

Acknowledgements

I express my heartiest gratitude to my respected teacher, mentor and supervisor, Prof. Abhaya Prasad Das of Plant Taxonomy and Environmental Biology Laboratory, Department of Botany, North Bengal University for his inspiration, motivation, suggestion and continuous encouragement, co-operation and invaluable guidance, which were tremendously helpful for me to take up and to complete the present work.

I would also like to thank equally to my Co-Supervisor, Dr. M. D. Behera, Associate Professor, Center for Oceans, Rivers, Atmosphere and Land Sciences (CORAL), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, his consistent encouragement and all sorts of support and suggestions throughout the research program led the work to reach its completion stage.

I would like to extend my heartiest thank and gratitude to all the Heads of the Department of Botany, North Bengal University, to whom I interacted during my research and all other respected teachers, namely Prof. B.N. Chakraborty, Prof. P.K. Sarkar, Prof. U. Chakraborty, Dr. A. Saha, Dr. A. Sen, Dr. S.C. Roy, Dr. P. Mandal and Dr. M. Chowdhury for their constant supports and suggestions.

I wish a deep gratitude to the former and present Secretaries, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of Sikkim viz., , Shri O.P. Singhi, Shri M. L. Arrawatia, Shri R. Teleng, Shri, A. K. Shreewastva, Shri, D, Anandhan, Shri S. K. Shilal, Shri P.T Euthenpa & Dr. Anil Mainra, without their kind support and encouragement this work might have not been completed.

It is my pleasure to acknowledge the Secretary cum PCCF, Department of Forest, Govt. of Sikkim and all other concern officials for permitting me to visit the entire East Sikkim to complete the field survey especially in the remote locations.

I express my heartiest thanks to our senior scholar (Didi) Dr. Chandra Ghosh, Head, Botany Department, Gour Mahavidyalaya, Malda for her kind advices and cooperation.

I would like to extend my heartiest thanks to all the scholars in the Taxonomy and Environmental Biology Laboratory, namely, Dr. Sonam Rinchen Lepcha, Dr. Animesh Sarkar, Mr. Suman Nirola, Dr. Ajita Sarkar, Mr. Rajib Biswas, Mr. Saurav Moktan, Mr. Dibakar Choudhury, Mr Anurag Chowdhury, Mr. Amalesh Bijali, Mr. Kishor Biswas, Mrs. Baishakhi Sarkar, Miss Payel Paul, Mrs Ihuma Sutradhan and Miss Deepika Chettri for their continuous help and support.

I extend my thanks to Mr. Binod Singha and Mrs. Sangita Oraon, the laboratory attendants in the Taxonomy and Environmental Biology Laboratory for their assistance in different laboratory works.

I sincerely thank Shri D.G. Shrestha, Additional Director and entire team of Remote Sensing Centre, namely Shri Benoy Pradhan, Shri Dilli Ram Dahal, Shri Pranay Pradhan, Shri R.K. Sharma, Shri Dinesh Dhakal, Shri Bandan Ghagmer and Shri Safal Pradhan for providing all the essential support during my work.

Equally, I am thankful to Shri R.M. Panda, Ms. Punam, Ms. Swapna and Shri Pulakesh of COREL, IIT-Kharagpur for their all types of help and co-operation whenever I was there for my works.

I would also like to thank Dr. B. C. Bashista, and Shri Dorjee T. Bhutia Additional Directors, and Dr. S.R. Lepcha Dy. Director, Shri K.B. Subba, Dr. Shiva Kumar Sharma, Shri Laydong Lepcha, Shri Sushan Pradhan and other staff members of Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of Sikkim for their constant support during my research work.

During my work, I have come across and acquainted with numerous helpful and nature effecting personalities including Dr. Sandeep Tambee, Dr. Tika Prasad Sharma and Ms. Anjali Sharma. All of them deserve my sincere gratitude for their constant cordial support.

I also thank the Scientist-in-Charge, Sikkim Himalayan Circle, of Botanical Survey of India, Gangtok and their entire team of scientists who helped me all the time whenever I approached them for the identification of my specimens and literature.

In this connection, I would like to extend my thanks to Dr. Laxuman Sharma my other friends, Shri R.C Sharma, Shri Ganesh Sharma, and Shri Bishnu Sharma for their constant support during my work.

Finally, although numerous to mentioned by name, I certainly owe to all of them, whose names might not have been included in this account, who had taught me so much as they caught on how wonders and valuable are our plants for our future and for the survival of the entire biosphere. I will always fondly keep them in my memory in every moments of my life.

Now, at the end of all out-of-home supports, I remember my parents Shri Dilli Ram Sharma, and Smt. Dilli Maya Sharma with deepest sense of love and gratitude, without their affection, encouragement and blessings it would not have been possible to complete by research work. My sincere thanks to my beloved wife, Chandrakala, for her encouragement and support at each and every step of the journey towards the completion of my research work. I shall remain grateful to all other family members for their encouragement and support especially, to my, brothers Bhola daju, Ram and Jagan, and my sister in law Sushma, Muna who always wish to see my success in my every endeavors.


[Narpati Sharma]

Department of Botany,
University of North Bengal
Raja Rammohunpur, Dist. Darjeeling
West Bengal, India, 734013

Date: 25/11/2016