Congruence of endemism among four global biodiversity hotspots in India

Thirty-six global biodiversity hotspots harbour high concentrations of species and endemism[1]. India accommodates in parts four hotspots, viz. the Himalaya (44.37% of global hotspot), Indo-Burma (5.13%), Sundaland (1.28%) and the Western Ghats (64.95%) that exhibit high levels of floral and faunal diversity. Based on data on endemic plants collected, we present hotspot-wise congruence in plant endemism using field sampling data from 1264, 1114, 78 and 1004 plots in the Himalaya, Indo-Burma, Sundaland and the Western Ghats respectively, using nested quadrates of 0.04 ha laid based on stratified random sampling[2].

Among the four hotspots, the Himalaya hosts highest endemic richness (345 species), followed by the Western Ghats (217), Indo-Burma (96) and Sundaland (25) (Figure 1). The congruence of endemic species was highest between the Himalaya and Indo-Burma (66), which could be due the fact that these two hotspots are in fact a part of the Indo-Malaya ecoregion[3]. However, we found 43 endemic species common between the Himalaya and the Western Ghats, which seems to be an exciting fact for further research considering that they do not share any common borders. In all 446 endemic species are not common between any two hotspots, which need to be at the focus of conservation priorities.

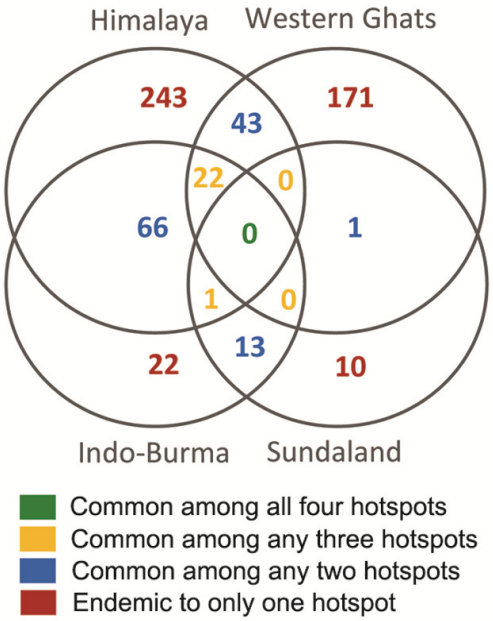

Figure 1. Congruence of endemism among the four hotspots.

1. Myers, N. *et al.*, *Nature*, 2000, **403**, 853–858.
2. Roy, P. S. *et al.*, *Int. J. Appl. Earth Obs. Geoinf.*, 2015, **39**, 142–159.
3. Olson, D. M. and Dinerstein, E., *Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard.*, 2002, **89**(2), 199–224.

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UGC-CARE List

Sarma[1] provides erroneous and misleading information with several flaws. He seems to be totally unaware that the University Grants Commission (UGC)-approved list of journals stands cancelled since 14 June 2019. It has been replaced by the UGC-CARE (Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics) Reference List of Quality Journals (UGC-CARE List). CARE has been established by UGC on 14 November 2018. Details are available at the UGC-CARE website (http://ugccare.unipune.ac.in).

The following points need to be noted in this context:

1. UGC-CARE has constituted an Empowered Committee of 14 members (http://ugccare.unipune.ac.in/site/website/care-members.aspx) from various Indian councils and universities for recommending quality journals.

2. In addition, UGC-CARE has included 25 members from various councils and statutory bodies. UGC has established a special cell for journal analysis at the Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, for coordinating activities related to creation and maintenance of the UGC-CARE List.

3. The main objective of the UGC-CARE List is to collect information about credible Indian journals and make