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## Ecology of chilgoza pine (*Pinus gerardiana* WALL) in dry temperate forests of North West Himalaya

Raj Kumar, G.S. Shamet\*, O.P. Chaturvedi, R.K. Avasthe and Charan Singh

CSWCRTI, 218, Kaulagarh Road, Dehradun-248195, U.K.

\* Department of SIF, Dr YSP UHF, Nauli, Solan-173230, H.P., India

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### ABSTRACT

Chilgoza pine (*Pinus gerardiana* Wall.) is an important ecological and economic species having a restricted distribution in India. It is very much restricted in dry temperate region of North-Western Himalaya. There are large numbers of biotic and abiotic factors affecting it and lack of regeneration in this pine may result in the extinction of the species. Young/middle age classes are scarce or entirely lacking, the mature and over mature trees predominate in its natural zones. Phytosociological study shows the high endemism of the *Pinus gerardiana* species in its natural zone. Overall more than 60% of the area was covered by this species and rest by other species. Therefore, the productivity and sustainability of chilgoza pine has to be ensured.