



## Plant Biodiversity of Major Forest Communities in Chail Wildlife Sanctuary of Himachal Pradesh

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**Abstract:** The study was carried out in Solan district of Himachal Pradesh to assess plant diversity of major forest communities (Chir forest, Oak forest, Deodar + Oak forest, Chir + Oak forest, Deodar forest, Deodar + Chir forest and Mixed forest) of Chail Wildlife Sanctuary. There existed six tree species, 25 shrub species and 67 herb species of 42 families. Oak tree species had higher IVI in all the associated forest. *Rhododendron arboreum*, *Pinus wallichiana* and *Pyrus pashia* had lowest IVI in their community types, hence needs attention. Chir + oak and mixed forest communities were rich in shrub diversity, dominance and richness as compared to other forest communities. Herbaceous diversity, dominance and richness were higher in Chir, mixed and Chir + oak forest communities compared to others, whereas, species richness was maximum in Deodar community.

**Key Words:** Biodiversity, Coniferous forest, Species richness, Wildlife sanctuary

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