

PROFILE OF SCIENTIST/RESEARCH WORKER

Name: **Dr. Alka Kumari**

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Qualification: **Ph.D. in Botany**

Area(s) of Specialization: **Morpho-taxonomy and Ecology of Pteridophytes including
Phytoremediation of polluted sites with ferns.**

Occupation/Designation: **Scientist (DST)**

Major Activities: **Bioprospection and inventorization of western Himalayan ferns**

Awards/Recognitions: **Merit certificate awarded by Indian Fern Society, Chandigarh**

Brief Summary of Pteridological Research:

During my Ph. D., I have studied on '**Distribution, Morpho-taxonomy, Ecology and SEM studies of spores of threatened fern *Helminthostachys zeylanica* (L.) Hook. growing in Indo-Nepal border of Bihar state.**' After getting Ph. D I have joined National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow as research associate and worked on, '**Diversity and distribution of Pteridophytes of Kumaon Himalaya with special reference to threatened taxa.**' During this period I have learnt a lot about diversity of ferns including their threat status and ethnobotanical uses. At NBRI, Lucknow I have also started my work on '**Screening of Pteridophytes for phytoremediation of metal loaded industrial wastes.**' I have studied the comparative metal accumulation in different ferns growing on fly ash contaminated sites in vicinity of NTPC dumping sites and their metabolic adaptation against metal stress. Currently, I am studying metal binding ability or phytochelatin synthesis and cytotoxicological changes in ferns during metal stress. Beside, I am actively engaged in '**Bioprospection and inventorization of pteridophytes in western Himalaya**' our institute's mega project.