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CAN *PROSOPIS JULIFLORA* (SWARTZ) DC., WITHSTAND CLIMATIC ABERRATION IN SEMIARID REGIONS OF CENTRAL INDIA? – AN OBSERVATION FROM BUNDELKHAND

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ABSTRACT

This paper discusses the influence of extreme cold on *Prosopis juliflora*, recorded in Bundelkhand region at Datia, Madhya Pradesh, in the year 2011. *P. Juliflora* more akin to Australian form has colonised on the parched tank bed since 2004 and it has grown lavishly. *P. juliflora* die-back was observed in low lying area of about 5ha on the parched tank bed. Complete die-back (up to 93 % of stems over almost five hectare) was observed in second fort night of January 2011. Its die-back has been attributed to extreme low temperature recorded as-1.5°C to 3°C during first 12 days of January 2011. Low lying areas with high soil moisture content coupled with high stand density and low temperature prevailing for a considerable period might be the reason for freezing of available soil moisture to the plants and causing die-back. Plants have started recuperating by sprouting new shoots in main stem and at base since first week of March 2011. No die-back symptoms were observed in plants grown at higher elevation in the adjoining area.

Key words: Climatic aberration, Die-back, *Prosopis juliflora*.