

Floristic composition and diversity in Upper Manaslu Conservation Area, Central Nepal

Rita Chhetri^{1*} and Prakash Bhattarai²

¹National Herbarium and Plant Laboratories, Lalitpur, Nepal; ²Central Department of Botany, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Nepal

*Corresponding Author's E-mail: ritachhetrinhpl@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

This study presents the floristic composition pattern of Manaslu Conservation Area (MCA), Central Nepal. We recorded a total of 161 species from 70 different sampling plots within an altitudinal range of 1400 m between 3000-4400 m. The study area has found to be dominated by the family Asteraceae with 12 genera and 20 species followed by Ranunculaceae with 5 genera and 13 species. The frequency distribution of *Potentilla cuneata* and *Viola biflora* were found the highest among all those recorded species, and the most dominant species. Detrended Correspondence Analysis (DCA) was used to analyse the distribution and composition patterns of species. A unimodal relationship of the species composition was found with altitude.

Key words: DCA diagram, eigen value, altitudinal gradient, unimodal relationship