

Floristic Diversity of Genus *Hypochnicium* in Himalaya

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ABSTRACTS

The Himalayan region stretches over a distance of about 2500 km from west to east, and average width along the entire longitudinal extension 100–400 km. The altitude gradients result in the tremendous biodiversity of the region.

Genus *Hypochnicium* was raised by Eriksson (1958) to include *Corticium bombycinum* and related species with hypochnoid basidiocarps and cyanophilous basidiospores. It can be differentiated from the genera *Hyphoderma* and *Hyphodontia* by virtue of these characters. Parmasto proposed three subgenera i.e. *Microhypochnicium*, *Hypochnicium*, *Gloehypochnicium* under genus *Hypochnicium*, of which *Microhypochnicium* was raised to genus *Intextomyces* by Eriksson and Ryvarden (1976). They gave a consolidated account of 10 species of the genus from North Europe and placed them in six groups. Earlier workers i.e. Rattan (1977) and Ranadive et al. (2011) reported 7 species from India.

Presently an account of 7 species of the genus has been given which are reported for the first time from India. As a result the total number of taxa under genus *Hypochnicium* has been increased from 7 to 14.