

**Research Article**

## **Diversity of Genus *Helvella* (Ascomycota: Pezizales: Helvellaceae) from Northern Kashmir, India**

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### **Abstract**

The vegetation and climatic conditions of union territory of Jammu and Kashmir in India possess a prime location in the world for the hotspot and biodiversity of mushrooms. Although, this province is still unexplored due to less courtesy and unawareness towards this subject. In this backdrop, regular field trips for exploration and documentation of macro-fungal flora of unexplored forests of Northern Kashmir, Himalaya was undertaken between March 2019 and October 2020. The present study is describing the systemic position and taxonomic identification of five new species of macrofungi belonging to genus *Helvella* of Ascomycetous mushrooms which were not explored previously. The five new species of macrofungi that were explored and taxonomically identified are *Helvella acetabulum*, *Helvella leucopus*, *Helvella queletii*, *Helvella lacunosa* and *Helvella crispa*. These mushrooms were identified on the basis of morpho-anatomical features, other characteristics and based on field guides, mushroom herbaria and expert mushroom taxonomists.

**Key words:** Morpho-anatomical features, macrofungi, taxonomic identification

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