

CONTENTS

	Acknowledgement	
1	Introduction	1-16
1.1	Biodiversity	2-6
1.2	Threat to biodiversity	7-9
1.3	Plant diversity in India	10-11
1.4	The Eastern Himalaya and its natural wealth	11-12
1.5	Plant diversity in the Darjiling Himalaya	12-16
1.5.1	Development of flora	13-14
1.5.2	Arrival of species	14-15
1.5.3	Migration, Evolution and Mixing	15-16
2	Remote Sensing and GIS	17-35
2.1	Remote sensing	17-18
2.2	Geographic information system	19-20
2.3	Remote sensing and geographic information system for biodiversity characterisation	20-21
2.4	Community analysis	21-22
2.5	Vegetation classification and mapping	22-23
2.6	Landscape study	23-27
2.6.1	Patch	25-26
2.6.2	Contagion (interspersion & juxtaposition)	26
2.6.3	Landscape fragmentation and biodiversity loss	26-27
2.7	Disturbance vis-à-vis biodiversity	27-29
2.8	Economic, Ecological and Taxonomic evaluation	29-31
2.9	Biological Richness	31-32
2.10	Review of literature	32-34
2.11	Objective of the present work	35
3	Study Area	36-54
3.1	Darjiling District	36-37
3.2	Location	37-38
3.3	General features	39-44
3.3.1	Topography	39
3.3.2	Geology	39-41
3.3.3	Soil	41
3.3.4	Drainage system	41-44
3.4	Climate	45-48
3.4.1	Rainfall	45-46

3.4.2	Temperature	46-47
3.4.3	Relative humidity	48
3.5	Communication network	48-49
3.6	Socio-economic status	49
3.7	Biological resources	52-54
3.7.1	Flora	52-53
3.7.2	Fauna	54
4	Methodology	55-76
4.1	Vegetation cover mapping	55-59
4.1.1	Satellite data	55
4.1.2	Ancillary data	55-56
4.1.3	Image processing and GIS system	56
4.1.4	Analysis of satellite image	56
4.1.4.1	Selection of optimal season data	59
4.1.4.2	Radiometric correction	59
4.1.4.3	Geometric correction	59
4.2	Vegetation classification scheme	59-60
4.3	Mapping	60-61
4.4	Community analysis	61-66
4.4.1	Sampling	61-62
4.4.2	Identification of specimens	62
4.4.3	Phyto-sociological analysis	63-64
4.4.4	Diversity indices	65-66
4.4.5	Similarity index	66
4.5	Landscape analysis	66-71
4.5.1	Determination of mask size	67
4.5.2	Landscape parameters	67-69
4.5.2.1	Fragmentation	67
4.5.2.2	Patchiness	67
4.5.2.3	Porosity	68
4.5.2.4	Interspersion	68
4.5.2.5	Juxtaposition	68-71
4.5.2.6	Biotic interferences	72
4.6	Disturbance Index (DI)	72-73
4.7	Biological Richness modeling	73-76
4.7.1	Ecosystem uniqueness	73
4.7.2	Biodiversity value	74
4.7.3	Terrain complexity	74
4.7.4	Species diversity	75

4.7.5	Biological richness index (BR)	75-76
5	Results	77-148
5.1	Vegetation cover type mapping	78-95
5.2	Community analysis	95-121
5.3	Similarity index	121-124
5.4	Endemic species	125-126
5.5	Medicinal plants	126-128
5.6	Girth class distribution	128-130
5.7	Landscape analysis	130-141
5.7.1	Mask size sensitivity	130
5.7.2	Fragmentation	131-132
5.7.3	Patchiness	133
5.7.4	Porosity	139
5.7.5	Interspersion	139-140
5.7.6	Juxtaposition	140-141
5.8	Disturbance Index	142-144
5.9	Biological richness modeling	145-149
5.9.1	Disturbance index	145
5.9.2	Terrain complexity	145
5.9.3	Species richness	145
5.9.4	Biodiversity value	145
5.9.5	Ecosystem uniqueness	146-147
5.9.6	Biological richness	147-149
6	Discussion	150-162
6.1	Vegetation mapping	152-154
6.2	Community analysis	154-159
6.3	Landscape analysis	160-161
6.4	Disturbance Index	161
6.5	Biological richness	161-162
6.6	Conclusion	162
7	Summary	163-169
	Bibliography	170-190
	Annexures	

List of Figures

1.1	Hierarchy in Biological Organisation	5
1.2	Domain tree of Biodiversity	6
1.3	Biodiversity hotspot zones of the World	9
3.1	Location map of Darjiling Hills	38
3.2	Drainage pattern map of Darjiling Hills	44
3.3a	Average monthly temperature and rainfall in Darjiling Hills	47
3.3b	Average monthly temperature and rainfall in the upper hills of Darjiling	47
3.3c	Average monthly temperature and rainfall in the lower Hills of Darjiling.	47
3.4	Relative humidity in three locations and the district average.	48
3.5	Road network map of the Darjiling Hills	50
3.6	Settlement map of Darjiling Hills	51
4.1	Approach for vegetation cover/ land-use mapping	57
4.2	False Colour Composite (FCC) of Darjiling Hills	58
4.3	Sampling design for the Phytosociology	62
4.4	Paradigms for disturbance regime	73
4.5	Approach for biological richness mapping	76
5.1	Classified vegetation cover map of Darjiling Hills.	80
5.2.	Forest cover map of Darjiling Hills	81
5.3	Shannon-Weiner Index of species diversity for various forest types in different strata	102
5.4	Simpson's Index of concentration of dominance in various forest types in different strata	102
5.5	Menhinick's Index of species richness for various forest types in different strata	103
5.6	Margalef's Index of species richness for various forest types in different strata	103
5.7a-p	Distribution of number of species and families in various forest types in Darjiling Hills	105-107
5.8	Graph showing percentage of endemic species in different forest types	125
5.9	Percentage of distribution of medicinal plant species in different forest types	128
5.10	Fragmentation map of Darjiling Hills	132
5.11	Patchiness map of Darjiling Hills	134
5.12a	Porosity map of Moist Mixed Deciduous Forests in Darjiling Hills	135
5.12b	Porosity map of Sub-Tropical Broad Leaved Hill Forests in Darjiling Hills	136
5.12c	Porosity map of Wet temperate Forests in Darjiling Hills	137
5.13	Interspersion map of Darjiling Hills	138
5.14	Juxtaposition map of Darjiling Hills	141
5.15	Road and Settlement buffer map of Darjiling Hills	143
5.16	Disturbance index map of Darjiling Hills	144
5.17	Biological richness map of Darjiling Hills	148
6.1	Percentage of area occupied by different land use categories of Darjiling district.	153

6.2	Percentage of area for phenological class	153
6.3	Comparative account of diversity indices in different forest types	155
6.4	Number of species in habit group of different forest types	156
6.5	Distribution of taxa in different forest types in Darjiling Hills	156
6.6	Number of individuals in different girth class in the forest of Darjiling Hills	159
6.7	Percentage of individuals in different girth class	159

List of Tables

1.1	Flowering plant mega-diversity countries of world	8
4.1	Satellite data used for vegetation mapping in Darjiling Hills	55
4.2	Interpretation key for visual classification of satellite data	61
4.3	Percentage of common species encountered between adjacent vegetation cover	70
4.4	Juxtaposition matrix derived from field data for adjacent vegetation classes	71
4.5	Relative interactive weights assigned to various landscape parameters as correlates of Disturbance Index (DI)	72
4.6	Weights assigned for Biological Richness (BR) modeling	75
5.1	Area estimation of Land use/ Land cover in Darjiling Hills	79
5.2	Comparison of remote sensing based vegetation cover classification with Champion and Seth (1968) with dominant species	83
5.3a	Habit-class distribution of flora with the number of individuals in various forest types	96
5.3b	Distribution of taxa in different forest types of Darjiling Hills	96
5.4	Forest type-wise stand density and total basal area	98
5.5	Diversity indices for different vegetation types in Darjiling Hills	100
5.6	Similarity index of various forest types in Darjiling Hills	124
5.7	Number of endemic species found in the Darjiling Hills	126
5.8	Number of medicinal plants occurring in various forest types	128
5.9	Number of individuals in different girth size class	130
5.10	Mask size sensitivity for different landscape parameters	130
5.11	Area statistics of Fragmentation image	131
5.12	Area statistic of Patchiness image	133
5.13	Area statistics of Porosity image of three dominant phenological types	139
5.14	Area statistics of Interspersion image	140
5.15	Area statistics of Juxtaposition image	140
5.16	Area statistics of Disturbance Image of Darjiling Hills	142
5.17	Normalised values assigned to parameters determining the Ecosystem Uniqueness	146
5.18	Normalised value assigned for Biological Richness model	147
5.19	Area statistics of Biological Richness image of Darjiling Hills	147

Abbreviations used

AD	Ano Domini
Aln	<i>Alnus</i> Forests
amsl	Above Mean Sea Level
BB	Bamboo Brakes
BR	Biological Richness
CBH	Circumference at Breast Height
Con	Conifer Forests
Cpl	<i>Cryptomeria</i> Plantation
Deg	Degraded Forests
DEM	Digital Elevation Model
DGHC	Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council
DI	Disturbance Index
FCC	False Colour Composite
FSI	Forest Survey of India
GIS	Geographic Information System
HS	Himalayan Sal Forests
IRS	Indian Remote Sensing Satellite
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
IVI	Importance Value Index
LISS	Linear Imaging Self-scanning Sensor
MMD	Moist Mixed Deciduous Forests
NH	National Highway
OS	Open Scrub
RD	Relative Density
RDm	Relative Dominance
RF	Relative Frequency
Rho	<i>Rhododendron</i> Forests
Riv	Riverine Forests
RMS	Root Mean Square
SAS	Sub-Alpine Scrub
SoI	Survey of India
SPLAM	Spatial Landscape Analysis Modeling
SRTM	Shuttle Radar Topography Mission
STBLH	Sub-Tropical Broad Leaved Hill Forests
TBL	Temperate Broad Leaved Forests
Tpl	Teak Plantation
TSE	Tropical Semi-evergreen Forests
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WT	Wet Temperate Forests