



**IMPORTANT WILD EXOTIC PLANTS DIVERSITY FROM PRAVARA
BASIN, MAHARASHTRA**



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ABSTRACT

An exotic plant is a species that have native in one place, but has been moved to a new geographic location due to human interference. Present investigation is aimed at gathering information of useful exotic species occurring in Pravara basin which have been ignored so far. Investigations of the remote areas where Pravara basin dwellers are reside for data collection, identification and documentation of the plants. Collection and conservation of exotic plants used by local people with special reference to wild relatives of cultivated plants. This will ultimately give the information of the use of plants which have not been given much attention by earlier workers. Present investigation total 62 exotic plants were observed from Pravara basin, Ahmednagar districts. Out of these 62 exotic plants 5-climer, 16- herb, 11- shrub and 29 trees are recorded. Total 27 exotic plants families were observed, among Euphorbiaceae, Caeslpinaceae and Fabaceae families are dominant.

KEYWORDS : Exotic plant species, Pravara basin, Maharashtra, India

RESEARCH PAPER

Introduction

Pravara is the important smallest river or stream of the major Godavari river located in western part of Ahmednagar districts, Maharashtra, India. The river originates in Western Ghats and meets to Godavari River. The water sources of Pravara River are Sahayadris hills of Western Ghats. Pravara River is occupying more or less the central position in the Maharashtra state and with an area of 6537 km² (2524 sq mi). It is situated between 19°31'45"N and 73°45'5" E latitude and is situated somewhat in the upper Godavari basin. The Pravara River is having length of 208 kms. Occurrence of exotic plants in Indian subcontinent can be trace from the times of 'Veda', 'Ramayana', and 'Mahabharata' and even in the Ayurvedic literature several exotic plants have been mentioned as useful. In recent few decades due to increasing trade and trans-continental transport, the vegetation of Indian subcontinent have been subjected to changes thereby resulting in the introduction of exotic species from different parts of the world. Present research is aimed at gathering information of useful exotic species occurring in Pravara basin which have been ignored so far. Following are the works done on the exotic plants of India region wise. Madhya Pradesh, India (Maheshwari, 1960), Gangtok (Hajra & Das, 1982), Allahabad district (Shama, 1984), Kashmir Himalaya (Singh & Mishri, 1974; Singh & Kachroo, 1983), Exotics of Kodaikanal and Palni Hills (Matthew, 1969), Exotics of Rajasthan (Pandey & Parmar, 1994), Ranchi, Bihar (Mahashwari & Paul, 1975) and South Gujarat (Kshirsagar, 2005). Most of these works emphasized on the listing or making floristic accounts of exotic plant species.

Material and Methods

The present research involved extensive ethnobotanical studies, survey and collection of exotic plants in different localities from Pravara basin, Ahmednagar district. During the fieldwork voucher specimens of each plant were collected and numbered by following standard methods (Jain and Rao, 1976). Plants specimens were identified with the help of keys to the families, genera and species provided in reputed floras like Cooke (1958), Singh et al (2000 & 2001), Pradhan and Singh (1999), etc. Balapure, et. al. (1987), Hopkins, (1901), Karnick, (1975), Macdonell & Keith, (1912), Sagreiya, (2005), Shastri, (1957), Tulsidas, Goswami, (1966) and Varma, Dipti (2015), and information about use in Ayurveda are based on Kapoor (2001).

Result and discussion

The research investigation deals with 62 different exotic plant species which are observed from Pravara basin in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra.

Table No.1 List of important Exotic plants from Pravara basin

Sr. No.	Plant Botanical Name	Local Name	Family
1	<i>Ipomoea carnea</i>	Beshram	Convolvulaceae
2	<i>Mucuna pruriens</i>	Khaj kuhiri	Fabaceae
3	<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i>	Sagargoata	Caesalpinaceae
4	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i>	Rantakala	Caesalpinaceae
5	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i>	Bor	Rhamnaceae
6	<i>Bauhinia racemosa</i>	Apata	Caesalpinaceae
7	<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	Babhul	Mimosaceae
8	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Aghada	Amaranthaceae
9	<i>Albizia lebbeck</i>	Siras	Mimosaceae
10	<i>Carissa congesta</i>	Karvand	Apocynaceae
11	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Dhotra	Solanaceae
12	<i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i>	Nilgiri	Myrtaceae
13	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i>	Mehandi	Lythraceae
14	<i>Bidens biternata</i>	Chikata	Asteraceae
15	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	Bahava	Caesalpinaceae
16	<i>Euphorbia geniculata</i>	Dudhani	Euphorbiaceae
17	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	Dudhi	Euphorbiaceae
18	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i>	Bhuiawala	Euphorbiaceae
19	<i>Butea monosperma</i>	Palas	Fabaceae
20	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Erend	Euphorbiaceae
21	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Chinch	Caesalpinaceae
22	<i>Aloe vera</i>	Korphad	Liliaceae
23	<i>Opuntia stricta</i>	Nagphani	Cactaceae
24	<i>Annona squamosa</i>	Sitaphal.	Annonaceae
25	<i>Boerhavia repens</i>	Punernawa	Nyctaginaceae

26	<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	Babhul	Mimosaceae
27	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i>	Congress-gavat.	Asteraceae
28	<i>Triumfetta rhomboidea</i>	Kutri-Majri	Malvaceae
29	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i>	Chimutkata	Amaranthaceae
30	<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	Umber	Moraceae
31	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Jambul	Myrtaceae
32	<i>Calotropis procera</i>	Rui.	Asclepiadaceae
33	<i>Cassia obtusifolia</i>	Takala	Caesalpiniaceae
34	<i>Celosia argentea</i>	Kombada	Amaranthaceae
35	<i>Delonix regia</i>	Gulmohar	Caesalpiniaceae
36	<i>Sapindus emarginatus</i>	Reetha	Sapindaceae
37	<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	Jangli-erand	Euphorbiaceae
38	<i>Leucaena latisiliqua</i>	Subabhul	Fabaceae
39	<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i>	Sher	Euphorbiaceae
40	<i>Santalum album</i>	Chandan	Santalaceae
41	<i>Borassus flabellifer</i>	Tad	Arecaceae
42	<i>Lantana camara</i>	Ghaneri	Verbanaceae
43	<i>Malachra capitata</i>	Ranbhendi	Malvaceae
44	<i>Moringa oleifera</i>	Shevga	Moringaceae
45	<i>Samanea saman</i>	Raintree	Mimosaceae
46	<i>Coccinia grandis</i>	Tondli.	Cucurbitaceae
47	<i>Datura innoxia</i>	Dhotra.	Solanaceae
48	<i>Jatropha gossipifolia</i>	Mogali Erand	Euphorbiaceae
49	<i>Ipomoea cairica</i>	Garwel	Convolvulaceae
50	<i>Thespesia populnea</i>	Bhendi zad	Malvaceae
51	<i>Sesbania grandiflora</i>	Hatga	Fabaceae
52	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	Vedibabul	Fabaceae
53	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	Gokarna	Fabaceae
54	<i>Terminalia catappa</i>	Badam.	Combretaceae
55	<i>Datura metal</i>	Kala Dhotara	Solanaceae

56	<i>Emblica officinalis</i>	Avala	Euphorbiaceae
57	<i>Ocimum americanum</i>	Ran-tulsi	Lamiaceae
58	<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i>	Gulbaksh	Nyctaginaceae
59	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	Gorakhchinch	Malvaceae
60	<i>Blumea eriantha</i>	Nirmudi	Asteraceae
61	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Bakam	Meliaceae
62	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i>	Arjun sadada	Combretaceae

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