

## Living Gymnosperms in Tripura State of India

V.P. Singh

*Department of Botany*

*Ramabai Government Womens P. G. College, Akbarpur, AmbedkarNagar*

*Email id: singh.drviyayprakash@gmail.com*

### ABSTRACT

The paper throws light on the living Gymnosperms recorded so far from Tripura state of India. Thirteen species under 8 genera and 6 families are known so far from the state. Their families, botanical names and recorded localities of occurrence are provided in this communication.

-----x-----

Tripura State which was the part of erstwhile Assam state is situated in the Eastern part of India bordered by Bangladesh to the West, south and north, by Assam to the north-east and by Mizoram to the east. The state is situated between 22°56' and 24°32' N and 91°10' and 92°21' E covering an area of 10477sq.km. Bengali is the main language of the State. It has 3 districts, 10 sub-Division and 45 Tahsils. There are 3626 villages. The population of Tripura is about 1724000 most of which is Bengali speaking. There are 19 tribal communities comprising 29% of the State's population Tripura, Chakmi, Reang, Halam, Jamatia, Mog, Noatia, Garo and Lushai are some of the prominent tribal communities. Physiographically, the State is divisible into 3 district zones, viz., Hill ranges. Undulating high lands of narrow and broken plateau; Low lands and river flats. Five major Ranges of Hills, running from north-west to south-east and alternating with marshy valleys are spread over the State. The southern aspects of the slopes maintain continuity of its rolling appearance as far as south of Chittagong Hill Tract. These Ranges lie at an average distance of *ca* 20km. Naming from the east they are:- The Jampui with the highest point at 975.36m at Bettingshib; Sakhantlang (highest point at Sakhantlang at 816.25m); Longtarai (highest point at Phengpur at 481.83m); Atharamura (highest point at Jarimura at 450m) and; Baramura-Debtmura. In between Sakhantland and Longtarai lies a smaller Range in Kailashahar Sub-Division, with a peak at Unakoti. The Jampui Ranges run along the eastern boundary of the State, parallel to the Lushai Hills and rises at the north-east corner. It passes over to the hills of Sakan Range, which is about 48km west of Jampui Hill and runs parallel to it. Sakhant Range is not so high as Jampui; it is severely eroded and dissected at many points. Undulating high lands of narrow and broken plateau cover an extensive area having intermittent low land along the main rivers and is marked towards the west of the hilly region. The plateau gradually rises from west to east having the elevation varying from 15m to 75m and ultimately merging with the hilly tracts in the east. This zone is dissected by medium and narrow valleys, streams and gulleys, severely eroded.

Low lands and river flats are generally level lands where rivers deposit their alluvium. This zone lies with 15m in altitude. Lowlands interspersed by hillocks are swampy, and are locally called 'Lunga'.

A perusal of the literature and specimens housed at BSA, has revealed that 13 species of gymnosperms under 8 genera and 6 families are recorded so far from the Tripura state These are enlisted in Table.

**Table -I: Living Gymnosperms in Tripura State of India**

Family	Species	Distribution
Cycadaceae	<i>Cycas circinnalis</i>	Planted in the Garden.
	<i>Cycas pectinata</i>	Scattered in Baramura ranges.
	<i>Cycas revoluta</i>	Cultivated in gardens at Agartala.
Podocarpaceae	<i>Podocarpus neriifolius</i>	Dharmanagar Subdivision
Araucariaceae	<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>	Agartala, Cultivated as an ornamental plant.
Pinaceae	<i>Pinus kesiya</i>	Agartala
	<i>Pinus roxburghii</i>	Agartala
Cupressaceae	<i>Cupressus fenebris</i>	Agartala
	<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Agartala, Burman, Kunjaban.
	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Planted
	<i>Thuja orientalis</i>	Planted
Gnetaceae	<i>Gnetum montanum</i>	Teliamura
	<i>Gnetum oblongum</i>	Lethrai, Silachari.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Author is grateful to Principal, Ramabai Government Womens P. G. College, Akbarpur, Ambedkarnagar, Dr. Arvind Kumar Singh, Head, Department of Botany, T.D.P.G. College, Jaunpur for facilities.

#### REFERENCES

- Deb, D.B. (1981) *Flora of Tripura State* Vol.-1 Today & Tomorrows Printers and Publishers. pp. 70-76.  
 Hooker, J.D. (1885) *Flora of British India*, Vol. London.  
 Sahni, K.C. (1990) *Gymnosperms of India and adjacent countries*, Dehradun.