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Cover: Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* resting on a dry branch after courtship. Digital illustration on Procreate. © Aakanksha Komanduri.

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REVIEW

Diversity and distribution of climbers of Uttar Pradesh: a preliminary review

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Abstract: Uttar Pradesh (UP) is one of the largest states in India. Based on vegetation types, the state is divided into four main regions: the Terai Region, Gangetic Plains, Vindhyan, and Semi-arid Regions. These regions harbour a rich diversity of unique and interesting plant species. Climbing plants, owing to their distinctive features, have long fascinated ecologists and evolutionary biologists. Interest in these unique plants has surged notably over the past two decades, leading to a significant increase in research on these climbing species in the country. The current state of knowledge on climbers in Uttar Pradesh remains fragmented, with most available studies providing only isolated and sporadic information. In the present study, an attempt has been made to provide insights into the diversity and distribution of climbers across the four regions of Uttar Pradesh based on a literature survey. The study revealed a total of 344 climbing species (including 12 infraspecific taxa) belonging to 169 genera under 42 families and 23 orders across four regions of the state. Fabaceae was the most diverse family with 39 genera, followed by Apocynaceae with 24 genera. *Ipomoea* was the most speciose genus with 23 species. Climbers are an important group of plants with varied climbing mechanisms. They range from ornamental vines to medicinally important plants having significant cultural and economic value. The information gathered from the study would provide baseline data for future climber-based research in India.

Keywords: Annual and perennial plants, biodiversity, floristic composition, medicinal, ornamental, plant biodiversity, species diversity, vegetation zones.

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Author contribution: Rameshwar Prasad conceptualizing the data, collecting the secondary data, drafting and prepared original manuscript; Muzeev Ahmad supervised the study, editing the draft and original manuscript; Sushma Verma collecting the secondary data, drafting and editing the original manuscript; KM Prabhukumar editing the draft and original manuscript; TS Rana conceptualizing the data, supervised the study, editing the original manuscript.

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INTRODUCTION

Climbers, whether annual or perennial, lack self-supporting stems and depend on external structures for vertical growth with diverse climbing mechanisms—branch twiners, stem twiners, tendril climbers, root adhesive climbers, hook climbers, and scramblers (Bongers et al. 2005; Jongkind & Hawthorne 2005). Some genera also bear thorns or rootlets that do not aid in climbing. Overall, climbers exhibit a wide variety of growth strategies (Roy 2019).

This group of plants has independently evolved a climbing habit in several plant families, utilizing various methods to compensate for their weak stems. Climbers are an important group of plants whose structural support does not rely solely on their own tissue. They originate from a rooting position in the soil or a surface near the soil, and their climbing efforts allow them to reach the canopies of trees, carrying their foliage and reproductive organs (Burnham 2009).

Ornamental climbers are both annual and perennial types and possess special structures such as tendrils, thorns, and flowers that enable them to climb on a support. These plants enhance the beauty of gardens with their attractive flowers and foliage, evoking a sense of elegant old-world charm in any landscape. A well-maintained and healthy climber can be a delightful addition to the scenery, while it is advisable to avoid poorly adapted, diseased, or withered specimens. There is a wide variety of ornamental climbers available, catering to evolving tastes, fashion trends, and landscape design concepts. Regardless of their attractiveness and interest, climbers must be properly placed in relation to the land's conformation, ridges, and buildings (Bhattacharjee 2004). Moreover, these plants also hold historical significance, as they contribute to the allure of ancient buildings by concealing architectural or structural flaws, creating a veil of green that enhances their visual appeal (Dutta 1989).

Climbers enhance horticultural beauty with their diverse growth forms and have evolved into woody types in families like Apocynaceae, Bignoniaceae, and Menispermaceae, while in other families like Acanthaceae, Convolvulaceae, Cucurbitaceae, and Passifloraceae, they are herbaceous in nature (Roy 2019). Some woody climbers resemble shrubs, thriving in open sites but producing elongated, leafy branches under shade to climb, forming scandent shrubs. Yet, unchecked growth may block drainage systems or damage host trees, reflecting both their ecological value and management challenges (Roy 2019).

A climber starts its life on the forest floor and spends almost one-fourth of its life on the forest floor. After this initial phase, it begins to adhere, anchor, and lean on other plants in order to achieve great stature (Jongkind & Hawthorne 2005). The families such as Cucurbitaceae, Convolvulaceae, and Dioscoreaceae are known for their abundance of climbers. Among these families, Apocynaceae, Rubiaceae, Celastraceae, and Leguminosae have more than 50 species each (Gentry 1991; Schnitzer & Bongers 2002). Climbers are predominantly found in woody plant ecosystems, although diversity can also be observed in subtropical and tropical forests (Richards 1952; Bongers et al. 2005). Tropical rainforests exhibit a high diversity of climbers, accounting for up to 30% of the vegetation (Schnitzer & Bongers 2002). Climbers are more commonly associated with tropical forests rather than temperate forests (Putz 1984).

Climbers are present in nearly half (46%) of the flowering plant families (Pandi 2023). Most of the lianas or vines are present in the families Hippocrateaceae, Vitaceae, and Smilacaceae (Gentry 1991). In tropical forests, climbers play a significant role in both floristic composition and forest physiognomy (Gentry 1991). They are crucial components of forest ecosystems as they provide habitat and food for animals (Hladik 1978; Emmons & Gentry 1983; Gentry 1991; Galetti & Pedroni 1994).

In Uttar Pradesh, the diversity of climbing plants (both lianas and vines) varies across regions. In northeastern UP, 111 climber species comprising 63 lianas and 48 vines are distributed across 35 families, with Convolvulaceae alone accounting for 19 species (Dvivedi et al. 2016). A total of 46 climbers, notably belonging to Cucurbitaceae, Convolvulaceae, and Fabaceae, have been primarily used to treat urogenital disorders, diabetes, respiratory & gastrointestinal ailments, as well as skin conditions, and jaundice (Tandon et al. 2025). The knowledge of climbers in UP is still fragmented, with most studies offering only scattered or localized accounts. The present study seeks to consolidate this information by reviewing available literature to assess the diversity and distribution of climbers across the four regions of the state.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

In the present study, the state of UP was chosen as the study area, which is situated at northcentral region of India between 23.867^0 N– 31.467^o E and 77.500^o N–

84.650° E, occupying an area of about 2,40,928 km², of which 17,722.4 km² consists of forests, which is 7.54% of its total area (ISFR 2023). The forest cover of Uttar Pradesh (Table 1 & Figure 2) is 15,045.80 km², excluding the scrub, which is 639.5 km² (ISFR 2023).

Uttar Pradesh shares its boundaries with Haryana, Delhi, and Rajasthan in the west; Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in the south; Jharkhand and Bihar in the east; and Uttarakhand and the international boundary with Nepal in the north. With reference to natural boundaries, the area is bordered by the Shivalik mountain range in the north, the Yamuna River and the Vindhyan mountain range along the western and southern borders, and the Gandak River in the east. The middle fertile zone formed by the Ganga River is heavily utilised for agriculture. The climate is subtropical and chiefly contains three seasons, namely: summer, rainy, and winter. In the summer (April–June), the temperature rises up to 45 °C and a small amount of rain (10–25 cm) is recorded. The rainy season runs from late June to early October, during which temperatures range 25–35 °C and rainfall averages 80–115 cm. The winter season starts from the last week of October and lasts up to mid-March. In this period, the temperature varies 10–25 °C, and a small amount of rainfall (5–7 cm) is reported in the area. Although the forest cover is very minimal, it harbours a good number of flowering plants due to its varied climatic conditions. Based on forest and vegetation types, the province is broadly categorized into the following four major zones (Figure 1).

1. Terai Region: It includes the northern part adjacent to Nepal, which is a tropical moist deciduous type. It comprises Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Bahraich, Shravasti, Balrampur, Gonda, Basti, Siddharthnagar, Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Deoria, and Kushinagar districts. It has a great biodiversity due to dense forest cover. The dominant forest is Sal and Teak, and also has some patches of *Aegle* forest in Lakhimpur and Bahraich.

2. Gangetic Plain: It forms the central area, which is agriculturally most fertile and has a tropical dry deciduous type of vegetation. The area is chiefly drained by the Ganga, Yamuna, Ghaghra, and Gomti rivers. Their tributaries also form a good network of small rivers, and it forms a highly fertile region for cultivation. Due

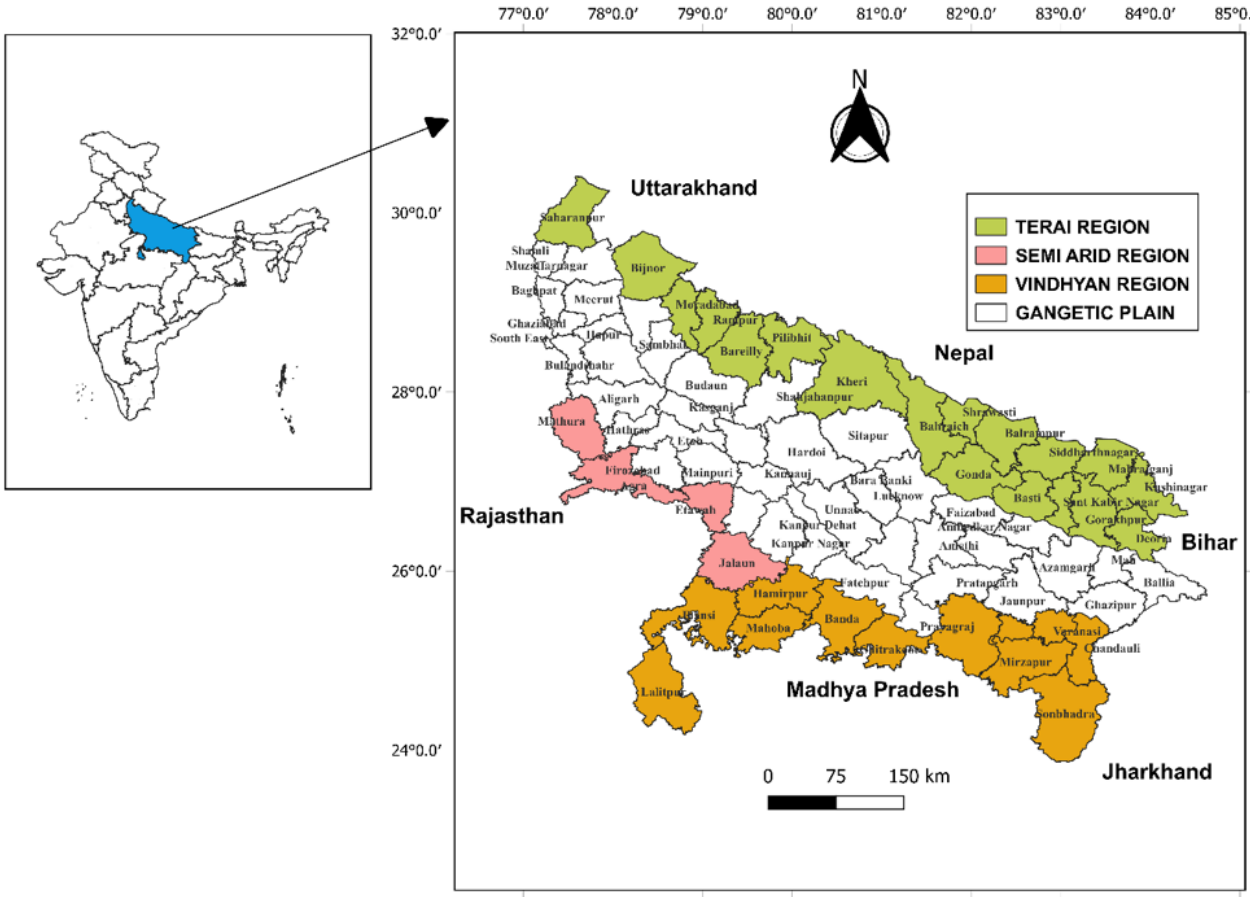

Figure 1. Different geographical zones of Uttar Pradesh.

Table 1. Forest cover of Uttar Pradesh (ISFR 2023).

Class	Area (km²)	Percentage
Very dense forest area	2,688.73	1.12
Moderately dense forest area	4,001.41	1.66
Open forest area	8355.66	3.46
Total forest cover	**15,045.80**	**6.24**
Scrub	639.51	0.27

Table 2. Status of climbers in India (Pandi et al. 2022).

No. of species	Genera	Family
2,624	585	104

to heavy anthropogenic activities, it has very poor biodiversity, except for some small, fragmented patches.

3. Vindhyan Region: It is situated between the Gangetic plains and the Deccan Peninsula with a tropical dry deciduous type of vegetation. It comprises Lalitpur, Jhansi, Jalaun, Hamirpur, Mahoba, Banda, Chitrakoot, Mirzapur, Sonbhadra, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Chandauli, Varanasi, Kaushambi, and some regions of the Allahabad District. It is constituted by a small part of the Vindhyan Hill. Due to the presence of sandy soil, it has very poor fertility. The major cultivated plant is wheat, which is cultivated along the riverbank. Due to mining and other heavy anthropogenic activities, it also has very poor biodiversity. The forest of the area is tropical dry deciduous.

4. Semiarid Region: Only a few areas—Agra, Mathura, Etawah, Auraya, and Jalaun—with tropical dry deciduous type of vegetation form a semiarid region. The forest of the area is an open scrub type. The banks of the Chambal, Betwa, and Yamuna rivers form the vegetation of the area.

Literature survey

The present review is based on an extensive review of available literature, including more than 16 authentic research papers, three books or book chapters and four regional floras. A comprehensive list of climbing species recorded from UP has been compiled through this review. Furthermore, identified taxa up to the level of species and infraspecific ranks (variety/subspecies) have been included. The taxonomic identities of all taxa were verified using the Plants of the World Online (POWO) database to ensure nomenclature accuracy and current accepted names. The taxa are arranged alphabetically (Table 3). This systematic approach ensured comprehensive coverage of available data on climber diversity and distribution in Uttar Pradesh. Map of Uttar Pradesh representing four zones of Uttar Pradesh have been provided in Figure 1.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Status of climbers in India

In India, climbers, including both lianas and herbaceous vines, constitute approximately 12% of the country's total angiosperm flora (Pujari et al. 2025). Regional studies have highlighted their diversity and ethnobotanical importance across several states.

In northern and western India, several species of climbers were documented from Jammu & Kashmir (Bor & Raizada 1954), Gujarat (Jangid & Sharma 2011). Further surveys in eastern India revealed rich distributions, such as 94 species in Koch Bihar, West Bengal (Bandyopadhyay & Mukherjee 2010), 45 in Jharkhand (Kumar et al. 2013), and 120 in Odisha's Similipal Biosphere Reserve (Rout et al. 2022). Northeastern India displays exceptional diversity, with 187 species in Arunachal Pradesh (Soyala et al. 2021), and 26 species recorded from East Sikkim sacred groves (Rai et al. 2016).

Southern India and the Andaman Islands also contribute to this diversity. In Kerala, 59 climbers were recorded by Jayakumar & Nair (2013), while in Karnataka, 170 species of climbers were reported (Prashanth & Siddamallayya 2022). Tamil Nadu encompasses 40–175 taxa across different districts and hill ranges (Muthuperumal & Parthasarathy 2009; Sarvalingam & Rajendran 2014). The Andaman Islands harbour high richness with over 220 species, including herbaceous climbers and lianas (Mahajan 2006).

Consolidating these scattered accounts on climbers, Pandi et al. (2022) & Pujari et al. (2025) provided comprehensive data on Indian climbers, reporting 2,566–2,624 species (Table 2), underscoring the ecological, medicinal, and cultural significance of climbers in India.

Status of climbers in Uttar Pradesh

The state of UP harbours rich climbers' diversity. In their attempt to study the floristic accounts of the state Duthie (1903–1915), Kanjilal (1982), Misra & Verma (1992), Sharma & Dhakre (1995), Narayan & Ranjan (2007), Datt et al. (2015), Kushwaha et al. (2018), and Sinha & Shukla (2021) have mentioned climbing species in their studies. Detailed comprehensive studies on climbing species are lacking from the state. A few available studies concerning the climbing species across

Table 3. List of climbing species recorded from Uttar Pradesh. The names in the parentheses are originally annotated names which are now synonyms.

	Currently accepted names	Family	Order	Habit
1	*Abrus melanospermus* Hassk.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining herb
2	*Abrus melanospermus* subsp. *melanospermus* (=*Abrus pulchellus* Wall.ex Voigt.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing woody shrub
3	*Abrus precatorius* L.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody twiner
4	*Acacia gageana* (Craib) Maslin, Seigler & Ebinger	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing shrub
5	*Actinostemma tenerum* Griff.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climbing herb
6	*Aganosma heynei* (Spreng.) I.M. Turner (=*Aganosma caryophyllata* G. Don; *Aganosma dichotoma* K.Schum.)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Woody climber
7	*Allamanda cathartica* L.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Woody twiner
8	*Allamanda blanchetii* A.DC. (=*Allamanda violacea* Gardner)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Woody climber
9	*Allamanda schottii* Pohl (=*Allamanda neriifolia* Hook.)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Climbing shrub
10	*Ampelocissus divaricata* (Wall. ex M.A.Lawson) Planch. (=*Vitis divaricata* Wall. ex M.A.Lawson)	Vitaceae	Vitales	Climbing tendril shrub
11	*Ampelocissus indica* (L.) Planch.	Vitaceae	Vitales	Climbing tendril shrub
12	*Ampelocissus latifolia* (Roxb.) Planch.	Vitaceae	Vitales	Woody tendril herb
13	*Ampelocissus rugosa* (Wall.) Planch.	Vitaceae	Vitales	Climbiing shrub
14	*Ampelocissus tomentosa* (Roth.) Planch.	Vitaceae	Vitales	Climbing shrub
15	*Ampelopsis glandulosa* (Wall.) Momiy.	Vitaceae	Vitales	Climbing herb
16	*Anamirta cocculus* (L.) Wight & Arn. (=*Anamirta paniculata* Colebr.)	Menispermaceae	Ranunculales	Woody climber
17	*Aniseia martinicensis* (Jacq.) Choisy	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twiner
18	*Antigonon leptopus* Hook. & Arn.	Polygonaceae	Caryophyllales	Climbing tendril herb
19	*Argyreia barbigera* Choisy (=*Lettsomia thomsonii* C.B.Clarke; *Argyreia nasirii* D.F.Austin)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Climber
20	*Argyreia kleiniana* (Schult.) Raizada (=*Argyreia populifolia* Choisy)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Woody climber
21	*Argyreia nervosa* (Burm.f.) Bojer (=*Argyreia speciosa* (L.f.) Sweet)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
22	*Argyreia sericea* Dalzell & A.Gibson	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
23	*Argyreia setosa* (Roxb.) Sweet (=*Lettsomia setosa* Roxb.)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Large climber
24	*Aristolochia indica* L.	Aristolochiaceae	Piperales	Glabrous climber
25	*Aristolochia littoralis* Parodi	Aristolochiaceae	Piperales	Climbing tendril herb
26	*Artabotrys hexapetalus* (L.f.) Bhandari (=*Artabotrys odoratissimus* R.Br.)Annonaceae	Annonaceae	Magnoliales	Woody climber
27	*Asparagus racemosus* Willd.	Asparagaceae	Asparagales	Woody twining herb
28	*Asparagus setaceus* (Kunth) Jessop	Asparagaceae	Asparagales	Twining herb
29	*Aspidopterys cordata* (B.Heyne ex Wall.) A. Juss.	Malpighiaceae	Malpighiales	Slender climber
30	*Aspidopterys wallichii* Hook.f.	Malpighiaceae	Malpighiales	Woody climber
31	*Basella alba* L. (=*Basella rubra* L.)	Basellaceae	Caryophyllales	Twining herb
32	*Benincasa hispida* (Thunb.) Cogn.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climber
33	*Biancaea decapetala* (Roth)) O.Deg (=*Caesalpinia decapetala* (Roth) Alston; *Caesalpinia sepiaria* Roxb.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing shrub
34	*Bignonia corymbosa* Vent.	Bignoniaceaee	Lamiales	Climbing vine
35	*Blastania cerasiformis* (Stocks) A. Meeuse (=*Blastania fimbristipula* Kotschy & Peyr.)	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
36	*Blastania garcinii* (Burm.f.) Cogn.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climbing tendril herb
37	*Boerhavia diffusa* L.	Nyctaginaceae	Caryophyllales	Climbing shrub
38	*Bougainvillea glabra* Choisy	Nyctaginaceae	Caryophyllales	Climbing shrub
39	*Bougainvillea spectabilis* Willd	Nyctaginaceae	Caryophyllales	Woody hook climber
40	*Brachypteris scandens* (Roxb.) Wight & Arn. ex Miq. (=*Derris scandens* (Roxb.) Benth.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody twining climber

	Currently accepted names	Family	Order	Habit
41	*Bridelia stipularis* (L.) Blume	Phyllanthaceae	Malpighiales	Woody climber
42	*Butea superba* Roxb.ex Willd.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody climber
43	*Cajanus albicans* (Wight & Arn.) Maesen (=*Atylosia albicans* (Wight & Arn.) Benth.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining shrub
44	*Cajanus crassus* (Prain ex King) Maesen (=*Atylosia crassa* Prain)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining shrub
45	*Cajanus mollis* (Benth.) Maesen (=*Atylosia mollis* Benth.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody twining herb
46	*Cajanus platycarpus* (Benth.) Maesen (=*Atylosia platycarpa* Benth.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining herb
47	*Cajanus scarabaeoides* (L.) Thouars (=*Atylosia scarabaeoides* (L.) Benth.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining herb
48	*Calamus tenuis* Roxb.	Arecaceae	Arecales	Twining shrub
49	*Camonea umbellata* (L.) A.R.Simões & Staples (=*Merremia umbellata* (L.) Hallier f.)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Woody twining vine
50	*Campsis grandiflora* (Thunb.) K.Schum.	Bignoniaceaee	Lamiales	Woody climber
51	*Campsis radicans* (L.) Bureau	Bignoniaceaee	Lamiales	Woody twining climber
52	*Canavalia africana* Dunn	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody climbing herb
53	*Canavalia ensiformis* (L.) DC.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing shrub
54	*Canavalia gladiata* (Jacq.) DC.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing shrub
55	*Cansjera rheedei* J.F. Gmel.	Opiliaceae	Santalales	Climbing shrub
56	*Capparis sepiaria* L.	Capparaceae	Brassicales	Woody climbing shrubs
57	*Capparis spinosa* L.	Capparaceae	Brassicales	Climbing shrubs
58	*Capparis zeylanica* L.	Capparaceae	Brassicales	Climbing shrubs
59	*Cardiospermum halicacabum* L.	Sapindaceae	Sapindales	Wiry tendril climber
60	*Cassytha filiformis* L.	Lauraceae	Laurales	Twining herb
61	*Causonis trifolia* (L.) Mabb. & J. Wen	Vitaceae	Vitales	Tendril climber
62	*Cayaponia laciniosa* (L.) C. Jefferey (=*Bryonopsis laciniosa* (L.) Naudin)	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climber
63	*Celastrus paniculatus* Willd.	Celastraceae	Celastrales	Woody twiner
64	*Ceropegia bulbosa* Roxb.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining herb
65	*Ceropegia hirsuta* Wight & Arn.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining herb
66	*Ceropegia longifolia* Wall.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining herb
67	*Ceropegia macrantha* Wight	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Woody twining herb
68	*Chonemorpha verrucosa* (Blume) D.J.Middleton (=*Rhynchodia wallichii* Benth.)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Woody climber
69	*Cissampelos pareira* L. (=*Cissampelos cordifolia* Bojer; *Cissampelos pareira var. hirsuta* (Buch.-Ham.ex DC.) Forman)	Menispermaceae	Ranunculales	Twining herb
70	*Cissus adnata* Roxb. (=*Vitis adnata* (Roxb.) Wall.)	Vitaceae	Vitales	Woody climbing tendril shrub
71	*Cissus quadrangularis* L. (=*Vitis quadrangularis* (L.) Wall. ex Wight)	Vitaceae	Vitales	Tendril vine
72	*Cissus repanda* (Wight & Arn.) Vahl (=*Vitis repanda* Wight & Arn.)	Vitaceae	Vitales	Soft woody tendril shrub
73	*Citrullus lanatus* (Thunb.) Matsum, & Nakai (=*Citrullus vulgaris* Schrad.)	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Twining herb
74	*Clematis cadmia* Buch.-Ham. Ex Hook.f. & Thomson	Ranunculaceae	Ranunculales	Slender climber
75	*Clematis gouriana* Roxb. ex DC.	Ranunculaceae	Ranunculales	Woody climber
76	*Clematis integrifolia* L. (=*Clematis nutans* Crantz)	Ranunculaceae	Ranunculales	Woody climber
77	*Clematis zeylanica* (L.) Poir. (=*Naravelia zeylanica* (L.) DC.)	Ranunculaceae	Ranunculales	Woody climber
78	*Clerodendrum splendens* G.Don	Lamiaceae	Lamiales	Woody twiner
79	*Clerodendrum thomsoniae* Balf.	Lamiaceae	Lamiales	Woody twiner
80	*Clitoria ternatea* L.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Wiry twining herb
81	*Coccinia grandis* (L.) Voigt	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climbing tendril herb
82	*Cocculus hirsutus* (L.) W.Theob. (=*Cocculus villosus* DC.)	Menispermaceae	Ranunculales	Twining shrub

	Currently accepted names	Family	Order	Habit
83	*Cocculus pendulus* (J.R.Forst. & G.Forst) Diels	Menispermaceae	Ranunculales	Twining shrub
84	*Combretum albidium* G.Don (=*Combretum ovalifolium* Roxb.)	Combretaceae	Myrtales	Woody climbing shrub
85	*Combretum indicum* (L.) DrFilipps (=*Quisqualis indica* L.)	Combretaceae	Myrtales	Woody twininng shrub
86	*Combretum roxburghii* Spreng. (=*Combretum decandrum* Roxb.)	Combretaceae	Myrtales	Climbing shrub
87	*Convolvulus arvensis* L.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
88	*Convolvulus wallichianus* Spreng. (=*Calystegia hederacea* Wall.)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Climbing herb
89	*Cryptolepis buchananii* R.Br. ex Roem. & Schult. (=*Cryptolepis dubia* (Burm.f.) M.R. Almeida)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining shrub
90	*Cryptolepis grandiflora* Wight	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Woody twining shrub
91	*Cryptolepis sinensis* (Lour.) Merr. (=*Cryptolepis elegans* Wall. ex G.Don)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Climbing shrub
92	*Cryptostegia grandiflora* Roxb. ex R.Br.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Woody climber
93	*Cucumis maderaspatana* (L.) Cogn. (=*Melothria maderaspatana* (L.) Cogn.; *Mukia maderaspatana* (L.) M.Roem.)	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climbing herb
94	*Cucumis melo* L. (=*Luffa cylindrica* (L.) M.Roem)	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climbing herb
95	*Cucumis melo* var. *agrestis*	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Wiry climber
96	*Cucumis melo* var. *momordica*	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
97	*Cucumis sativus* L.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
98	*Cucumis trigonus* Roxb.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climbinh herb
99	*Cucurbita maxima* Duchesne	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climbing herb
100	*Cucurbita moschata* Duchesne	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climbing herb
101	*Cucurbita pepo* L.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climbing herb
102	*Cuscuta australis* R. Br.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining climber
103	*Cuscuta campestris* Yunck.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Parasite climber/Twiner
104	*Cuscuta capitata* Roxb.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining climber
105	*Cuscuta chinensis* Lam.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining climber
106	*Cuscuta reflexa* Roxb.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Parasite twiner
107	*Cuscuta santapaui* Banerji & S. Das	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining climber
108	*Cynanchum annularium* (Roxb.) Liede & Khanum (=*Holostemma rheedii* Wall.; *Holostemma ada-kodien* Schult.)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining shrub
109	*Cyphostemma auriculatum* (Roxb.) P. Singh & B.V.Shetty (=*Vitis auriculata* (Roxb.) Wall.)	Vitaceae	Vitales	Woody climber
110	*Dalbergia volubilis* Roxb.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody climber
111	*Deeringia amaranthoides* (Lam.) Merr. (=*Deeringia celosioides* R. Br.)	Amaranthaceae	Caryophyllales	Woody climbing shrub
112	*Derris cuneifolia* Benth.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing herb
113	*Derris macrocarpa* Thoth.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing shrub
114	*Dinetus racemosus* (Roxb.) Sweet (=*Porana racemosa* Roxb.)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Climbing shrub
115	*Dioscorea alata* L.	Dioscoreaceae	Dioscoreales	Twining herb
116	*Dioscorea belophylla* (Prain) Voigt ex Haines	Dioscoreaceae	Dioscoreales	Twining climber
117	*Dioscorea bulbifera* L.	Dioscoreaceae	Dioscoreales	Twining climber
118	*Dioscorea cumingii* Prain & Burkill (=*Dioscorea echinata* R.Knuth)	Dioscoreaceae	Dioscoreales	Twining climber
119	*Dioscorea deltoidea* Wall. ex. Griseb.	Dioscoreaceae	Dioscoreales	Twining herb
120	*Dioscorea esculenta* (Lour.) Burkill	Dioscoreaceae	Dioscoreales	Twining climber
121	*Dioscorea glabra* Roxb.	Dioscoreaceae	Dioscoreales	Twining climber
122	*Dioscorea hispida* Dennst (=*Dioscorea daemona* Roxb.)	Dioscoreaceae	Dioscoreales	Twining climber
123	*Dioscorea japonica* Thunb.	Dioscoreaceae	Dioscoreales	Twining climber
124	*Dioscorea oppositifolia* L.	Dioscoreaceae	Dioscoreales	Twining climber
125	*Dioscorea pentaphylla* L.	Dioscoreaceae	Dioscoreales	Twining climber

	Currently accepted names	Family	Order	Habit
126	*Dioscorea pubera* Blume (=*Dioscorea anguina* Roxb.)	Dioscoreaceae	Dioscoreales	Climbing herb
127	*Dioscorea wallichii* Hook.f.	Dioscoreaceae	Dioscoreales	Climber herb
128	*Dioscorea wightii* Hook.f.	Dioscoreaceae	Dioscoreales	Climbing herb
129	*Diplocyclos palmatus* (L.) C.Jeffrey	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
130	*Distimake aegypticus* (L.) A.R.Simões & Staples (=*Merremia aegyptia* (L.) Urb.)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining climber
131	*Distimake dissectus* (Jacq.) (L.) A.R.Simões & Staples (=*Merremia dissecta* (Jacq.) Hallier f.)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Woody twining climber
132	*Distimake tuberosus* (L.) A.R.Simões & Staples (=*Merremia tuberosa* (L.) Rendle)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining climber
133	*Distimake vitifolius* (Burm. f.) Pisuttimarn & Petrongari (=*Merremia vitifolia* (Burm.f.) Hallier f.)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining climber
134	*Dolichandra unguis-cati* (L.) L.G.Lohmann	Bignoniaceaee	Lamiales	Woody tendril climber
135	*Dumasia villosa* DC.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining climber
136	*Dunbaria glandulosa* Dalzell & A. Gibson) Prain	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody climber
137	*Embelia ribes* Burm.f.	Primulaceae	Ericales	Climbing shrub
138	*Embelia tsjeriam-cottam* (Roem. & Schult.) A.DC.	Primulaceae	Ericales	Woody climbing shrub
139	*Endosamara racemosa* (Roxb.) R. Geesink	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody climbing shrub
140	*Epipremnum pinnatum* (L.) Engl.	Araceae	Alismatales	Woody climbing herb
141	*Erycibe paniculata* Roxb. (=*Erycibe wightiana* J.Graham)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Woody climber
142	*Ficus pumila* L.	Moraceae	Rosales	Woody climber
143	*Finlaysonia wallichii* (Wight) Ventre	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining shrub
144	*Galactia mollis* Michx. (=*Galactia villosa* Eaton & Wright)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining herb
145	*Galium aparine* L.	Rubiaceae	Gentianales	Climbing herb
146	*Gongronema nepalense* (Wall.) Decne.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Large twining shrub
147	*Gongronemopsis tenacissima* (Roxb.) S.Reuss, Liede & Meve (=*Marsdenia tenacissima* (Roxb.) Moon)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining shrub
148	*Gouania leptostachya* DC.	Rhamnaceae	Rosales	Tendril climber
149	*Guilandina bonduc* L. (=*Caesalpinia bonduc* (L.) Roxb.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Hook climber
150	*Gymnema decaisneanum* Wight (=*Gymnema hirsutum* Wight & Arn.)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Woody climbing undershrub
151	*Gymnema indorum* (Lour.) Decne. (=*Gymnema tingens* (Roxb.) Spreng.)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twinng shrub
152	*Gymnema montanum* (Roxb.) Hook.f.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining shrub
153	*Gymnema rivulare* Schltr.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Woody climbing vine
154	*Gymnema sylvestre* (Retz.) R.Br. ex Sm.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining shrub
155	*Helinus lanceolatus* Brandis	Rhamnaceae	Rosales	Tendril climber
156	*Hemidesmus indicus* (L.) R.Br.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Slender climber
157	*Hiptage benghalensis* var.*benghalensis* (=*Hiptage madablota* Gaertn.)	Malpighiaceae	Malpighiales	Climbing shrub
158	*Hiptage benghalensis* (L.) Kurz.	Malpighiaceae	Malpighiales	Woody twining climber
159	*Holmskioldia sanguinea* Retz.	Lamiaceae	Lamiales	Climbing shrub
160	*Iberis amara* L.	Brassicaceae	Brassicales	Woody twining climber
161	*Ichnocarpus frutescens* (L.) W.T.Aiton	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Climbing shrub
162	*Ipomoea alba* L.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining climber
163	*Ipomoea aquatica* Forssk.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
164	*Ipomoea barlerioides* (Choisy) Benth ex C.B.Clarke	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
165	*Ipomoea batatas* (L.) Lam.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
166	*Ipomoea biflora* (L.) Pers (=*Ipomoea sinensis* (Desr.Choisy)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining climber
167	*Ipomoea cairica* (L.) Sweet (=*Ipomoea palmata* Forssk.)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining climber

	Currently accepted names	Family	Order	Habit
168	*Ipomoea carnea* subsp. *carnea*	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Woody shrub
169	*Ipomoea cheirophylla* O'Donell	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
170	*Ipomoea coccinea* L. (=*Quamoclit coccinea* (L.) Moench)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Climber herb
171	*Ipomoea coptica* (L.) Roth	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
172	*Ipomoea dichroa* (Roemer & Schultes) Choisy	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
173	*Ipomoea eriocarpa* R.Br (=*Ipomoea sindica* Stapf.)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
174	*Ipomoea hederacea* Jacq. (=*Ipomoea triloba* Thunb.)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
175	*Ipomoea hederifolia* L.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
176	*Ipomoea indica* (Burm.) Merr.(=*Ipomoea learii* Paxton)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Climber
177	*Ipomoea muricata* (L.) Jacq. (=*Calonyction muricatum* (L.) G.Don; *Ipomoea turbinata* Lag)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
178	*Ipomoea nil* (L.) Roth	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
179	*Ipomoea obscura* (L.) Ker Gawl.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
180	*Ipomoea pes-caprae* (L.) R.Br.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
181	*Ipomoea pes-tigridis* L.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining climber
182	*Ipomoea purpurea* (L.) Roth	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
183	*Ipomoea quamoclit* L. (=*Quamoclit vulgaris* Choisy)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Slender climber
184	*Ipomoea sagittifolia* Burm.f. (=*Ipomoea marginata* (Desr.) Manitz)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining climber
185	*Jasminum auriculatum* Vahl	Oleaceae	Lamiales	Climbing shrub
186	*Jasminum dispermum* Wall.	Oleaceae	Lamiales	Climbing shrub
187	*Jasminum laurifolium* Roxb. ex Hornem.	Oleaceae	Lamiales	Woody twining climber
188	*Jasminum multiflorum* (Burm.f.) Andrews	Oleaceae	Lamiales	Woody twining climber
189	*Jacquemontia paniculata* (Burm.f.) Hallier f.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining climber
190	*Lablab purpureus* (L.) Sweet	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining herb
191	*Lablab purpureus* subsp. *purpureus* (=*Dolichos lablab* L.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing shrub
192	*Lagenaria siceraria* Ser. (=*Lagenaria vulgaris* Ser.)	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Twining herb
193	*Lathyrus odoratus* L.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing herb
194	*Lathyrus oleraceus* Lam. (=*Pisum arvense* L.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing herb
195	*Leptadenia reticulata* (Retz.) Wight & Arn.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Woody twining shrub
196	*Leptospron adenanthum* (G.Mey.) A.Delgado (=*Vigna adenantha* (G.Mey.)Maréchal, Mascherpa & Stainer)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining climber
197	*Luffa aegyptiaca* Mill	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climbing herb
198	*Luffa acutangula* (L.) Roxb. (=*Luffa hermaphrodita* N.B Singh & U.C. Bhattach.)	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
199	*Luffa echinata* Roxb.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climber
200	*Luffa graveolens* Roxb.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	tendril climber
201	*Macrotyloma biflorum* var. biflorum (=*Dolichos biflorus* L.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climber
202	*Maerua arenaria* Hook.f. & Thomson	Capparaceae	Brassicales	Woody climber
203	*Maerua oblongifolia* (Forssk.) A.Rich. (=*Maerua ovalifolia* Cambess.)	Capparaceae	Brassicales	Woody climber
204	*Mallotus repandus* (Rottler) Müll.Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Malpighiales	Climbing shrub
205	*Mansoa alliacea* (Lam.) A.H.Gentry	Bignoniaceaee	Lamiales	Woody twining climber
206	*Marsdenia hamiltonii* Wight (=*Pergularia hamiltonii* (Wight) D.Dietr.)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining climber
207	*Marsdenia lucida* Edgew. ex Madden	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Climber
208	*Marsdenia roylei* Wight	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining shrub
209	*Marsdenia sylvestris* (Retz.) R.Br. ex Sm.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining undershrub
210	*Merremia calycina* (Maisn.) Hallier f. (=*Ipomoea calycina* Meisn.)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
211	*Merremia crispatula* Prain=*Operculina petaloides* (Choisy) Ooststr. (=*Merremia crispatula* Prain)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Climber

	Currently accepted names	Family	Order	Habit
212	*Merremia hederacea* (Burm.f.) Hallier f.	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining herb
213	*Mezoneuron cucullatum* (Roxb.) Wight & Arn. (=*Caesalpinia cucullata* Roxb.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climber
214	*Mikania micrantha* Kunth	Asteraceae	Asterales	Twiner
215	*Mimosa himalayana* Gamble	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody climbing shrub
216	*Mimosa pudica* L.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining climber
217	*Mimosa rubicaulis* var. *rubicaulis* (=*Acacia intsia* (L.) Willd.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climber
218	*Momordica balsamina* L.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
219	*Momordica charantia* L.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
220	*Momordica cochinchinensis* (Lour.) Spreng.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
221	*Momordica dioica* Roxb.ex Willd.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
222	*Monstera deliciosa* Leibm.	Araceae	Alismatales	Twining climber
223	*Moullava spicata* (Dalzell ex Wight) Nicolson (=*Wagatea spicata* Dalzell ex Wight)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody climber
224	*Mucuna hainanensis* Hayata	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody twining climber
225	*Mucuna imbricata* (Roxb. ex Lindl.) DC. ex Loudon	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody twining climber
226	*Mucuna monosperma* DC. ex Wight	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody twining climber
227	*Mucuna pruriens* (L.) DC. (=*Mucuna prurita* Wight)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody twining climber
228	*Nephrosia diversifolia* (DC.) L.Lian & Wei Wang (=*Cocculus diversifolius* DC.)	Menispermaceae	Ranunculales	Climbing vine
229	*Nephrosia orbiculata* (L.) L.Lian & Wei Wang (=*Cocculus trilobus* (Thunb.) DC.)	Menispermaceae	Ranunculales	Woody climbing vine
230	*Nogra grahamii* (Wall. ex Benth.) Merr.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining climber
231	*Olax imbricata* Roxb.	Olacaceae	Santalales	Climbing shrub
232	*Olax scandens* Roxb.	Olacaceae	Santalales	Climbing shrub
233	*Operculina petaloidea* (Choisy) Ooststr. (=*Ipomoea petaloidea* Choisy)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Climber
234	*Operculina turpethum* (L.) Silva Manso (=*Ipomoea turpethum* (L.) R.Br.)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Twining climber
235	*Otosema extensa* Benth. (=*Millettia auriculata* Baker; *Millettia extensa* (Benth.) Benth. ex Baker)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody twining climber
236	*Oxystelma esculentum* (L.f.) Sm.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining climber
237	*Pachyrhizus erosus* (L.) Urb. (=*Dolichos trilobus* Lour.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining climber
238	*Paederia foetida* L.	Rubiaceae	Gentianales	Twining climber
239	*Paracalyx scariosus* (Roxb.) Ali (=*Cylista scariosa* Roxb.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody climber
240	*Passiflora edulis* Sims	Passifloraceae	Malpighiales	Climbing herb
241	*Passiflora foetida* L.	Passifloraceae	Malpighiales	Tendril climber
242	*Passiflora suberosa* L.	Passifloraceae	Malpighiales	Tendril climber
243	*Pentalinon luteum* (L.) B.F. Hansen & Wunderlin	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Climbing shrub
244	*Pentatropis capensis* (L.f.) Bullock (=*Pentatropis microphylla* (Roth) Wight & Arn.)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining shrub
245	*Pentatropis nivalis* (J.F.Gmel.) D.V.Field & J.R.I.Wood (=*Pentatropis cynanchoides* R.Br. ex N.E.Br.)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining shrub
246	*Pergularia daemia* (Forssk.) Chiov. (=*Daemia extensa* R.Br.)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining shrub
247	*Pericampylus glaucus* (Lam.) Merr. (=*Pericampylus incanus* Miers.)	Menispermaceae	Ranunculales	Climbing shrub
248	*Petrea volubilis* L.	Verbenaceae	Lamiales	Woody twining climber
249	*Phanera vahlii* (Wight & Arn.) Benth. (=*Bauhinia vahlii* Wight & Arn.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody twining climber
250	*Phaseolus coccineus* L.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining herb
251	*Phaseolus lunatus* L.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing herb
252	*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing herb
253	*Piper longum* L.	Piperaceae	Piperales	Climbing vine

	Currently accepted names	Family	Order	Habit
254	*Poranopsis paniculata* (Roxb.) Roberty (=*Porana paniculata* Roxb.)	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Woody twining climber
255	*Premna scandens* Roxb.	Lamiaceae	Lamiales	Woody climber
256	*Pueraria tuberosa* (Roxb. ex Willd.) DC.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody twining climber
257	*Pueraria phaseoloides* (Roxb. ex Willd.) DC.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining climber
258	*Pyrostegia venusta* (Ker Gawl.) Miers	Bignoniaceaee	Lamiales	Tendril climber
259	*Reissantia arborea* (Roxb.) H.Hara (=*Hippocratea arborea* Roxb.)	Celastraceae	Celastrales	Woody climbing shrub
260	*Rhaphidophora glauca* (Wall.) Schott	Araceae	Alismatales	Large climber
261	*Rhynchosia bracteata* Benth. ex Baker	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody climber
262	*Rhynchosia capitata* (B.Heyne ex Roth) DC.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing herb
263	*Rhynchosia minima* (L.) DC.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining herb
264	*Rhynchosia minima* var. *minima*	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining climber
265	*Rhynchosia rothii* Benth. ex Aitch.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining climber
266	*Rivea hypocrateriformis* (Desr.) Choisy	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Climbing shrub
267	*Rivea ornata* (Roxb.) Choisy	Convolvulaceae	Solanales	Climbing shrub
268	*Rubia cordifolia* L.	Rubiaceae	Gentianales	Climbing herb
269	*Sabia paniculata* Edgew. ex Hook.f. & Thomson	Sabiaceae	Proteales	Woody climbing shrub
270	*Salacia chinensis* L. (=*Salacia prinoides* (Willd.) DC.)	Celastraceae	Celastrales	Woody climbing shrub
271	*Schisandra grandiflora* (Wall.) Hook.f. & Thomson	Schisandraceae	Austrobaileyales	Woody climber
272	*Scindapsus officinalis* (Roxb.) Schott	Araceae	Alismatales	Climber
273	*Secamone alpini* Schult. (=*Oxystelma secamone* (L.) H.Karst.; *Sarcostemma secamone* (L.) Bennet)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Wiry twining herb
274	*Senegalia gageana* (Craib) Maslin, Seigler & Ebinger	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing shrub
275	*Senegalia pennata* (L.) Maslin (=Acacia concinna Phil.; *Acacia pennata* (L.) Willd.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody prickly climbers
276	*Senegalia torta* (Roxb.) Maslin, Seigler (=*Acacia torta* (Roxb.) Craib)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing shrub
277	*Senra incana* Cav.	Malvaceae	Malvales	Climbing shrub
278	*Shuteria involucrata* (Wall.) Wight & Arn. ex Walp.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining herb
279	*Smilax ovalifolia* Roxb. ex D.Don	Smilacaceae	Liliales	Climber
280	*Smilax perfoliata* Lour.	Smilacaceae	Liliales	Woody climbing shrub
281	*Smilax wightii* A.DC.	Smilacaceae	Liliales	Soft woody climber
282	*Smilax zeylanica* L.	Smilacaceae	Liliales	Woody climber
283	*Solena amplexicaulis* (Lam.) Gandhi	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climbing herb
284	*Solena heterophylla* Lour.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climbing herb
285	*Spatholobus parviflorus* (Roxb. ex DC.) Kuntze (=*Spatholobus roxburghii* Benth.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing shrub
286	*Stephania japonica* (Thunb.) Miers	Menispermaceae	Ranunculales	Twining herb
287	*Stephania rotunda* Lour (=*Stephania glabra* (Roxb.) Miers)	Menispermaceae	Ranunculales	Twining herb
288	*Stephanotis floribunda* Jacques	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Woody twining climber
289	*Stephanotis volubilis* (L.f.) S.Eeuss, Liede & Meve (=*Dregea volubilis* (L.f.) Benth. ex Hook.f.;Wattakaka volubilis (L.f.) Stapf)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Woody twining climber
290	*Stigmaphyllon emarginatum* (Cav.) A.Juss. (=*Stigmaphyllon periplocifolium* Desf. ex DC.) A.Juss.)	Malpighiaceae	Malpighiales	Twining shrub
291	*Syngonium podophyllum* Schott.	Araceae	Alismatales	Twining herb
292	*Tacomaria capensis* (Thunb.) Spach (=*Tecoma capensis* (Thunb.) Lindl.)	Bignoniaceae	Lamiales	Woody climber
293	*Tarlmounia elliptica* (DC.)H.Rob.,S.C.Keeley,Skvarla & R.Chan	Asteraceae	Asterales	Twining herb
294	*Telosma cordata* (Burm.f.) Merr.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining undershrub
295	*Telosma pallida* (Roxb.) Craib (=*Pergularia pallida* (Roxb.) Wight & Arn.)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Woody twining herb
296	*Teramnus labialis* (L.f.) Spreng.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Tendril climber

	Currently accepted names	Family	Order	Habit
297	*Tetrastigma campylocarpum* (Kurz) Planch.	Vitaceae	Vitales	Tendril climber
298	*Tetrastigma leucostaphyllum* (Dennst.) Alston (=*Vitis lanceolaria* Wall)	Vitaceae	Vitales	Woody climbing shrub
299	*Tetrastigma serrulatum* (Roxb.) Planch. (=Vitis capreolata D.Don)	Vitaceae	Vitales	Slender climber
300	*Thladiantha cordifolia* (Blume) Cogn. (=*Thladiantha calcarata* C.B.Clarke ex Cogn.)	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climbing herb
301	*Thunbergia coccinea* Wall. ex D.Don	Acanthaceae	Lamiales	Twining herb
302	*Thunbergia fragrans* Roxb.	Acanthaceae	Lamiales	Climber
303	*Thunbergia grandiflora* Roxb.	Acanthaceae	Lamiales	Woody climber
304	*Ticanto crista* (L.) Clarke & Gagnon (=*Caesalpinia crista* L.)	Fabaceae	Fabales	Woody climber
305	*Tiliacora acuminata* (Lam.) Miers (=Menispermum acuminatum Lam.; *Tiliacora racemosa* Colebr.)	Menispermaceae	Ranunculales	Woody climbing shrub
306	*Tinospora cordifolia* (Willd.) Hook.f. & Thomson	Menispermaceae	Ranunculales	Woody twing shrub
307	*Tinospora sinensis* (Lour.) Merr. (=*Tinospora malabarica* (Lam.) Hook.f. & Thomson)	Menispermaceae	Ranunculales	Climbing shrub
308	*Trachelospermum jasminoides* (Lindl.) Lem.	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining herb
309	*Tragia gallabatensis* Prain (=*Tragia plukenetii* Radcl.-Sm.)	Euphorbiaceae	Malpighiales	Twiner
310	*Tragia involucrata* L.	Euphorbiaceae	Malpighiales	Twiner
311	*Trichosanthes bracteata* (Lam.) Voigt (=*Trichosanthes palmata* Roxb.)	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climber
312	*Trichosanthes cordata* Roxb.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
313	*Trichosanthes costata* Blume (=*Gymnopetalum chinense* (Lour.) Merr.)	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
314	*Trichosanthes cucumerina* L.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
315	*Trichosanthes cucumerina* subsp. *cucumerina* (=*Trichosanthes anguina* L.;*Trichosanthes cucumerina* var. *anguina* (L.) Haines)	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
316	*Trichosanthes dioica* Roxb.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
317	*Trichosanthes nervifolia* L.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
318	*Trichosanthes ovigera* Blume (=*Trichosanthes himalensis* C.B.Clarke)	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climber
319	*Trichosanthes tricuspidata* Lour.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climber
320	*Tropaeolum majus* L.	Tropaeolaceae	Brassicales	Climbing herb
321	*Vallaris solanaceae* (Roth ex Roem. & Schult.) Kuntze (=*Vallaris heynei* Spreng.)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Woody twining shrub
322	*Ventilago denticulata* Willd. (=Ventilago calyculata Tul.)	Rhamnaceae	Rosales	Woody climbing shrub
323	*Ventilago madraspatana* Gaertn.	Rhamnaceae	Rosales	Climbing shrub
324	*Vicia hirsuta* (L.) Gray	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining climber
325	*Vicia sativa* L.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing shrub
326	*Vigna aconitifolia* (Jacq.) Maréchal	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing herb
327	*Vigna angularis* (Willd.) Ohwi & H. Ohashi	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing herb/twiner
328	*Vigna mungo* (L.) Hepper	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining herb
329	*Vigna radiata* (L.) R.Wilczek	Fabaceae	Fabales	Climbing herb
330	*Vigna subramaniana* (Babu ex Raizada) Raizada	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining herb
331	*Vigna trilobata* (L.) Verdc.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Herb twining
332	*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Twining herb
333	*Vincetoxicum indicum* (Burm.f.) Mabb. (=*Tylophora indica* (Burm.f.) Merr.)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining herb
334	*Vincetoxicum rotundifolia* (Buch.-Ham.ex Wight) Kuntze (=*Tylophora rotundifolia* (Buch.-Ham. ex Wight) Kuntze)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining shrub
335	*Vincetoxicum spirale* (Forssk.) D.Z.Li (=*Pentatropis spiralis* (Forssk.) Decne.)	Apocynaceae	Gentianales	Twining shrub
336	*Vitis heyneana* Schult.	Vitaceae	Vitales	Climbing shrub
337	*Vitis heyneana* var. *heyneana* (=*Vitis jacquemontii* R.Parker)	Vitaceae	Vitales	Climbing shrub
338	*Vitis labrusca* L. (=*Vitis latifolia* Raf.; *Vitis rugosa* Raf.)	Vitaceae	Vitales	Climber

	Currently accepted names	Family	Order	Habit
339	*Vitis parkeri* Gagnep. ex Osmaston (Kurz) Planch.	Vitaceae	Vitales	Soft woody climber
340	*Vitis vinifera* L.	Vitaceae	Vitales	Wooding twining climber
341	*Wisteria sinensis* (Sims) DC.	Fabaceae	Fabales	Wooding twining climber
342	*Zehneria scabra* (L.f.) Sond.	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Climber
343	*Zehneria scabra* subsp. *scabra* (=*Melothria perpusilla* (Blume) Cogn.)	Cucurbitaceae	Cucurbitales	Tendril climber
344	*Ziziphus oenopolia* (L.) Mill.	Rhamnaceae	Rosales	Woody hook climber

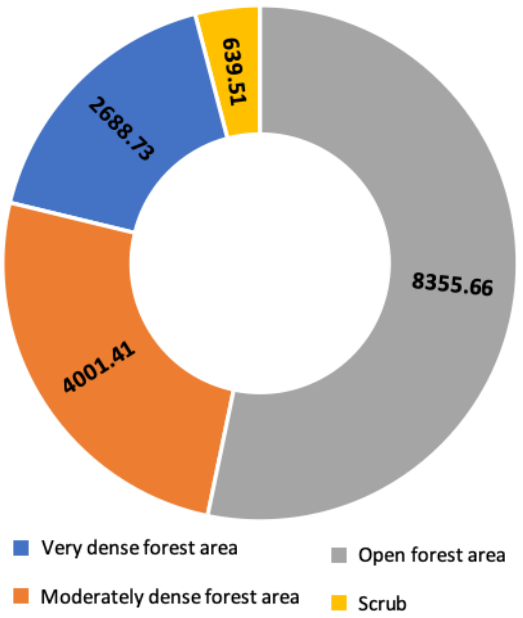

Figure 2. Representation of forest cover of Uttar Pradesh (ISFR 2023).

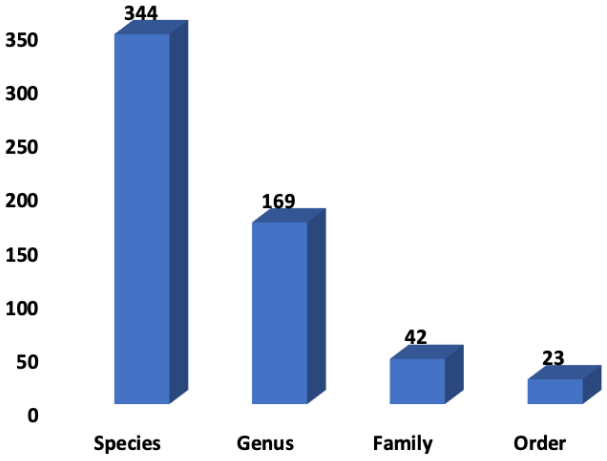

Figure 3. Details of taxa of climbing species recorded from Uttar Pradesh.

four regions of the state are reviewed as follows.

Terai Region: There are a few studies carried out by different workers on climbers of this region. Srivastava (2014) conducted a survey on wild flora of Gonda District and reported 18 plant species. Out of these 18 plant species, two were observed as climbers used by local people and ayurvedic experts in herbal and folk medicine in the area. Similarly, Khanna (2015) also reported two species of climbers from the family Apocynaceae and Basellaceae out of 212 angiosperms documented from Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary in Gonda District. Kumar et al. (2015) in their study on flowering plants of Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary in Bahraich District of Terai region, presented 778 species of Angiosperms, out of which 103 were climbers of much significance under 77 genera belonging to 31 families. Dvivedi et al. (2016) reported a total of 111 climbing species, including 63 lianas and 48 vine species of wild occurrence from the terai belt of the foothills of the Himalaya, representing 81 genera under 35 families. Khanna (2018), in his study on angiosperm plants of Terai region, documented 10 species of climbers of significant importance out of 1,753 species investigated from the entire Terai belt. Saini et al. (2021) reported 116 species of climbers, of which 66 were herbaceous climbers, 33 woody climbers or lianas and 15 climbing shrubs, along with two parasite climbers. The species also exhibited remarkable diversity in the nature of climbing. Of 116 species, 70 were twiners, 24 were tendril climbers, 15 were climbing shrubs, and four and three species were root and hook climbers, respectively. These climbers belonged to 27 different families, with Fabaceae, Convolvulaceae, Cucurbitaceae, and Apocynaceae being dominant families in the region. The study recorded the occurrence of 14 threatened climbers as well.

Gangetic Plain: Due to heavy anthropogenic activities, it has very poor biodiversity, except for some small, fragmented patches. Satya & Kanaujia (2007) in their study on the angiospermic plants of Pratapgarh reported 75 species under 64 genera and 46 families, out of which three species were recorded as climbers under

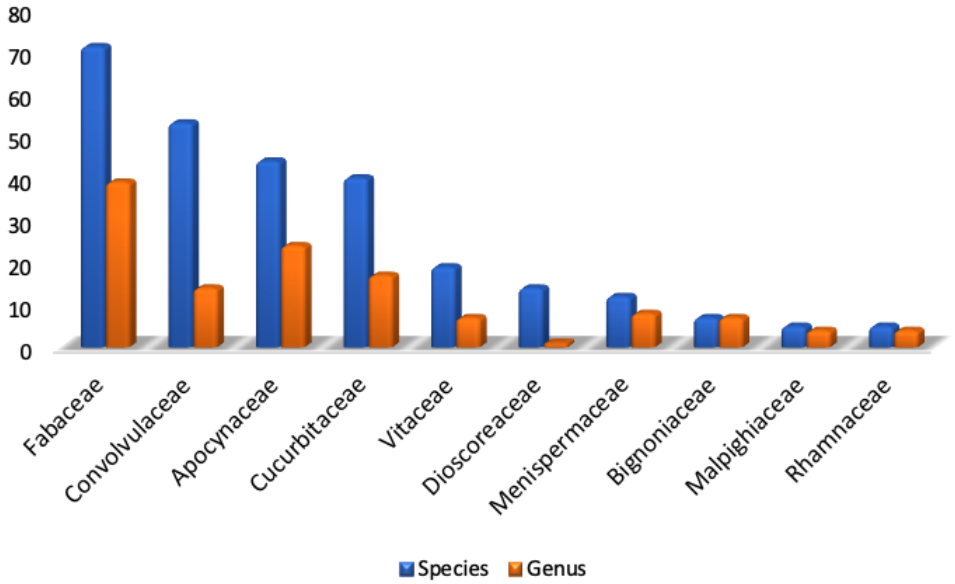

Figure 4. Dominant families of climbing species recorded from Uttar Pradesh.

three genera and two families. Maurya et al. (2015) studied the ethnobotanical uses of plants in Chandra Prabha Wildlife Sanctuary. Among 100 plants, 16 species were found to be climbers of medicinal importance

Vindhyan Region: It is constituted by a small range of the Vindhyan Hill. Due to the presence of sandy soil, it has very poor fertility. The major cultivated plant is wheat, which is cultivated along the riverbank. Due to mining and other heavy anthropogenic activities, it also has very poor biodiversity. The forest of the area is tropical dry deciduous. Singh & Dubey (2012) studied the ethnomedicinal importance of plants of Sonebhadra District, wherein they reported that the tribal people of Sonebhadra District use 143 species as traditional medicinal plants in treating various ailments. Out of 143 climbers, 17 were of climbing habit, exhibiting the ethnomedicinal potential of immense value. Singh (2015) in their study on flora of Varanasi observed 22 species under 19 genera belonging to 12 families as woody climbers out of 1,015 plant species. Family Apocynaceae was found to be the dominant family with six species under four genera, followed by Bignoniaceae with four species under three genera. Kushwaha et al. (2018) in their study on taxonomic account of angiosperms of Sonbhadra District recorded a total of 443 species, out of which 29 species were climbers with Convolvulaceae being the dominant family. Singh (2020) in his study documented 198 exotic species distributed among 157 genera belonging to 68 families from Varanasi District. Out of these 198 species, 11 species were of climbing habit represented as ornamental, crops and fruit-yielding species being utilized as herbal medicine by the rural folks of the area.

Semiarid region: Narain (2005) studied the flora of the Hamirpur District of Bundelkhand region. Out of 36 species seven species were reported to be climbers. Narain (2010) reported 27 species of climbing habit out of 602 species enumerated in the Hamirpur and Mahoba districts of the Bundelkhand region.

The critical analysis of literature in the present study indicates the presence of 344 species (including 12 intraspecific taxa), belonging to 169 genera under 42 families and 23 orders, (Table 3; Figure 3). Among the families, Fabaceae under the order Fabales emerged as the most dominant family contributing the highest number of species (71), followed by family Convolvulaceae under the order Solanales contributing to 53 species (Figure 4). Other well represented families include Apocynaceae (44) and Cucurbitaceae (40). Furthermore, *Ipomoea* was observed to be the most speciose genus, in the present study. At the order level Fabales, Solanales, Cucurbitales, and Gentianales showed maximum species richness. (Table 3). The dominance of these families and orders reflects the ecological adaptability and evolutionary success of climbers within these groups particularly in the Terai regions of the state. Furthermore, the highest diversity of climbers in this region may be attributed due to high rainfall and a humid monsoon climate, diverse vegetation structure, and, importantly, the region's overlap with the Himalayan and Gangetic floras, forming an ecotone (Dvivedi et al. 2016).

CONCLUSION

Climbers in UP have been the subject of several studies conducted by various researchers. These studies have shed light on different aspects of climbers, providing valuable insights into their diversity, distribution, ecology, and other relevant characteristics.

The climbing flora of UP makes a significant contribution to the overall plant diversity of India, both ecologically and economically. Uttar Pradesh harbours a considerable number of climber species, many of which are medicinally and economically valuable. Climbers represent an important component of the vegetation, adding structural complexity to forests, groves, and hedgerows, while also enhancing biodiversity. Although the climbing flora of UP represents only a fraction of India's total diversity, it reflects the state's unique biogeographic position and ecological heterogeneity. Their presence emphasises the state's role as a repository of useful plant resources. Conserving this diversity is thus essential, not only for maintaining ecological balance but also for sustaining cultural and economic traditions linked to the use of climbers.

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