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Journal of
Threatened
TAXA

10.11609/jott.2026.18.4.28607-28738
www.threatenedtaxa.org

26 April 2026 (Online & Print)
18(4): 28607-28738
ISSN 0974-7907 (Online)
ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)



ISSN 0974-7907 (Online); ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)

Publisher
Wildlife Information Liaison Development Society
www.wild.zooreach.org

Host
Zoo Outreach Organization
www.zooreach.org

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continued on the back inside cover

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



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.

Editor: Anonymity requested.

Date of publication: 26 April 2026 (online & print)

Citation: Prasad, R., M. Ahmad, S. Verma, K.M. Prabhukumar & T.S. Rana (2026). Diversity and distribution of climbers of Uttar Pradesh: a preliminary review. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 18(4): 28703–28718. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.9596.18.4.28703-28718>

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Funding: None.

Competing interests: The authors declare no competing interests.



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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.

Acknowledgments: RP, SV, KMP, and TSR express their sincere gratitude to the director CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow, for support and encouragement. RP and MA express their gratitude to the dean of the faculty, Integral University, Lucknow, for providing the necessary facilities to conduct the research work.

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° N– 31.467° E and 77.500° 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

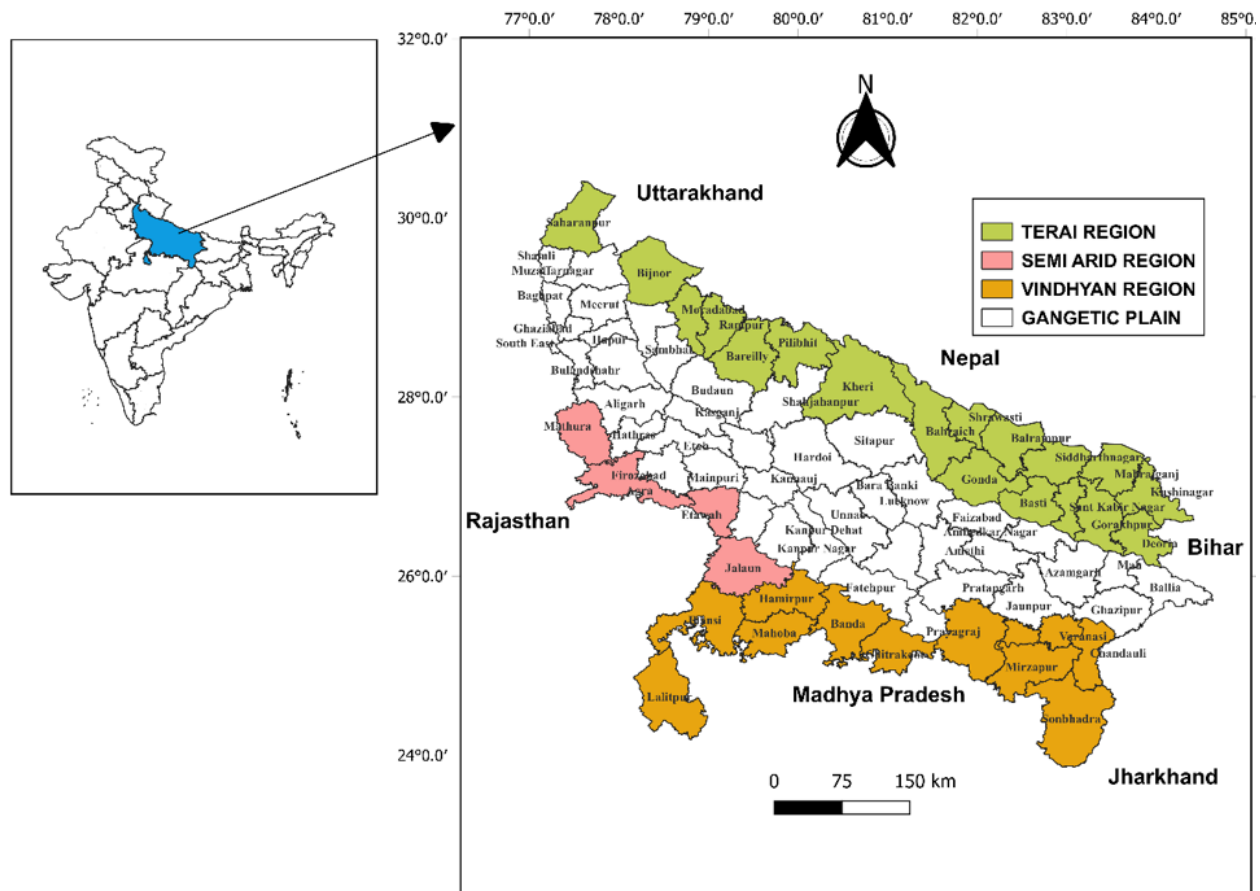


Figure 1. Different geographical zones of Uttar Pradesh.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

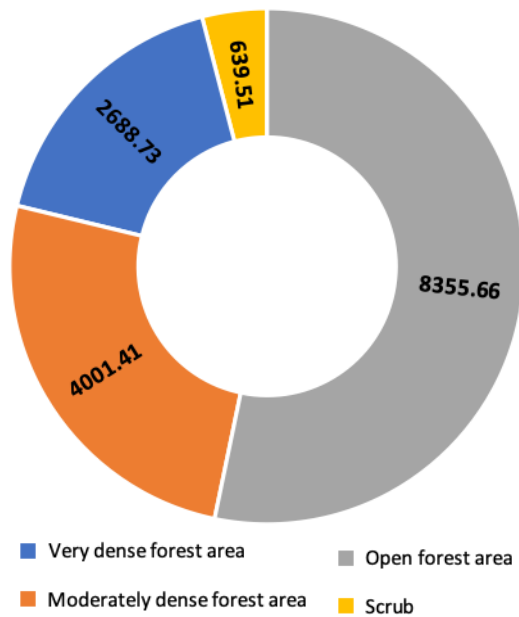


Figure 2. Representation of forest cover of Uttar Pradesh (ISFR 2023).

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

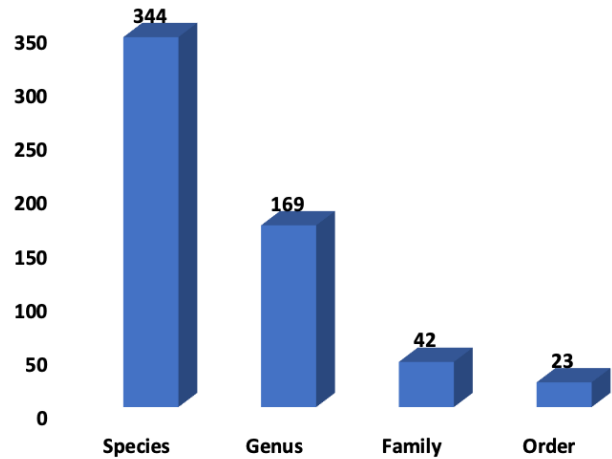


Figure 3. Details of taxa of climbing species recorded from Uttar Pradesh.

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 tendrill 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

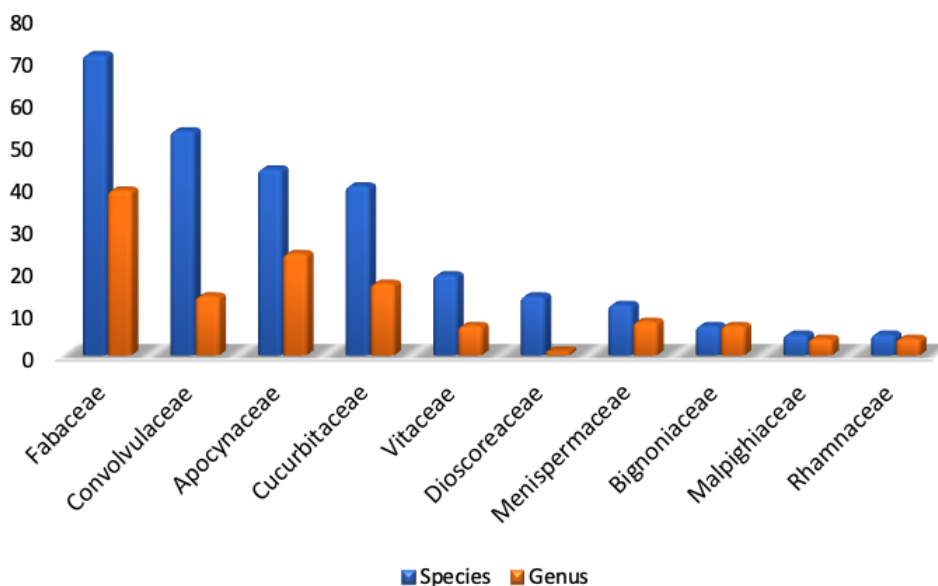


Figure 4. Dominant families of climbing species recorded from Uttar Pradesh.

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 Sonbhadra District, wherein they reported that the tribal people of Sonbhadra 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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ISSN 0974-7907 (Online) | ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)

April 2026 | Vol. 18 | No. 4 | Pages: 28607–28738

Date of Publication: 26 April 2026 (Online & Print)

DOI: 10.11609/jott.2026.18.4.28607-28738

Articles

Altered nocturnal vocal activity patterns in Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus* (Passeriformes: Tyrannidae) at a site with artificial lighting

– David Ramírez-Adame, Claudia Cristina Valenzuela-Inzunza, Rosa Gabriela Beltrán-López, Eduardo Michael Acosta-Morán & José Antonio Guerrero, Pp. 28607–28614

Importance of integrating multiple criteria in breeding habitat management for urban frogs and toads (Amphibia: Anura) in Jakarta City, Indonesia

– Mohamad Isnin Noer, Ivan Hafidhuddin, Agung Sedayu, Ratna Komala & Alvira Salsabila, Pp. 28615–28622

Rediscovery of the endemic and threatened Jewel Damselfly *Rhinocypha togeanensis* van Tol & Günther, 2018 (Insecta: Odonata: Chlorocyphidae) in Indonesia, with notes on its habitat loss and the urgent need for conservation action

– Muhammad Amiruddin, Diky Dwiyanto, Nuranisa Nuranisa, Jusriadi Jusriadi, Nur Khasanah & André Günther, Pp. 28623–28630

The dragonfly (Odonata) community structure at Sukamade Resort, Meru Betiri National Park, Indonesia

– Abdu Rohman, Wachju Subchan & Dwi Artika Amalia, Pp. 28631–28643

Butterflies (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera) of Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary, West Bengal, India: a preliminary checklist

– Ratnadeep Sarkar & Priyanka Rai, Pp. 28644–28656

Communications

A preliminary study to investigate behavioural differences among elephants residing near the Buttala-Kataragama and Habarana roads in Sri Lanka, where they are regularly fed by passing motorists

– Tharindu Muthukumarana, Pp. 28657–28661

Impact analysis of SMS-triggered elephant activity alert lights

– Sanjoy Deb, Sannasi Chakravarthy Surulimani Ramaraj, Sharmila Arumugam & Saravana Kumar Radhakrishnan, Pp. 28662–28667

Report of phimosis in an Andean Bear *Tremarctos ornatus* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Ursidae) and ultrasonographic description of the male genitourinary system

– Aléxia Pimenta Bom-Conselho, Agatha Campinho Belsito, Arthur Carlos Trindade, Ciro Alexandre Teixeira Cruvinel, Pedro Nacib Jorge-Neto & Cristiane Schilbach Pizzutto, Pp. 28668–28672

Assessing avifaunal diversity and anthropogenic impacts on Ladhwaya Pond, Gwalior, India

– R.K. Lodhi, N.P. Gour, S. Shakya, A. Jain, R.K. Gurjwar & R.J. Rao, Pp. 28673–28680

New record of invasive moth *Phalera cf. bucephala* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Lepidoptera: Notodontidae) on *Salix alba* (Salicaceae) from Ladakh, India

– Mohd Hussain, Nassreen Fatima Kacho, Basharat Ali & Mohd Ali, Pp. 28681–28687

Diversity and distribution of wasps and bees (Insecta: Hymenoptera: Vespidae, Apidae) in the Gauhati University Campus, Kamrup Metro, Assam, India

– Briyanka Kashyap, Jinti Das, Malabika Kakati Saikia & Prasanta Kumar Saikia, Pp. 28688–28695

Unveiling genital specializations in *Megascolex travancorensis* (Oligochaeta: Megascolecidae) through scanning electron microscopy

– Jaya Manazhy, Sona Sajeev, Aja Manazhy, John Warren Reynolds & Santhosh Punnakattu Parambil, Pp. 28696–28702

Review

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

– Rameshwar Prasad, Muzeev Ahmad, Sushma Verma, K.M. Prabhukumar & T.S. Rana, Pp. 28703–28718

Short Communications

First record of leucism in Rock Hyrax *Procapra capensis* from Ibbex Reserve Protected Area, Saudi Arabia

– Zaffar R. Mir, Naif Alajmi, Ali Alahmari, Ahmad Alobaid, Khalid Almaliki, Farah Niaz, Naif Alqahtani & Ahmed Boug, Pp. 28719–28723

First national record of Yellow Owl Butterfly *Neorina hilda* Westwood, 1851 (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Satyrinae) for Nepal

– Nishan Limbu, Pp. 28724–28728

Notes

First record of Wall's Krait *Bungarus walli* Wall, 1907 (Reptilia: Squamata: Elapidae) from Assam, and diagnostic keys to the kraits of India

– Bijay Basfore, Abhi Medhi, Nazrul Islam, Rathin Barman, Madhurima Das, Anjana Singha Naorem & Jayaditya Purkayastha, Pp. 28729–28733

Eastern range extension of the band-winged grasshopper *Pusana rugulosa* (Uvarov, 1921) (Insecta: Orthoptera: Acrididae) in India

– Amlanjyoti Gautam, Rajnish Ranjan & Jennifer Lyngdoh, Pp. 28734–28738

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