

**Location and climatic
conditions of experimental
stations**

LOCATION AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS OF EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS

Mungpoo Hill is situated in the Darjeeling Sub-Himalayan belt and has very suitable physico-climatic conditions congenial to cultivation of a large number of indigenous as well as exotic medicinal plants. The region is well-known for the cultivation of Cinchona and Cephaelis. These two crops have been established in commercial scale since many decades. Besides these, Dioscorea, Solanum, Digitalis, Catharanthus, Cymbopogon and Ocimum are also successfully cultivated.

Different field studies pertaining to the pharmacognosy of ipecac were undertaken at Kamidara Research Nursery (26°58.5' N latitude and 88° 24' E longitude; altitude : 900m) and Bhaltar Experimental Nursery (26°56.5' N latitude and 88°23.5' E longitude; altitude : 500m) of Directorate of Cinchona & Other Medicinal Plants, West Bengal, Mungpoo, Darjeeling; whereas experiments on general developmental physiology, high and low temperature stresses, growth regulator effects and P³² - uptake studies were carried out at Kamidara Research Nursery. Average monthly data of different climatic elements of the two places are given below :

Kamidara Research Nursery

Month	Temperature(°C)		Precipitation (mm)	Relative humidity (%)
	Maximum	Minimum		
January	14.50	9.89	30.8	72.9
February	20.21	13.29	17.5	75.9
March	23.19	15.87	11.8	67.6
April	25.14	18.10	96.8	70.6
May	26.13	19.32	188.7	74.8
June	27.83	21.70	599.3	82.1
July	28.34	21.87	751.8	84.7
August	28.93	22.80	284.3	80.1
September	26.53	21.30	112.6	79.6
October	24.13	19.02	18.0	78.8
November	19.17	15.08	9.3	78.4
December	17.04	11.17	3.7	70.3

Bhaltar Experimental Nursery

Month	Temperature(°C)		Precipitation (mm)	Relative humidity (%)
	Maximum	Minimum		
January	17.33	11.80	5.5	71.8
February	22.80	13.89	22.5	73.6
March	25.39	18.14	4.0	68.4
April	27.14	20.62	90.0	72.2
May	28.85	21.76	116.5	75.6
June	29.76	23.28	717.2	83.7
July	30.46	23.34	905.5	84.9
August	31.06	24.02	698.7	83.4
September	28.59	22.84	353.4	81.5
October	26.69	20.83	78.1	79.2
November	21.67	16.55	18.2	76.0
December	20.02	13.93	2.5	69.2