

ECOLOGY OF KUMAUN SHIWALIK FORESTS OF UTTARAKHAND IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT : The present study concentrates on plant species diversity variation in three forest types. A pure Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest located in the foothills of the Shiwalik range and compares the variations in diversity with increasing altitude as Sal mixed with other broad leaved species (800-1100m) and its end limit (1100-1500m) 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, Diversity, Elevational, Kumaun, Shiwalik, Under canopy.*