

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The floristic survey and analysis of the Darjeeling Himalayas with its diverse biological elements, was not an easy job on which, I have spent eleven long years. Yet, this could have been hardly possible had I not received the active co-operations from different institutions and individuals to whom I acknowledge my cordial words of thanks.

With deep sense of gratitude I express my heartfelt indebtedness to my supervisors Dr.G.S. Yonzone, Principal, Kalimpong College and Dr. A.P. Das, Reader and former Head, Department of Botany, North Bengal University for their unequivocal guidance, not only in this research work, but right from my post-graduate curricula, in plant Taxonomy.

I thank the Botanical Survey of India for awarding me Research Fellowship for three years from 1984 under the 'District Flora Project'. I also thank the authorities of Kalimpong College and University Grants Commission, for awarding me a one year Teacher fellowship from 1994, for completing this work. I thank my brothers Shri C.B. Bhujel and Shri G.R. Bhujel, who sponsored the stationery charges of production.

I am grateful to the Principals, Darjeeling Goyt. College, and Kalimpong College and Vice Chancellor, University of North Bengal, for providing me the laboratory facilities required in this work. I am grateful, also to the Director and other scientists of Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta, including Dr. U.C. Bhattacharya, Dr. T. Chakrabarty, Dr. D.C. Pal, Dr. G.S. Giri, Dr. M. Sanjappa, Dr. Mrs. D. Mitra, Dr. G. Bhowmick, Dr. R.L.Mitra, Dr. S.N. Biswas, Mr. B. Safui, Dr. T.K. Paul, Dr. Montu Biswas, Dr. Mrs. Ratna Dutta, Mr. K. Dilipkumar, Mr. V. Sampathkumar (all in Central National Herbarium, Calcutta), Dr. Srivastava (in BSI, Gangtok), and Mr. Rajkumar Pradhan (in Lloyd's Botanical Garden, Darjeeling) all of whom helped me in identification of plant specimens. I thank Dr. T. Chakrabarty and Dr. N.C. Majumdar for latin translation and ascertaining the status of certain new varieties. I thank Dr. Miss Eona Aitkiens of Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh, who helped me in collecting protologue references from Scotland.

I have used the study facilities available in the libraries of Central National Herbarium, Howrah, Darjeeling Government College, Kalimpong College, University of North Bengal, G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Sikkim Unit, Botanical Survey of India, Gangtok, Bengal Natural History Society, Darjeeling, Lloyd's Botanical Garden, Darjeeling and personal libraries of Dr. G.S. Yonzone, Dr. A.P. Das, Dr. H.B. Chhetri, Mr. D. Yonzone and Mr. Keshav Pradhan. My thanks are due to the authorities of these institutions and the personalities.

I am grateful to Mr. Lalit Kumar Rai, G.B. Pant Institute of Himilayan Environment and Development, Gangtok, who extended his technical help in Laser setting and printing of this Thesis. I am grateful to Mr. Rabin Chhetri, Head, Dept. of Physics, Sikkim Government College, Dr. Eklabya Sharma, Scientist in-charge, GBPIHED, Gangtok and Dr. C.B. Sunuwar, Principal, Sikkim Government College, for kindly permitting me to use the computers. I cannot go without expressing my gratefulness to Mr. D. Lama and Mr. N.K. Pradhan (both lecturers, St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling), Miss Dharma Chhetri, Sikkim Government College, Mr. Rajendra Yonzone, Mr. Arun Pradhan and Mr. Kailash Yonzone, Kalimpong, who have patiently carried out the computer typing from handwritten manuscript.

Cordial words of thanks to Mr. Deodutt Rai, Lecturer, Kalimpong College for assisting me in

completion of maps and to Mr. D. Lama, Santosh Rai, Chunda Sherpa and Bishnu Thapa who extended their hands in final drawings of plant specimens. I thank Mr. Pop Tshering Bhutia, IFS, EFRC, Kurseong, Mr. Basant Tamang, Mr. Naresh Baraily and Mr. Kalyan Thapa for helping me to collect meteorological data from their respective institutions.

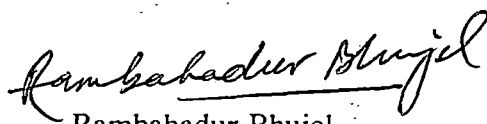
I have received various secretarial assistance from Mr. B.B. Sharma, Prakash Subba, Deoprasad Bhujel, Prem C. Rai, Santabir Lama, Prem Khawas, Mr. Phurba Lepcha, Prakash Chhetri, C. Dhamala, Prem Tamang, Rajen Pradhan, Tenzing Bhutia, Naren Lama, Mahendra Pradhan, Yagayraj Angdambay, Kundan Agarwal, Achintya Samanta, Kishor Thapa, S.K. Mukherjee, Kamal Chhetri, Sanjay Bantawa, Parsuram Poudyal, Tulsi Sharma, Hirendra Goutam, Dr. Anita Gurung, Chandra Pradhan, Dr. Diwakar Pradhan, N.B. Das, P.B. Bhujel, and Prakash Dahal. I thank them from the core of my heart.

With feelings of gratitude I shall always remember, late Kalusingh Lepcha of Darjeeling who with his long experience assisted me in study of plants and preparation of herbarium sheets during 1984-86, and whose practical field knowledge and expertise had been helpful to many botanists visiting Darjeeling. My heartfelt thanks to my sources of continuous encouragements in this research, Dr. S.K. Jain, former Director, Botanical Survey of India, Dr. R.R. Rao, former Dep. Director, Botanical Survey of India, Dr. J.P. Pradhan, Head, Dept. of Botany, Kalimpong College, Dr. P.K. Sarkar Reader, Dept. of Botany and Prof. P.K. Basu, Director, Centre for Life Sciences, Dr. S.L. Dutta, Development Officer, North Bengal University, Mr. Bhim Bhujel, Mr. Ratna B. Bhujel, Mr. A.F. Ramsong and Mr. Sona Foning.

It is my pleasure to thank my brothers late H.D. Bhujel, Mr. G.R. Bhujel, Mr. C.B. Bhujel, Mr. D.S. Bhujel, Mr. D.B. Bhujel and Mr. S.M. Bhujel who have stood by me all along my course of studies as friends and guardians. My special thanks to Mrs. Bina Bhujel, Mrs. Bhanu K. Bhujel, Mrs. D.K.N. Yonzone, Mrs. Ruby Das, Mrs. R.M. Foning and Mrs. Emu Rai.

Last but not the least, I cannot go without thanking my wife Lazika, son Pallav and daughter Shaiil who have kept me undisturbed during my prolonged engagement in the work, outside normal office hours and of course whose undeclared share of time with me, I have silently stolen.

May, 1996


Rambahadur Bhujel
Kalimpong