INTRODUCTION

Ever since the publication of Hooker's Flora of British India (1872-1897), there had been a very little exploration in this country till the middle of this century. Though a large number of regional floras were published in the first quarter or the early part of this century, it is evident that most of them were based on the collections which were available also to the various collaborators of Hooker's work.

Therefore, there were not many additions in the regional floras published after Hooker. No doubt the regional floras such as the Flora of Bombay Presidency by Cooke (1901-1908), of Upper Gangetic Plains and of the adjacent Siwalik and Sub-Himalayan Tracts by Duthie (1903-1922), of Madras Presidency by Gamble (1915-1936), of Bihar and Orissa by Haines (1921-1925), of Bengal by Prain (1903) and of Assam by Kanjilal (1934-1940) have elaborate descriptions and distributions of species, but the additional species are quite meagre. Besides these, there are floras for some small areas as well e.g., 'Lahore District Flora' by Joshi, 'Forest Flora of the Siwalik and Jaunsar' by U.N. Kanjilal, 'Forest Flora for Oudh, Pilibhit, Gorakhpur and Bundelkhand' by P.C. Kanjilal and 'Forest Flora for the Punjab with Hazara and Delhi' by Parker. Truly speaking, local floras are much more valuable than those for bigger areas because exploration of vegetation can be carried out intensively and extensively in such cases and only few plants
may hardly be omitted.

With the revival of Botanical Survey of India in 1954, the gravity of the situation was realized and much emphasis has been paid on the intensive study of local floras with a view to collect precise information on the identification, distribution, ecology, phenology, economicsuse and local names of plants. Santapau in his presidential address at the 35th Annual Meeting of the Indian Botanical Society held at Agra in 1956 put considerable emphasis on the preparation of local floras by various universities in India. Maheshwari (1975) emphasised the need for trained floristicians in the execution of a number of research projects under the Five Year Plans. He also traced out the causes for our inadequate knowledge on Indian floras as the lack of interest in teaching and research in floristics at colleges and universities. Obviously, it is of a great significance that in a vast country like India, local and regional floras must be prepared on the modern lines. The floristic activity cannot be done on desired scale by anyone department, the collaboration between various government agencies and educational institutions is absolutely necessary. The help of a large number of Botany students at post-graduate level in the colleges and universities must be harnessed to accomplish this gigantic task.

With the attainment of independence there has been an urge for better utilization of the plant resources of the country. To achieve this goal of exploitation and utilization of plant wealth, collection of floristic data with the district
as a unit on a state-wise and all India basis is an important
pre-requisite, and this can be easily organized by imparting
suitable training to the students engaged in the course of
floristic studies. For all the government programmes on
rural and tribal areas of the country, these trained students
on floristics will be suitable personnels to fill up the
gap between the executive and the rural and tribal people,
and to achieve success for the project.

Compilation of new local floras and revision of existing
floras have become quite indispensable for some plants having
been disappeared and several are on the verge of extinction
and a large number of additional and exotic species have
become naturalized since the publication of earlier floras.
Several floras and checklists have now been changed in the
light of the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature
and fresh taxonomic evaluations in the recent monographic
treatments.

Keeping in view the above mentioned facts, this hectic
job has been undertaken to dig up the wealth of plants from
the area of exploration. Consequently, the general public
has become conscious of the value of local vegetation, the
first stage of which is the identification of plants. The
work presented here, it is hoped, will, therefore, serve the
purpose of students and teachers as well as the indigenous
practitioners in the country.
UTTAR PRADESH
SHOWING THE LOCATION OF GONDA AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS

MAP 1