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File size: 4.44M  
Page count: 108  
Word count: 24,953  
Character count: 141,924  
Submission date: 09-Jan-2025 04:35PM (UTC+0530)  
Submission ID: 2561510216

### ABSTRACT

The floristic compositions play important roles in determining the functioning and ecosystem services of the forests in the Eastern Himalayan region. With considerable variations in species compositions and vegetation types over short distances, the forests of this region play unquestionably vital role in the conservation of the biological diversity. The plants, soil and climatic conditions share convoluted and dynamic relationships influencing water retention, nutrients' availability and habitat provisioning. Hence, understanding these interrelations play important role in the management and conservation of the forests in the present time. Nevertheless, studies highlighting the interrelations in the Eastern Himalayan region are scarce in number resulting in dearth of baseline data and limited comprehension of the responses of forest ecosystem to the changes in the climatic conditions. Therefore, the present study was conducted in Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary of Assam located at the foothills of the Eastern Himalayan region of India to minimize the research disparities and enhance the comprehension. In this study, the phytosociological structure of the tropical semi-evergreen forest was investigated, along with the seasonal variabilities in the physicochemical properties of soil, and occurrences of the phenophases and their relationship with the climatic variables like precipitation, temperature, relative humidity, etc.

The thesis comprises of 7 chapters, each incorporating detailed findings of the study. A brief summary of all the chapters is provided below.

**Chapter 1** provides an overview of the general introduction that describes the Eastern Himalaya and mentions the types of vegetation observed in the Northeastern part of India. It also mentions the variations in the edaphic properties in association to the vegetation and climatic conditions. Furthermore, the chapter addresses the research gaps and mentions the objectives along with the hypotheses included in the study, thereby emphasizing the necessity of the study in this region.

**Chapter 2** provides a summary of the researches carried out across worldwide, more specifically in the Eastern Himalayan region of Northeast India that aligns with the objectives of the present study. The literature review reveals that sporadic studies related to vegetation diversity and phenology are done in Northeast India, thereby highlighting the

# Investigation on floristic diversity, variation in soil properties, and effects of weather on phenophases in Sonai Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam

*by* Prajnyan Sarma

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