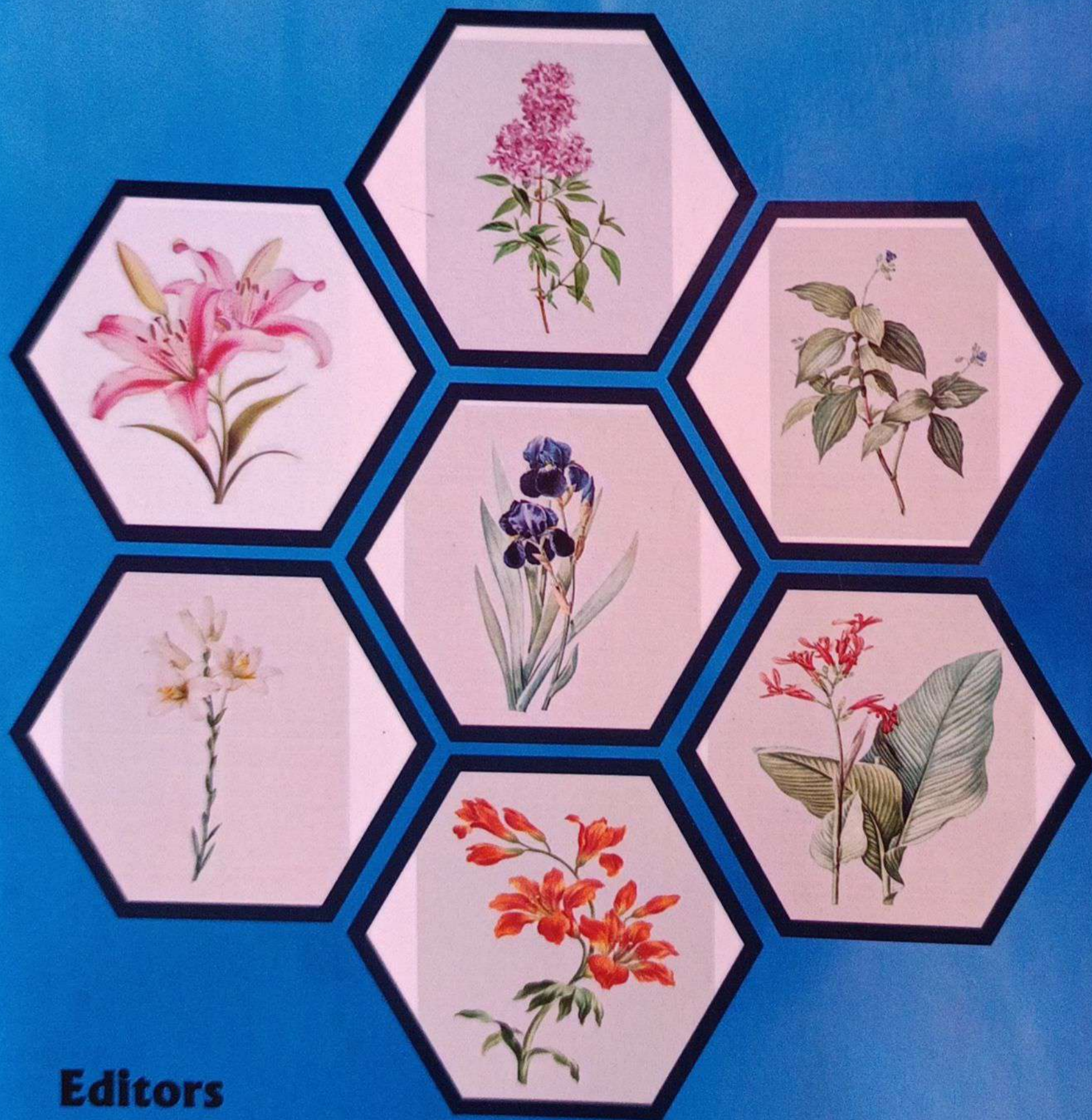


# Current Trends in the Emerging Fields of Botanical Research

(Edited Volume 1)



## Editors

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## Chapter

### 9

# Host Range and Preference of *Cuscuta reflexa* Roxb. In Darjeeling and Kalimpong Districts of West Bengal, India

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### Abstract

*Cuscuta* is an angiospermic parasitic genus which is a cosmopolitan in distribution. *C. reflexa* Roxb. (Aakash beli in Nepali vernacular) is a common phanerogamic parasite which is yellowish in colour and they are climbers. The host range of *C. reflexa* has not been studied from Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal and thus this present study revealed a total of 25 species were the host parasite, out of which 24 species were angiosperm and 01 was gymnosperm. Mostly the hosts were trees and shrubs and dominating host families found were Rosaceae and Rutaceae.

**Keywords:** Phanerogamic parasite, host range, obligate, holoparasite

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### I. Introduction

Species in the genus *Cuscuta* (family Convolvulaceae) (commonly called dodder) are rootless, effectively leafless, minimally photosynthetic, and dependent on their host (Kelly *et al.*, 2001). They are obligate holoparasitic plants (Costea & Tardiff, 2006; Mosango *et al.*, 2001) with approximately 170 different species distributed throughout the world (Holm *et al.*, 1997). The parasitism of *C. reflexa* is economically significant because of its detrimental effect on many useful plants. Moisture and nutrients are absorbed from the host plants through haustoria resulting in poor growth and lowered productivity of many cash and pasture crops, exotic ornamentals, and food crops such as