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## **ECOLOGY OF SHIWALIK FORESTS OF NAINITAL DISTRICT IN UTTARAKHAND, INDIA**

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**ABSTRACT:** The present study concentrates on diversity of plant species in three forest types and compares the variations in diversity with increasing altitude. A pure Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest located in the foothills of the Shiwalik range is compared with Sal mixed with other broad leaved species (800-1100 m) and its end limit (1100-1500 m) when it mixes with Chir pine (*Pinus roxburghii*). The total tree diversity was recorded maximum in middle elevation (4.33) while, it was minimum (1.96) in lower elevation. For shrub layer it was maximum (3.97) at higher elevation and minimum (2.55) at lower elevation. It was found maximum (4.91) in higher elevation and minimum (4.56) at lower elevation for herbaceous cover.

**Key words:** *Biodiversity, Elivational diversity, Kumaun, Sal forests, Shiwalik, Species diversity, Under canopy*