

Floristic Diversity of Bahedj Zone, Megharj Range Forest District Sabarkantha, Gujarat, India

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ABSTRACT

The present work has been done to collect the Information about different plant species of Megharj range forest in particular zone of Bahedj. The data obtained from these studies have botanical importance of the particular zone Bahedj. During the field work we have consisted of total 67 Agiospermic families are belonging 220 genera and 324 species were collected and recorded. Herbs are dominated. Herbs 128 and 90 shrubs, 32 climbers and 74 trees. We have also noted 4 ptreidophytes and 3 bryophytes. The dominant species are *Prosopis chilensis*, *Holarrhena antidysenterica*, *Tactona grandis*, *Lantana camara* etc.

Keywords: Floristic composition, dominant species, Megharj-Bahedj

INTRODUCTION

Floristic studies have acquired increasing importance in recent years in response to the need of developing and under developing countries to assess their plant wealth. The rich botanical wealth of this Megharj range forest in particular zone Bahedj is being continuously over exploited for timber and non timber forest products such as fodder, grasses, gums, grazing etc. The earlier work on floristic part of North Gujarat has been carried out Sexton & Sejweek (1918). Later on there was on gap were from 1917 onward Patel (2000), Ant (2001), Jangid (2003).Desai (2007). They were worked in selected different area of North Gujarat. During our field trip visit have taken various photographs of rare plant species in Bahedj forest. From this region we have reported 324 plant species. Looking to the importance of the floristic study this study was under taken.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The Sabarkantha district is situated in the North West part of Gujarat between latitudes 20 13' 15'' and 24 34' 30" North and Longitudes 72 47' 0" and 73 37' 30" east. Part of the western Aravallis Mountain in Sabarkantha. The Megharj forest is situated on latitude 23 30' 40" North and Longitude 73 30' 40" North and Longitude 73 30' 40" east.

The present work is the output of the continuous field study during the season winter 2010 to 2011. Collected plant species were identified with the help of "The flora of Gujarat state" and flora of "The Presidency of Bombay".

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The total number of 63 Angiospermic families is belonging 223 genera and 324 species reported

from this area. We have also noted the dominant species are *Prosopis chilensis*, *Holarrhena antidysenterica*, *Tactona grandis*, *Lantana camara* etc. in particular region Bahedj.

Table-1 Floral richness of the Bahedj forest.

Types of the plants	Genera	Species	Families
Dicots	202	301	54
Monocots	21	23	9
Total	223	324	63

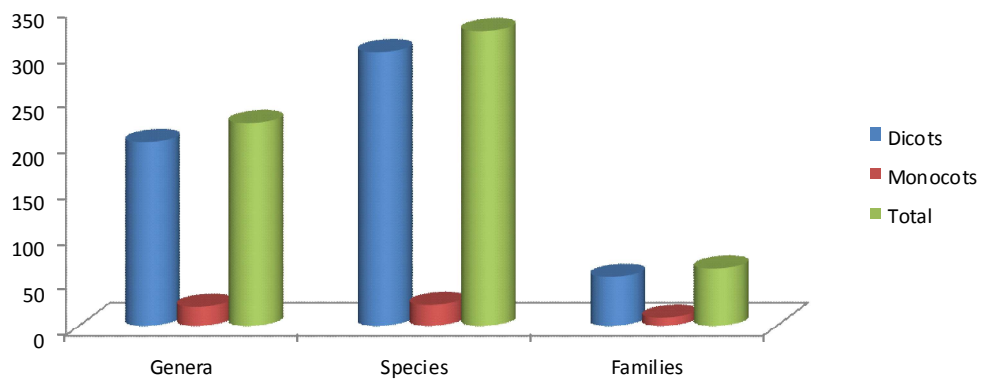


Fig-A Floral richness of the Bahedj forest

Table-2 Dominant plants in the Bahedj forest

Family	Plant name	Total number of plants
Verbinaceae	<i>Lantana camara</i>	1536
Mimosaceae	<i>Prosopis chilensis</i>	1045
Apocynaceae	<i>Holarrhena antidysenterica</i>	892
Verbinaceae	<i>Tectona grandis</i>	866

Total number of plant

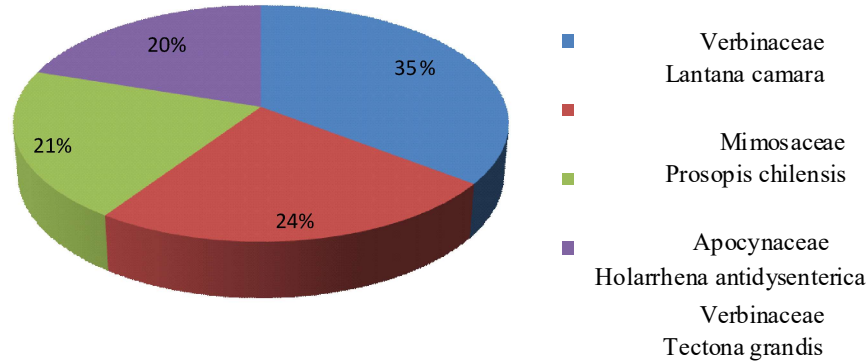


Fig-B Dominant plant in the Bahedj forest

Table-3 Plant diversity of Bahedj

Types of the plant	Tree	Shrubs	Herbs	Climbers
Number of species	74	90	128	32

Plant diversity of Bahedj

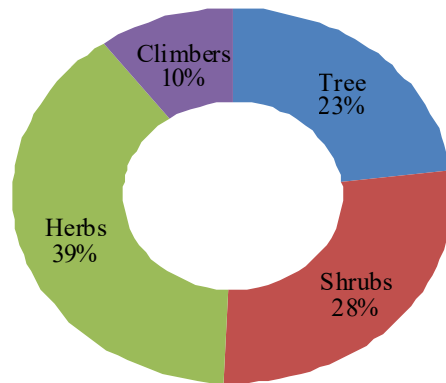


Fig-C Plant diver

Fig-C Plant diversity of Bahedj

We have recorded 202 genera of Dicots and 21 genera of Monocots, 301 species of Dicot & 23 species of Monocots, belonging to 54 dicot & 9 monocot families.(table-1 & fig. A). Table 2 and Fig. B shows dominant families and plant and also shows that total no. of plant in particular

zone Bahedj. Table 2 and fig. B shows that 4 genera are dominant in the Bahedj range forest. Table.3. and Fig. 3 shows plant diversity of Bahedj zone. Fig. 3 indicates that 39 % of herbs, 28 % shrubs, 23 % trees and 10 % of climbers.

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