

Author's Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0378-8741(17)32575-8
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2017.11.003>
Reference: JEP11094

To appear in: *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*

Received date: 7 July 2017
Revised date: 27 October 2017
Accepted date: 3 November 2017

Cite this article as: Harsh K. Chauhan, Anil K. Bisht, Indra D. Bhatt, Arvind Bhatt, David Gallacher and Andrea Santo, Ecological observations and altered indigenous harvesting practices of *Trillium govanianum* (Melanthiaceae) in Indian Himalayas, *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jep.2017.11.003>

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Ecological observations and altered indigenous harvesting practices of *Trillium govanianum* (Melanthiaceae) in Indian Himalayas

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Abstract**Ethanobotanical relevance:**

Trillium govanianum Wall. ex D. Don (Melanthiaceae) is a high value medicinal herb which is used in both Indian and Chinese traditional medicines for various purposes such as treatment of cancer, hypertension, neurasthenia, giddiness, arthritis, dysentery, inflammation, sepsis and reproductive disorders. This species is restricted to specific habitat types, such as shaded, cold, moist habitats. However, the rhizomes of this species which are collected from wild populations have been traded throughout the Himalayan region and recently emerged as a significant source of income among local people of Indian Himalayan region.

Aim of the study:

The aim of study attempts to assess the biological attributes and altered indigenous harvesting practices of *T. govanianum* in Indian Himalayas and suggest conservation options.

Material and methods: The biological attributes (ecological observations and life cycle) of the species were studied from seventeen populations from three distantly located areas, Tirthan Valley (Himachal Pradesh), Munsiyari and Tunghnath (Uttarakhand) by using standard methods and field observations. The altered indigenous harvesting practices of the species were assessed by voluntary focus group interviews at each site using semi-structured open ended questionnaires with 579 gatherers and 19 traders.

Results:

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