

PREFACE

Swertia chirayita (Roxb. ex Fleming) Karsten, Family Gentianaceae, is a critically endangered medicinal herb and is now on the verge of extinction. Despite its medicinal properties and use in the herbal industry, *S. chirayita* could not get much attention on conservation and cultivation, particularly in areas near its natural population and is still collected from the wild to meet industrial demand. In this investigation, a detailed study was carried out on some physiological and biochemical aspects of the plant; emphasis was laid on analyzing the negative yield attributing characters of the plant on improvement of crop yield.

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