



Research Note

Ophiocordyceps sinensis (Berk.) G.H. Sung, J.M Sung, Hywel-Jones & Spatafora in Western part of Sikkim Himalaya

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Sikkim Himalaya has the different gradients representing tropical to alpine regions. Alpine region of Sikkim plays a pivotal role in the ecological system. In the Himalaya, there is one well known mushroom that grows in the larva called *Ophiocordyceps sinensis* and it is also present in the Sikkim at the western part of it. Although it is available in the hillock of western part of Sikkim, its distribution has not been documented from the western part of Sikkim. There are many reports of availability of *Ophiocordyceps sinensis* in Northern Sikkim’s Tibetan plateaus (Panda and Swain, 2011; Biswa *et al.*, 2022) but its occurrence in the western Sikkim is thinly documented. The alpine area of western part of Sikkim is under the administrative control of State Government and has no private holdings, and is designated as Khanchenzonga National Park. Thus, all habitats of *Ophiocordyceps sinensis* fall under the Khanchenzonga

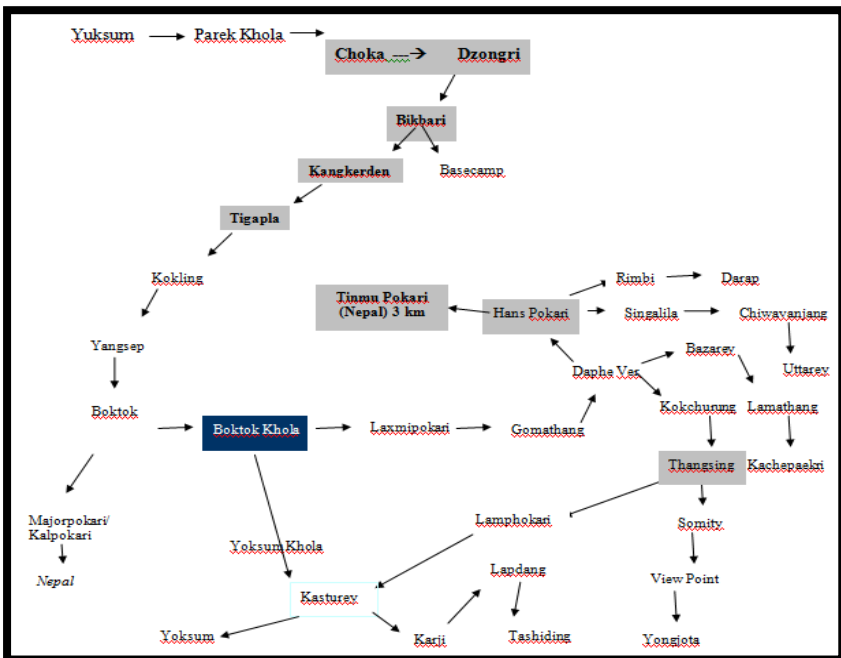


Figure 1: Routes representing Habitats of *Ophiocordyceps sinensis*

National Park so the mass collection of this species is prohibited. This paper provides the information of *Ophiocordyceps sinensis*'s occurrence in Khanchenzonga National Park in the western part of Sikkim as a record. During the study of distribution of *Ophiocordyceps sinensis*, its occurrence was noted and study sample collected for research works. The first specimen was collected from the ridges of Dzungri, and subsequently other specimens were found across the ridges and valleys of Bikbari, Dzungri, Kangkerden, Tigapla, Laxmipokari, TinmuPokari, Hanspokari, Thangsing and Majorpokari (Figure 1 &2). The population density of *Ophiocordyceps sinensis* was comparatively low to the Northern part of Sikkim.



Figure 2: A. *Ophiocordyceps sinensis* (Berk.) G.H. Sung, J.M Sung, Hywel-Jones & Spatafora (Western Part of Sikkim)
B. *Ophiocordyceps sinensis* (Berk.) G.H. Sung, J.M Sung, Hywel-Jones & Spatafora (Northern Part of Sikkim)

Literature cited.

- Biswa, V., Ali, R., Pradhan, D., Boro, N., Baro, T., Das, D., Subba, R., Das, P. and Das, S.. (2021). Molecular characterization, microscopic characteristics, and phylogenetic analysis of *Ophiocordyceps sinensis* from Sikkim, India *Indian Journal of Hill Farming*. Special Issue 2021, 34: 268-275.
- Panda, A.K. and Swain, K.C 2011. Traditional uses and medicinal potential of Cordyceps sinensis of Sikkim. *J Ayurveda Integr Med.* 2(1): 9-13.