

CONCLUSION

Conclusion

The present study on the different elements of Lauraceae in the flora of Terai and Duars, led to a conclusion that, the family has been studied worldwide from the botanical and chemical standpoints especially due to their usefulness to the human society. Terai-Duars is under the sub-Himalayan region and Laurels (wild and cultivated) are playing important role in the plant diversity and ecosystem of this part of West Bengal. However, with the rapid extension of human settlement areas, establishment of more and more tea gardens, extension of the net-work of metalled roads, too much of legal and illegal timber extraction, monoculture plantations (mostly with fast growing exotic species), intensive tourism related activities and other socio-economic developmental activities are adversely affecting the rich diversity of the pristine vegetation of the entire area where most of the presently recorded species of Lauraceae are surviving. The pressure for removal or death or extinction of many of these species, along with numerous other important and interesting non-laurel species, is increasing at every moment threatening the existence of the basic vegetation itself. The activities in the name of 'eco-tourism' are creating havoc in many places especially in the Lataguri – Gorumara region. Active steps for the conservation under proper surveillance are deemed essential since a thorough scientific research is certain to reveal their benevolent aspects as well as positive ecological functioning. Everyone needs to remember that conservation is best when a species is permitted to grow undisturbed in its own habitat, i.e. in its natural home! If the desired amount of seedlings and saplings can be produced then these plants can be saved through plantation programs. But the periods of flowering and fruiting condition is very restricted in Laurels, so the production of seeds is also very limited and difficult to procure. Few seeds which are produced with much difficulty are much disturbed and degraded in their habitat. Insect and fungi in their habitat readily attack the seeds and young seedlings. In addition, forestry related and other anthropogenic activities are creating extreme pressure on the maintenance of safe population structure for many of these species. Such habitats fail to protect the seedling in natural conditions and therefore the rate of seedling survival is also very low. Keeping this view experiments were carried out to try vegetative propagation through cutting and air-layering in some species can be tried for quick and low-cost propagation.

The Lauraceae has the reputation of being one of the most difficult families of angiosperms to identify; the problem mainly arise from the ambiguity in morphological characters. So, the several methods of systematics, which were used in present study can help in identification as well as resolve numerous phylogenetic problems. Any species which is difficult to identify on the basis of morphological character like Laurels where specimens almost never bear both flowers and fruits, can be easily identify and classify using different anatomical and chemotaxonomic characters. As in the present study, a species can be recognized from any plant parts and not only with floral characters. So, these methods appears much easier than morphology especially when flowers and fruits are not properly available. Thus, different anatomical and chemotaxonomic methods appear as quite reliable, which are not so expensive in identification and determining the phyletic relations specially in taxonomically difficult of plant kingdom.