

UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA

B.Sc SEMESTER-IV (HONOURS) EXAMINATION-2022(CBCS).

SHILLONGI EXCURSION FILE

PAPER-CC-8

SUBJECT- BOTANY (BOTA)

CU ROLL NO. - 203044-11-0089

CU REG. NO. - 146-1211-0465-19

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Ref. No.....

Date.....

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that Ms. Amina Khatun bearing Roll no. 203044-31-0089, Registration number 146-1211-0465-19 an examinee of B. Sc. Botany (Honours) Semester IV (CBCS) examination, 2022 of University of Calcutta has successfully completed an excursion in Shillong (North East India) during May 2022 under my supervision. This is part of their syllabus on study of any phytogeographical regions of India.

The examinee submitted a field report on local flora and phytogeographical characteristics of North East India which partially completes the Practical part of paper CC-8 of Botany Honours course.

Sontu Bugh 14.5.22
Mr. Sontu Bugh

Assistant Professor and HOD

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Kinjalkini Biswas 14.5.22
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INTRODUCTION

Excursion is an essential part of Botany studying plants in their natural habitat. It enhances our knowledge that is learnt from the classroom discussions and laboratory experiment.

The place for our academic excursion, 2022 was Shillong, Meghalaya. We visited Shillong from 6th to 12th of May, 2022. The total no. of student in the tour were 15 including the students of the Botany Department. We were accompanied by two of our respected teachers - Shontu Bugh sir and Rita Nag madam who guided us, through the tour. A tour guide - Amal Majhi sir, provided us with all the necessities during the excursion we boarded the Saraighat Express on 6th May, 2022 at 3.55 pm which was destined to Guwahati. We reached Guwahati, the very next day.

We had a really exciting and bewildering experience and hope to have more of such chances in the near future.

VISIT TO SHILLONG

LOCATION

Shillong is at 25.57°N 91.88°E . It lies on the Shillong Plateau, the only major uplifted structure in the northern Indian Shield. The city lies in the centre of the Plateau and is surrounded by hills, three of which are revered in Khasi Tradition: Lum Solpetlong, Lum Diengiei and Lum Shillong.

Shillong is just 100 km from Guwahati, which can be accessed by road along NH 40, a journey of about 2 hours 30 minutes, through lush green hills and the Umiam Lake in between.

CLIMATE

In Shillong, the wet season is comfortable, muggy and mostly cloudy and the dry season is cool and mostly clear. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 40°F to 73°F and is rarely below 35°F or above 77°F .

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SOIL

The soils of the hills are derived from gneissic complex parent materials; they are dark brown to dark reddish-brown in colour, varying from 80-200cm in depth. The texture of soils varies from loamy to fine loamy. The soils of the alluvial plains adjacent to the northwest and southern plateau are very deep, dark brown to reddish-brown in colour and sandy-loam to silty-clay in texture.

Meghalaya soils are rich in organic carbon, which is measure of nitrogen supplying potential of the soil, deficient in available phosphorous and medium to low in available potassium. The reaction of the soils varies from acidic (pH 5.0 to 6.0) to strongly acidic (pH 4.5 to 5.0). Most of the soils occurring on higher altitude under high rainfall belt are strongly acidic due to intense leaching. Base saturation of these soil is less than 35%. These soils are not suitable for intensive crop production.

ROUTE FROM GUWAHATI TO SHILLONG

The Guwahati to Shillong road via NH6 is the fastest route and has no tolls no road closure. This is also the only direct route to cover the Guwahati to Shillong by road. The condition of this road is excellent. If you are not from around or have frequented these roads, one might not know of all the turns and bends or road blocks, which can happen during rains or road work. The above mentioned route is the best option for travelling from Guwahati to Shillong.



Ceanothus thyrsiflorus



Cuphea hyssopifolia

	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	REMARKS	NATIVE TO
5.	<u>Centralesium punctatum</u>	Brazilian Button Lark Daisy	Asteraceae	Genus of flowering plants.	Philippines, Australia and South America.
6.	<u>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</u>	Blue blossom/ Blue blossom ceanothus	Rhamnaceae	It is an evergreen shrub in the buckthorn family.	Oregon and California in the US.
7.	<u>Caladium Sp.</u>	Elephant ear (which they share with closely related genera Alocasia, Colocasia and Xanthosoma) Heart of Jesus or Angel wings.	Araceae	Genus of flowering plants.	Tropical forests of South and Central America.
8.	<u>Cuphea hyssopifolia</u>	False Heathwort/ Mexican Heathwort/ Hawaiian heather or elfin herb.	Lythraceae	Small, evergreen shrub.	Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras.
9.	<u>Begonia Palmata</u>		Begoniaceae	It is a small herb of height 20-90 cm tall. It is found in moist places.	Many part of Asia including eastern Himalayas.

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CONCLUSION

From this trip, we gathered many important information regarding the species, climate, soil and regions of Shillong, Meghalaya. Considering the location of Shillong, it falls under the geographical region of Assam. The presence of a large number of primitive flowering plants promoted Takhtajan (1969) to call Meghalaya as the cradle of flowering plants. The climate of Shillong is pretty cool and wet. In the hilly tracts we found many coniferous trees including some species of Betula, Pinus and Rhododendron. Besides, it was also rich in orchid and ferns. While in the lower plain, we found a large number of mesophytic plants. Apart from this, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills give rise to many small and big waterfalls which plays a major role in the biodiversity of Shillong. Also the ancient caves with marked fossils was mindblowing. Wild species of family Asteraceae, Amaryllidaceae and Begoniaceae are common. Altogether the outskirts of Shillong is bordered with lush green meadows, cool air, quiet villages and quaint whages that add to its scenic beauty but the most beautiful of all are the clear view of clouds that makes one feel so heavenly and beautiful. It has been a really informative trip.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with great pleasure that I express my deepest gratitude to the Department of Botany of Muralidhar Girls' College for organizing an academic excursion to Shillong, Meghalaya. My sincere thanks goes to our guide Shonteri Bugh sir and Smt. Rita Nag mam for giving me to time to time suggestions, advice and inspiration for making the tour a grand success. I would also like to thank our principal Madam Br. Kinjalini Biswas for allowing us for the same. I would also take this opportunity to thank my classmates for their kind co-operation rendered to me throughout the tour.

Bugh
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