

CORRESPONDENCE

is at risk in the Himalayan region. Keeping in view the importance and conservation value of *S. chirayita*, some conservation measures need to be taken, i.e. notify the natural populations for the protection of its habitats, detailed study on phenology with understanding of whole life cycle, sustainable collection of germplasm from natural populations for developing elite generations in future, rehabilitation of species before taking any developmental activities, establishment of nurseries in nearby areas of natural habitats, development of large-scale seedlings and their plantation, restrictions in field survey and collection in sensitive areas having natural populations and creation of awareness among the local healers to control over-exploitation in natural habitats to maintain its posterity for future. Since policy-makers and scientist cannot conserve the species without wider support from the local communities and government agencies, particularly the Forest Department, a multi-farious effort is required to conserve the species. The R&D institutions and universities working on conservation issues need to develop appropriate strategies for sharing their experiences and scientific information for the conservation of this important species. Loss of species can have important consequences for the well-being and prosperity of the human

population, because it reduces the strength and capacity of ecosystems to provide essential goods and services. This includes socio-cultural, religious, historical, scientific and educational resources.

1. Chapin, F. S. *et al.*, *Nature*, 2000, **405**, 234–242.
2. Anon., In *The Wealth of India: Raw Materials*, CSIR, New Delhi, 1982, vol. X, pp. 78–81.
3. Clarke, C. B., In *The Flora of British India* (ed. Hooker, J. D.), L. Reeve and Co, London, 1885, vol. IV, p. 124.
4. Kirtikar, K. R. and Basu, B. D. (eds), *Indian Medicinal Plants*, Allahabad, 1984, vol. III, pp. 1664–1666.
5. Gaur, R. D., *Flora of the District Garhwal*, North West Himalaya (with ethnobotanical notes). Transmedia, Srinagar (Garhwal), 1999, p. 408.
6. Karan, M., Vasisht, K. and Handa, S. S., In *Supplement to Cultivation and Utilisation of Medicinal Plants* (eds Handa, S. S. and Kaul, M. K.), RRL, Jammu-Tawi, 1996, pp. 349–354.
7. Edwin, R. and Chungath, J. I., *Indian Drugs*, 1988, **25**, 143–146.
8. Mitra, S. K., Gopumadhavan, S. and Muralidhar, T. S., *Phytother. Res.*, 1996, **10**, 433.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. We thank the Uttarakhand State Biotechnology Department, Government of Uttarakhand, for financial

support, and the Director, High Altitude Plant Physiology Research Centre, H.N.B. Garhwal University, Srinagar Garhwal for providing facilities. We also thank Mr Vikram Singh Rawat and Mr Durga Prasad for assistance during the field survey.

VIJAY K. PUROHIT^{1,*}
YATEESH M. BAHUGUNA¹
DEEPTI TIWARI¹
ALKA TIWARI¹
HARISH C. ANDOLA²
JAGMOHAN S. NEGI³
RAJENDRA S. CHAUHAN⁴

¹High Altitude Plant Physiology
Research Centre,
H.N.B. Garhwal University
(A Central University),
Srinagar Garhwal 246 174, India

²Centre for Aromatic Plants,
Industrial Estate,
Selaqui Dehradun 248 197, India

³Herbal Research & Development
Institute,

Mondal, Gopeshwar,
Chamoli 246 401, India

⁴Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali,
College of Horticulture,
Uttarakhand University of Horticulture
and Forestry,

Bharsar,
Pauri 246 123, India

*e-mail: vijaykantpurohit@rediffmail.com

Confirmation of Higgs boson – a limerick in tribute*

- Behold the doughty scientists at CERN
Doing their utmost to clearly discern
Happenings at dawn of time
In the primordial soup and grime
Assured ancient events are of great concern.
- Set up super circular way sans central divider
With opposing traffic to make it
Hadron Collider
Speeding particles to Giga Electron
Volts
That's a unit of energy (for the dolts)
Watching screens for collisions, with
eyes wider and wider.
- Round and round the protons racing
madly went

Clockwise or counter, precisely as they
were sent

Across borders, French and Swiss
Giving laws of visas complete
miss
Customs and health rules without scrup-
les bent.

- Finally we have proof of the elusive
Higgs boson
Explaining why all worldly things put
their mass on
One secret of big bang, we're told, has
been found
Until its anti-secret pops up in the next
round!
As for me, damned if I knew what the
devil goes on.

*Limerick is a verse form in which lines 1, 2 and 5 must rhyme as should lines 3 and 4. All the lines must also have the required number of syllables, conveying the meaning usually in a humorous way. See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limerick_\(poetry\)#Variations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Limerick_(poetry)#Variations) (accessed on 3 November 2012) for more details.

K. G. NARAYANAN

'Malhaar',
903, 2K Cross, 9th Main Road,
Kalyan Nagar I Block,
Bangalore 560 043, India
e-mail: kgnarayanan2@gmail.com