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SOIL CHARACTERIZATION OF *PODAXIS PISTILLARIS* AND *Phellorinia INQUINANS* NATURAL GROWING SITES IN INDIAN THAR DESERT

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ABSTRACT: Soil characteristics of natural growing sites of two wild edible mushrooms *Podaxis pistillaris* and *Phellorinia inquinans* in Indian Thar desert were studied to determine pre-requisites for their domestication. Both these wild edible mushrooms exhibited luxuriant growth and fructification in alkaline sandy and sandy loam soils having poor water holding capacity, warm soil (34.3-37°C) and air (39.6-43.2°C) temperatures, moderate relative humidity (38-55%) and nutritionally poor soil in Indian Thar Desert. Present Study is of significance in domestication attempts of both these edible mushrooms under controlled conditions.

Key words: *Gastromycetes, P. inquinans, P. pistillaris, Soil characteristics, Thar Desert*

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