkim) area we found only one species of *Rhododendron* i.e. *R. dalhousiae* ssp. *tashii*, which is endemic to that area. In the Yumthang (North Sikkim) 10 species were assessed out of which some species were restricted to some places e.g. *R. fulgens*, *R. hodgsoni*, *R. niveum*, *R. campylocarpum*, *R. falconeri* and *R. virgatum*, and from this only one specimen each of *R. virgatum* and *R. falconeri* were found. In Lachen (North Sikkim) area seven species were collected of which *R. falconeri*, *R. griffithianum* and *R. pumilum* had restricted distribution and there was only one plant each of *R. falconeri* and *R. pumilum*. All the above species have been place under RET categories (Rare, Endangered and Threatened). From this it can be concluded that some species need a particular attention towards their conservation and thus they can be saved for proper functioning of ecosystem. © 2016 iGlobal Research and Publishing Foundation. All rights reserved.

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