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# Three Himalayan medicinal plants enter IUCN Red List

**A recent assessment in the biodiversity hotspot shows deforestation, habitat loss, forest fires, illegal trade and climate change pose serious threat to the species. The fresh data is expected to aid conservation efforts in the region, according to experts**

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**Under threat:** *Dactylorhiza hatagirea* has been assessed as 'endangered'. | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement

Three medicinal plant species found in the Himalayas have made it to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species following a recent assessment. *Meizotropis pellita* has been assessed as 'critically endangered', *Fritillaria cirrhosa* as 'vulnerable', and *Dactylorhiza hatagirea* as 'endangered'.

*Meizotropis pellita*, commonly known as Patwa, is a perennial shrub with restricted distribution that is endemic to Uttarakhand. “The species is listed as ‘critically endangered’ based on its limited area of occupancy (less than 10 sq. km),” the study stated. The species is threatened by deforestation, habitat fragmentation and forest fires.