



FIGURE 5. Distribution and coverage of some of the worst invasive alien plant species from National Park surveys in 2012–2018.

was already well-established by 2004 between 825 and 1,040 m (Medeiros 2004). It continued to spread and is currently well-established between 740 and 1,150 m. According to Loope et al. (1992), *C. hirta* could continue to expand up to 1,500 m and higher due to global warming.

Invasion by *H. gardnerianum* is particularly threatening. This tall herb (up to 2–3 m high) can establish a monospecific understory and decrease the recruitment of native trees

without affecting the recruitment of *P. cattleianum* (Minden et al. 2010). In the long-term this can lead to the replacement of the native canopy species by *P. cattleianum* along its elevational range (currently up to 1200 m) with lasting effects on biodiversity (Boehmer 2011). Furthermore, although *H. gardnerianum* currently occurs up to 1,535 m this species is native to the Himalayas, is cold tolerant and capable of establishing in native forest understory, even in the