

CONSERVATION AND PROPAGATION STRATEGIES FOR ENDANGERED AND ENDEMIC FLORA OF THE DECCAN PLATEAU

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ABSTRACT

The Deccan Plateau of India, distinguished by its unique geological formations, microclimates, and soil profiles, is a hotspot of floral diversity. This plateau encompasses vast tracts of scrub forests, grasslands, and lateritic rock outcrops that provide habitat to a wide array of endemic and endangered plant species. However, these habitats are under increasing threat due to anthropogenic pressures such as habitat fragmentation, overgrazing, unregulated harvesting, mining, and climate variability. This research paper provides an exhaustive analysis of the flora at risk, documents the ecological, cultural, and medicinal value of these species, and evaluates conservation frameworks in use. It also suggests propagation methods including modern biotechnological interventions, community-based strategies, and institutional collaboration as a sustainable pathway forward. The paper concludes with policy recommendations aimed at integrating traditional ecological knowledge with scientific conservation models.

KEYWORDS: *Phenology, Eastern Himalayas, Climate Change, Native Flora, Rhododendron, Flowering Shift, Ecological Indicators, Alpine Ecosystems etc.*

Article History

Received: 09 Jun 2025 | Revised: 11 Jun 2025 | Accepted: 17 Jun 2025
