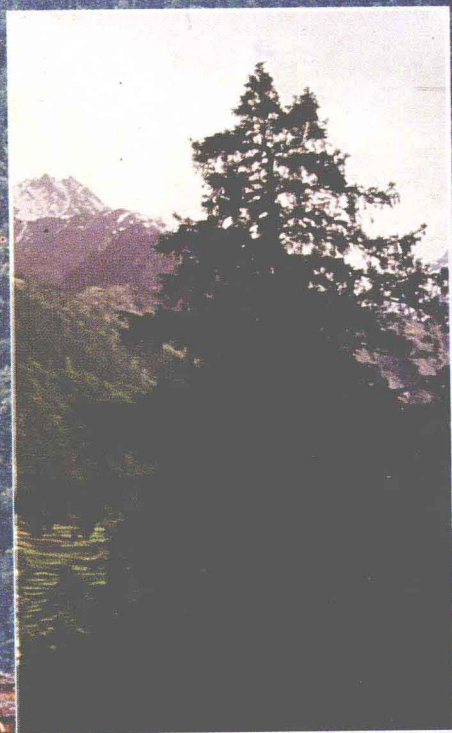


Natural Premises



*Ecology and Peasant
Life in the Western
Himalaya 1800–1950*

CHETAN SINGH

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Ecology and Peasant Life in the
Western Himalaya
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Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla

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Shimla, July 1997

CHETAN SINGH

Abbreviations

DG

District Gazetteer

PHS Agency Records

Punjab Hill States Agency Records

SG

State Gazetteer

SR

Settlement Report

Glossary of Local Terms

<i>abadi</i>	habitation; cluster of village houses.
<i>banwazari</i>	cesses on miscellaneous items; cesses other than the regular rent or extra tax on land.
<i>bartan</i>	rights of use.
<i>basi</i>	house; dwelling place.
<i>begar</i>	impressed labour.
<i>chak</i>	revenue sub-division of a <i>tahsil</i> in Sirmur.
<i>charand</i>	pasture.
<i>deota</i>	godling; village god or local deity.
<i>dhani</i>	see <i>kiar</i> .
<i>dhar</i>	a high range or upper part of such a range; also used for a sheep-run.
<i>dochi</i>	see <i>dogri</i>
<i>dogri</i>	a temporary shelter built at an altitude that is higher or lower than the main village.
<i>dun</i>	open valley suitable for agriculture.
<i>gahar</i>	see <i>gahr</i> .
<i>gahr</i>	The sides of the high Himalayas, from the upper limit of forests down to the grazing ground about the highest villages, are often spoken of as the <i>gahrs</i> . The word is also used for a sheep-run in such localities.
<i>gharat</i>	water-mill for grinding grain.
<i>ghasan</i>	see <i>ghasni</i> .
<i>ghasni</i>	steep, uncultivable and treeless slope used as a hay-field or hay preserve.
<i>ghee</i>	clarified butter.
<i>ghi</i>	see <i>ghee</i> .

<i>goth</i>	see also <i>thach</i> . Place where sheep are penned or collected for the night in the high ranges.
<i>graon</i>	hamlet or village; revenue sub-division of a <i>phati</i> in Kulu.
<i>gururu</i>	a cradle on ropes which serves as bridge. The term <i>jhula</i> is also used for both this and suspension bridge.
<i>jeola</i>	a unit or holding of cultivated land in Kulu.
<i>jhula</i>	see also <i>gururu</i> . A rope bridge of any kind.
<i>kanda</i>	a flock of sheep or goats.
<i>kar</i>	tribute; tax.
<i>kharetar</i>	a plot of waste land reserved as a hay-field during the rainy season. The term is used primarily in Kangra.
<i>khewat</i>	rent-roll mentioning rent payable, numbers and areas of fields by a landholder.
<i>khewatdar</i>	landholder whose name is entered in the <i>khewat</i> .
<i>khol</i>	a long narrow valley with stony soil of inferior quality.
<i>kiar</i>	irrigated rice field.
<i>kothi</i>	headquarters of a <i>pargana</i> in Chamba; a revenue sub-division of a <i>waziri</i> in Kulu.
<i>kuhl</i>	man-made water channel.
<i>kubli</i>	irrigated land (derived from <i>kuhl</i>).
<i>kulahu</i>	see <i>kubli</i> . Another word used here is <i>kulhant</i> .
<i>lahri</i>	also known as <i>lahri basi</i> . Garden plot adjoining the homestead in Kangra.
<i>mahlundhi</i>	master of the flock; leader of a flock. A term used by Gaddi shepherds.
<i>malik-i-adna</i>	inferior proprietor; subordinate peasant proprietor claiming landownership below the <i>raja</i> .
<i>malik-i-ala</i>	superior proprietor of land; position occupied by the <i>raja</i> as the owner of all land in his State.
<i>malik-i-kandah</i>	see <i>mahlundhi</i> .
<i>malundi</i>	see <i>mahlundhi</i> .
<i>mauza</i>	a revenue division constituted by several <i>tikas</i> ; sometimes used for village.

- meharai* a revenue area; sub-division of a *waziri* in Mandi.
- nighar* word used by shepherds to describe the grassy slopes on the high Himalaya above the line of forests or a sheep-run in such localities.
- pargana* a term used interchangeably with *tahsil* during the early years of British rule in Kangra; sub-division of a *wizarat*.
- patta* deed of grant.
- phati* revenue sub-division of a *kothi* in Kulu.
- rakh* preserved forest; game reserve.
- rakha* forest guard; gamekeeper.
- rana* see *thakur*.
- ropa* see *kia*.
- shamilat* also *shamilat deh*. Land (normally waste land) classified as the common property of the village.
- tahsil* largest administrative/revenue unit within a Sub-Division which in turn is the largest such unit of a District; largest revenue unit of some princely States (e.g. Sirmur).
- taluqa* revenue division of a *tahsil* which was discontinued sometime after the establishment of direct British rule in Kangra.
- thach* large open pasture amongst trees in the high mountains; level space in which a flock is penned for the night.
- thakur* chief (usually subordinate to the *raja* in a large State but also at times an autonomous ruler in his own right).
- thakurai* chiefship.
- tika* a revenue sub-division of a *mauza* in Kangra Proper often made up of scattered hamlets.
- tikabandi* official measure involving the demarcation of the boundaries of *tikas*.
- tirni* Grazing dues.
- trakar* elevated pasture from which flocks and herds can be brought back to the main village for the night after grazing.

- trangari* a small bridge over a rivulet; narrow wooden bridge made of parallel beams laid from one bank of the river to the other.
- trini* see *tirni*.
- waris* title-holder; inheritor (normally a Gaddi shepherd claiming the right to use a particular pasture).
- warisi* title; inheritance (commonly used by Gaddi shepherds for their traditional claim to a particular pasture).
- waziri* see *wizarat*.
- wizarat* the largest pre-British administrative sub-division of some of the bigger princely states of Himachal.

Glossary of Local Terms for Trees, Shrubs, Herbs and Agricultural Crops

Local Term	Botanical Name	English Name
<i>akhrot</i>	<i>Juglans regia</i>	walnut
<i>amaltas</i>	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	Indian Laburnum
<i>angu</i>	<i>Fraxinus floribunda</i>	ash
<i>aonla/ amla</i>	<i>Phyllanthus emblica/Emblica officinale</i>	myrobalan
<i>arjan</i>	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	
<i>aru</i>	<i>Prunus persica</i>	peach
<i>babul</i>	<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>	
<i>bahera</i>	<i>Terminalia bahera/Terminalia bellirica</i>	myrobalan
<i>bakatin</i>	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	
<i>ban</i>	<i>Quercus incana/Quercus leucotrichophora</i>	common Himalayan oak
<i>banafsha</i>	<i>Viola serpens</i>	violets
<i>banni</i>		(Term also used for <i>morhu</i> in Chamba. See <i>morhu</i>)
<i>banni</i>	<i>Quercus annulata/Quercus glauca</i>	
<i>bans</i>	<i>Denodracalamus sp.</i>	
<i>basil</i>	(see <i>bed</i>)	
<i>basuthi</i>	<i>Adhatoda vasica/Justicia adhatoda</i>	

Local Term	Botanical Name	English Name
<i>bathu</i>	<i>Amaranthus</i>	Anardana
<i>bed</i>	<i>Salix sp.</i>	willows
<i>ber</i>	<i>Ziziphus jujuba</i>	jujube
<i>ber</i>	<i>Ziziphus vulgaris</i>	
<i>bhang</i>	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	
<i>bhekhal</i>	<i>Prinsepia utilis</i>	
<i>bhojpatra</i>	<i>Betula utilis</i>	birch
<i>bhurj</i>	(see <i>bhojpatra</i>)	
<i>biul</i>	<i>Grewia oppositifolia/Grewia optiva</i>	
<i>bras</i>	<i>Rhododendron arboreum</i>	red rhododendron
<i>chaloona</i>	(see <i>phalsh</i>)	
<i>changi barmi</i>	(see <i>rakhal</i>)	yew
<i>chil/chir</i>	<i>Pinus longifolia/Pinus roxburghii</i>	
<i>chilgoza</i>	(see <i>neoza</i>)	
<i>china</i>	<i>Panicum miliaceum</i>	
<i>chiretta</i>	(see <i>karu</i>)	wild gentians
<i>chulai</i>	<i>Amaranthus caudatus</i>	
<i>dauri</i>	<i>Ilex dipyrena</i>	holly
<i>devidiar</i>	<i>Cupressus torulosa</i>	cypress
<i>dhak</i>	<i>Erythrina suberosa</i>	
<i>dhamman</i>	(see <i>biul</i>)	
<i>dhaul</i>	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i>	
<i>diar</i>	<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	deodar
<i>dodan</i>	(see <i>ritha</i>)	
<i>dreak</i>	(see <i>bakatin</i>)	
<i>gugal</i>	<i>Dolomiora macrocephala</i>	
<i>gun</i>	(see <i>khanor</i>)	horsechestnut

Local Term	Botanical Name	English Name
<i>harrar</i>	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	
<i>imli</i>	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	tamarind
<i>jaman (paja)</i>	<i>Prunus padus/Prunus cerosoides</i>	
<i>jaman (pahari)</i>	<i>Prunus cornuta</i>	Himalayan bird cherry
<i>jira</i>	<i>Cuminum cyminum</i>	cumin
<i>kaifal</i>	<i>Myrica sapida / Myria nagi</i>	bay berry
<i>kail</i>	<i>Pinus excelsa/Pinus wallichiana</i>	blue pine
<i>kamal</i>	<i>Berberis nepalensis</i>	
<i>kanda</i>	(see <i>bhekhal</i>)	
<i>kangni</i>	<i>Pennisetum utalicum</i>	
<i>kanjlu</i>	(see <i>phalsh</i>)	
<i>karu</i>	<i>Gentiana sp.</i>	wild gentians
<i>kashambal</i>	<i>Berberis lycium</i>	barberry
<i>kasmal</i>	(as above)	
<i>kelo</i>	(see <i>diar</i>)	
<i>khair</i>	<i>Acacia catechu</i>	
<i>khanor</i>	<i>Aesculus indica</i>	Indian horsechestnut
<i>kharshu</i>	<i>Quercus semecarpifolia</i>	brown oak
<i>khori</i>	(see <i>akhrot</i>)	
<i>kiamal</i>	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>	
<i>kikar</i>	<i>Acacia arabica</i>	
<i>koda</i>	<i>Eleusine corocona</i>	
<i>kodra</i>	(see <i>koda</i>)	
<i>kosh</i>	<i>Alnus nepalensis / Alnus nitida</i>	alder
<i>krao</i>	(see <i>kharshu</i>)	
<i>kulath</i>	<i>Docilches uniflorns</i>	
<i>mahuwa</i>	<i>Madhuca indica</i>	

Local Term	Botanical Name	English Name
<i>majith</i>	<i>Rubia cordifolia</i>	
<i>malaru</i>	(see <i>aru</i>)	
<i>mandar</i>	<i>Acer caesium</i>	maple
<i>masar</i>	<i>Ervum lens</i>	lentil
<i>mash</i>	<i>Phaseolus radiatus</i>	
<i>miri</i>	(see <i>neoza</i>) <i>Pinus gerardiana</i>	
<i>morhu</i>	<i>Quercus dilata/Quercus floribunda</i>	holly oak
<i>nargal</i>	<i>Arundinaria falcata</i>	
<i>neoza</i>	<i>Pinus gerardiana</i>	
<i>nirgal</i>	<i>Bambusa arundinaria</i>	hill bamboo
<i>nim</i>	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	
<i>nim</i>	<i>Melia indica</i>	
<i>pala</i>	<i>Pyrus lanata</i>	wild apple
<i>patis</i>	<i>Aconitum heterophyllum</i>	aconite
<i>phalsh</i>	<i>Populus ciliata</i>	poplar
<i>phaphra</i>	<i>Fagopyrum sativus</i>	
<i>piak</i>	<i>Alnus nepalensis</i>	alder
<i>pipal</i>	<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	
<i>rai</i>	<i>Picea morinda/Picea smithiana</i>	spruce
<i>rakhal</i>	<i>Taxus baccata</i>	yew
<i>raush</i>	(see <i>reunsh</i>) <i>Cotoneaster acuminata</i>	
<i>reunsh</i>	<i>Cotoneaster bacillaris</i>	cotoneaster
<i>ritha</i>	<i>Sapindus mukorossi</i>	soap wood
<i>sal</i>	<i>Shorea robusta</i>	
<i>sandan</i>	<i>Ougeinia dalbergiodes</i>	
<i>sariara</i>	<i>Amaranthus anardana</i>	

Local Term	Botanical Name	English Name
<i>sarol</i>	(see <i>thangi</i>)	
<i>shamshad</i>	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	
<i>shari</i>	<i>Prunus armeniaca</i>	Himalayan apricot
<i>shegal</i>	<i>Pyrus pashia</i>	wild pear
<i>shih</i>	(see <i>shishu</i>)	
<i>shishu</i>	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	shisham
<i>simal</i>	<i>Bombax malabaricum/Bombax ceiba</i>	
<i>siun</i>	(see <i>shishu</i>)	
<i>tali</i>	(see <i>shishu</i>)	
<i>thangi</i>	<i>Corylus colurna</i>	hazelnut
<i>tos</i>	<i>Abies pindrow</i>	silver fir
<i>tun</i>	<i>Cedrela toona</i>	