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RESEARCH ARTICLE

SURVEY OF FLORA FROM RAMLING HILL STATION –A SACRED GROVE

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ABSTRACT

It is very rich in plant Biodiversity. About 264 plant species belongs to 218 genus and 77 families has been recorded from Ramling hill stations around Arjunnagar. Further, detailed study is required for understanding the flora of this sacred grove. This data gives idea about the plant biodiversity and importance of sacred groves in conservation of flora

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INTRODUCTION

India is among the 12 mega biodiversity countries in the world having 25 hot spots of the richest and highly endangered eco-region of the world (Myers *et al.,* 2000). These are catering to a large population residing in their vicinity in terms of food, fodder, shelter and medicine. Since time immemorial conservation of natural resource has been an integral part of diverse cultures in different ways. Sacred groves represent forest with rich diversity, which have been protected by the local people for centuries for their cultural and religious beliefs (Godbole, 1996). Sometimes, they are also known as natural museums of giant trees, treasure houses of threatened species, dispensaries of medicinal plants, regulators of water sheds, recreation centers for urban life, veritable gardens for botanists, gene banks of economic species, paradise for nature-lovers and laboratory for environmentalists (Bhagwat, 2009 Manikandan *et al.*, 2011). Sacred groves are distributed across the globe, and diverse cultures recognize them in different ways encoding various rules for their protection. Sacred groves occur in many parts of India viz., Western Ghats, Central India, northeast India, etc. particularly where the indigenous communities live. Sacred groves act as an ideal centre for biodiversity conservation (Gadgil and Vartak, 1976).

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Several plants threatened in the forest are still well conserved in some of the sacred groves (Maru *et al.*, 2013). It has been observed that several medicinal plants that are not to be found in the forest are abundant in the sacred groves (Chandrakar *et al*., 2014) Further, rare, endangered, threatened and endemic species are often concentrated in sacred groves. In the present work, extensive and frequent visits to Ramling hill station was carried out during the year 2008 to 2014for understanding the floral Biodiversity. The plant species were identified and data was recorded.

Location

Ramling hill station is located near the NH-4 Highway on border region of Karnataka and Maharashtra. It is 7 KM away from Nipani on the way to Ajara. The geographical details are as

Area	: 3482 m^2
Altitude	: 615 m
Latitude	: 16° 23′ 59.0″ N (16.40°)
Langitude	: 74° 22′ 59.0″ E (74.38°)
Temperature	: Min. 10^0C, Max. 41^0C
Annual Rainfall	: 762 mm
Forest type	: Dry deciduous

Methodology

Frequent visits were arranged to survey the flora from Ramling hill station. The plants were identified with the help of Flora

of the Bombay Presidency (Cooke, 1903), Flora of Maharashtra State (Singh and Karthikeyan, 2000) and Flora of Kolhapur District (Sardesai and Yadav, 2002) and the data was recorded.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sacred groves are the representatives of virgin forest that were left untouched by the local inhabitants and are protected by the local people due to their cultural and religious beliefs and taboos that the deities reside in them. Sacred groves are harbor for rich biodiversity.

Table 1. Plant species recorded during survey from Ramling hill station

Family	Botanical Name	Common Name
Ranunculaceae	*Clematis heynei Singh*	Morvel
Annonaceae	*Annona reticulata L.*	Ramphal
	Annona squamosa L.	Sitaphal
	Michelia champaca L.	Chapa
	Artabotrys hexapetalous L.	Hirva Chapa
	Polyalthia longifolia Son.	Ashok
Menispermaceae	*Tinospora cordifolia Willd.*	Gulvel
Papaveraceae juss.	*Argemone mexicana L.*	Pivala Dhotra
Brassicaceae burn.K	*Brassica juncea (L.*	Mohari
	Brassica oleracea L.	
Cleomaceae (Pax)	*Cleome viscosa L*	Pivali tilwan
Capparidaceae Forst.	*Capparis spinosa L..*	Nepti
	Capparis zeylanica L.	Wagati
Bixaceae Endl.	*Bixa orellana L .*	Shendri
Malvaceae Juss.	*Abelmoschus ficulneus (L.*	Jangali Bhendi
	Thespesia populnea (L.	Gul Bhendi
	Hibiscus rosa-sinensis L .	Jaswand
Bombacaceae Kunth.	*Bombax ceiba L.*	Kate Savar
Elaeocarpaceae Dc.	*Muntingia calabura L.*	Cherry'
Zygophyllaceae R.Br	*Tribulus terrestris L.*	Gokharu
Balsamaceae Rich.	*Impatiens balsamina L.*	Gauri'
Oxalidaceae R.Br.	*Oxalis corniculata L.*	Ambushi
Rutaceae Juss.	*Aegle marmelos (L.*	Bel
	Citrus aurantifolia (Christm .	Limbu
	Limonia acidissima L.	Kavat
	Murraya koenigii L.	Kadhi-Nimb
Simaroubaceae DC.	*Ailanthus excelsa Roxb*	Maharukh
Meliaceae juss.	*Azadirachta indica Juss*	Kadu Nimb
	Khaya senegalensis Desr.	Khaya
	Swietenia mahagoni L .	Mahogoni
Celastraceae R.Br.	*Celastrus paniculatus Willd*	Mal Kangoni
Rhamnaceae juss.	*Ziziphus mauritiana Lam*	Bor
Vitaceae juss.	*Cissus quadrangularis L.*	Hadsandi
Sapindaceae juss.	*Cardiospermum helicacabum L.*	Kanphuti
	Dodone angustifolia L.	Bandukicha Pala
	Sapindus laurifolius Vahl.	Ritha
Anacrdiaceae lin#dl.	*Mangifera indica L.*	Mango
	Semecarpus anacardium L.	Biba
Moringaceaedumort.	*Moringa oleifera Lam.*	Shevaga
Papillionaceae	*Abrus precatorius L.*	Gunj
	Alysicarpus pubescensLaw	Palas
	Butea monosperma Lam.	Tur
	Cajanus cajan L .	Harbara
	Cicer arietinum L.	Nili Gokarna
	Clitoria ternatia L.	Undirmari
	Gliricidia sepium Jacq .	Pavata
	Lablab purpureus L.	Karanj
	Pongamia pinnata L.	
Caesalpinaceae R.Br.	*Bauhinia purpurea L.*	Kanchan
	Bauhinia racemosa Lam.	Apta
	Caesalpinia pulcherrima L.	Sankasur
	Cassia fistula L.	Bahava
	Delonix regia Boj.	Gulmohar
	Tamarindus indica L.	Cinch
	Acacia farnesiana L.	Dev Babhul
Mimosaceae R.Br.	*Albizia lebbeck L .*	Shirish
	Leucaena latisiliqua L.	Subabhul
	Mimosa pudica L.	Lajalu
	Pithecellobium dulce Roxb.	Vilayti Chinch
	Prosopis cineraria L.	Shami
	Samanea saman Jacq.	Parjanya Vriksha
Rosaceae juss.	*Rosa damascena Mill.*	Gulab
Crassulaceae Dc.	*Kalanchoe pinnata Lam.*	Paanphuti
	Quisqualis indica L.	Rangoon Creeper
	Terminalia cattapa L.	Badam
Myrtaceae juss.	*Callistemon citrinus Curtis.*	Bootlebrush
	Eucalyptus globutus Labill.	Nilgiri
	Psidium guajava L.	Peru
	Syzygium cumini L.	Jambhul
Lythraceae j.St.Hil.	*Lagerstroemia parviflora Roxb.*	Bondara
	Lawsonia inermis L	Mehandi
	Woodfordia fruticosa L.	Dhayati
Cucurbitaceae juss.	*Coccinea grandis (L.*	Tondali
	Momordica dioica Roxb.ex.Willd	Kartoli
Cactaceae juss.	*Epiphyllum macropterum Britton.*	Bramha Kamal
	Cereus peruvianus Mill.	Tridhari Nivdung
	Opuntia elatior Mill.	Nivdung
Rubiceae juss.	*Ixora pavetta*	Lokhandi
	Morinda pubescens J.E	Bartondi
Asteraceae dumort.	*Ageratum conyzoides L.....*	Osadi
	Parthenium hysterophorus L.	Gajar Gavat
	Sonchus asper L.	Mhatari
	Tridax procumbens L	Dagadi pala
	Xanthium indicum Koen	Vinchu
Sapotaceae juss,	*Madhuca longifolia Koen*	Moha
	Manilkara zapota L.	Chikku
	Mimusops elengi L.	Bakul
Apocynaceae juss.	*Alstonia scholaris L.*	Satvin
	Carissa carandus L.	Karwand
	Cascabella thevetia L.	Pivali Kanher
	Catharanthus roseus L.	Sadaphuli
	Nerium indicum Mill.	Kaner
	Plumeria alba L.	Pandhara Chapha
	Tabernaemontana citrifolia L.	Tagar
Asclepidaceae R.Br.	*Hemidesmus indicus L.*	Anantmul
	Calotropis gigantea L.	Rui
	Gymnema sylvestre Retz.	Madunashini
Gentianaceae juss.	*Canscora diffusa R,Br.*	
Convolvulaceae juss.	*Convolvulus arvensis L.*	Chandvel
	Evolvulus alsinoides L.	Shankhapushpi
	Ipomoea carnea Jacq.	Besharam
	Ipomoea quamoclit L.	Ganeshpushp
Cuscutaceae demort.	*Cuscuta reflexa Roxb ..*	Amarvel
Solanaceae juss.	*Cestrum noctornum L.*	Rat Rani
	Datura inoxia Mill.	Dhotra
	Physalis minima L.	Ranpopati
	Solanum anguivi Lam.	Ringani
	Solanum virginianum L.	Bhui Ringani
Scrophulariaceae juss.	*Russelia equisetiformis L.*	
Bignonaceae juss.	*Spathodia companulata P.*	Pichakari
	Tabebuia rosea DC.	
Martyniaceae stapf	*Martynia annua L.*	Vinchu
Acanthaceae juss.	*Barleria prionitis L.*	Kathe-Koranti
	Crossandra infundibuliformis (L.	Abholi
	Justicia adhatoda L .	Adulsa
Verbinaceae J.St,Hill.	*Clerodendrum philippinum Schuer*	Battis Mogra
	Lantana camara L.,	Ghaneri
	Tectona grandis L.	Saag
	Vitex negundo L.,	Nirgudi
Lamiaceae Lindl.	*Leucas aspera (Willd.*	Shankroba
	Ocimum tenuiflorum L.	Tulas
Nyctaginaceae juss.	*Bougainvillaea spectabilis Willd.*	Kagadi phul
Amaranthaceae juss.	*Achyranthes aspera L.*	Aghada
	Amaranthus spinosus L.	Kurdu
	Celosia argentea L.	
Santalaceae R. BR.	*Santalum album L.*	Chandan
Euphorbiaceae juss.	*Emblica officinalis Gaertn .*	Awala
	Euphorbia hirta L.	Dudhani
	Jatropha curcas L.	Angli Erand
	Phyllanthus reticulatus Poir.	Kanguni
Moraceae Link.	*Ficus benghalensis L.*	Vad
	Ficus religiosa L.	Pimpal
Casuarinaceae R. BR.	*Casuarina equisetifolia L.*	Suru

Summary and Conclusion

An overcrowding population and their activities has resulted in to fragmentation of the groves. This lead to habitat disturbance and deforestation which are the major causes for poor

regeneration of many economically important species (Kushalappa and Bhagwat, 2001). In the present study, 264-plant species belonging to 77 families has been recorded from Ramling Hill station and some of them are represented in Table 1. The study also emphasizes on need of conservation of the most valuable species in such sacred groves.

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