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**NEW REPORTS TO THE FLORA OF MARATHWADA**

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**ABSTRACT**

Latur and Beed are the two districts of eight districts of Marathwada region, in Maharashtra. Both districts divided into 10 and 11 talukas respectively with around 1000 villages. The districts are rich in natural resources. Forest covers in these districts are in patches, with tribal Population being forming a 2 % of the total population. Present work is based on extensive botanical explorations carried out in the different parts of above two districts during 2010-2012 with the critical literature and herbarium studies. During the study in all 1000 plant species have been identified out of which four plant species have been reported from the district for the first time and had not found reported in the earlier studies carried out in the region. Enumeration includes botanical name, Vernacular name, Family.

**KEY WORDS:** Latur, Beed, Enumeration, new records.

**INTRODUCTION**

Marthwada region is one of the four divisions of Maharashtra State forms the part of Deccan plateau of India. It comprises Eight Districts, viz. Aurangabad, Beed, Parbhani, Nanded, Osmanabad Jalna, Latur and Hingoli. The total area of Marathwada is 64,798 km<sup>2</sup> is bounded by Vidharbha region on the north, Andhra Pradesh towards east and southeast, Karnataka on South and Western Maharashtra on West. The region lies at an average height of about 300 to 650 m above sea level. The area is traversed by hill ranges like Sahyadri in west, Satpudas in North, Balaghat in South and Ajanthas-satmalas in North. The major rivers of the zone are Godavari, and its tributaries like Dudhna, Manjra, Penganga, Purna, Tavarja, Terna and etc. Most of the tributaries are seasonal and dry up very soon. The weather is dry and moderately extreme. The average temperature ranges from 27° to 38° C during day and 26.9°C to 20° C. During night. The highest temperature during summer is around 44° C and lowest temperature in winter is 6° C. The average rainfall is 90 cm. Following two districts were undertaken for floristic study the general information of these districts is given below separately. The Beed district lies between 18°28'-19°28' N at altitude and 74°54;-76°57' E Longitude extended over an area of 10615 Sq Km .With 261 Sq Km forest area . The district is divided into 11 revenue talukas 6 towns and 1346 villages. Over 24000 tribal Population have been reported from the district and Major population in the districts inhabit in rural areas. Major tribes are vadar, lamani, vanjari, dhangar, paradhi, kaikadi, bhil etc.

Latur is one of the eight districts of Marathwada region, which formed a part of the former Hyderabad state prior to reorganization of states in Maharashtra. In former Latur was a taluka of Osmanabad district. The Latue district is located between Latitudes 18°05' -18°07' N and Longitude 73°25' – 77°25' E and extended over an area of 7,372 Sq.km. District is dividing into 10 talukas and 945 villages. The district is rich in natural resources. Forest in the district cover an area of 66 Sq.km Total Population of the district is 20, 80,000 and tribal Population being 48,000 forming a 2 % of the total population. The above two districts of the region was unexplored in floristic point of view upto sixties, only scattered work had been done. Actual work began with exploration of the flora of Osmanabad district during 1962-69 by Naik .V.N. This was followed by exploration of entire region of Marathwada by Naik and his students, during 1979 to 1998 and was published in the form of Flora of Marathwada.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS****Statistical analysis of the flora**

In all 1645 species and 73 intraspecific are grouped into 746 genera classified in 155 families. Poaceae with 81 genera and 203 species is the largest family of monocotyledons and Family Fabaceae representing 50 genera with 147 species described. In all Dicot comprising 123 families and 32 families of monocot with 571 genera, 1208 species and 175 genera , 437 sp respectively. Total no plant described: 1645 sps (herbs 802, Shrubs 153, Twinners/climbers 124 and trees 112), Exotic sps: 143, Medicinal plants: 357, Green Mannure: 23, Plants used in Cottage Industries: 210, Plants used in Paper Industries : 28, Fuel wood: 11, Hedge plants : 166, Ornamental plants: 40, Fruits: 27, Leafy vegetables: 22, Fruit vegetables: 27, Timber plants : 08, Fibre yielding Plants: 14, Pulses : 19, Oilseeds: 15 and Food crops: 11. During floristic explorations in different areas of Beed and Latur districts of Marathwada of Maharashtra state was undertook during 2010 to 2012, close examination of specimens with the help of literature and herbarium specimens revealed that four species are new to this area. The present work is the outcome of the field tours conducted in the location mentioned above.

The plants species were collected and identified with the help of relevant literature and are deposited in Dept of Botany, Deogiri College, Aurangabad. Floristic survey of this region has been done by various authors, most important contribution was done by Naik (1979, 1998). After the publication of Flora of Marathwada. Naik *et al.*, (1998), many taxa of flowering plants were collected and reported by various authors such as Sonje *et al* (2007), Kare *et al* (2008), Rathor and Chavan (2002), Rathor (2002, 2006, 2007 and 2008), Wadood Khan and Solanke (2008) and Surwase and Sardesai (2008). Around 350 plant sps were exploited for their medicinal uses and Some of the plants got extinct during the due course of time Dhabe (2006).

### Enumeration of Species

#### ARECACEAE

*Borassus flabellifer* L. Sp. Pl. 1187. 1753. (ARECACEAE).

Erect, unbranched trunk, Leaves segments 60-80, folded along midrib, linear-lanceolate. Flowers dioecious. Spadix large. Male flowers small, in spikes; female flowers larger, globose. Fruit a large subglobose brown drupe. or more. Seeds oblong, trilobed at top.

*Fls.* and *Frts.* : March-August.



*Artemisia nilagirica*



*Premna latifolia*



*Borassus flabellifer*



*Schouwia purpurea*

#### ASTERACEAE

*Artemisia nilagirica* (C.B.Cl.) Pamp. in Nuov. Giorn. Bot. Ital. n.s. 33:452. 1926; *A. vulgaris* var. *nilagirica* C.B.Cl. Compo Ind. 162. 1876. ASTERACEAE (COMPOSITAE).

Erect, branched, Shrubs, villous. Lower leaves ovate, petioled; upper leaves 3-fid or entire, lanceolate. Heads greenish-yellow, sessile or shortly pedicelled, in spiciform racemes combined into panicles. Achenes c 0.1 cm long, ellipsoid.

*Fls.* and *Frts.* : October-November.

**BRASSICACEAE**

*Schowia purpurea* (Forssk.) Schweinf. In Bull. Herb. Boiss App. 2: 183, n. 486; 1896. *Subularia purpurea* Forssk. Fl. Aeg. – Arab. 117. 1775. (BRASSICACEAE).

Annual herbs, stems dichotomously branched from the base. Leaves alternate, oblong-ovate to ovate-cordate. Flowers purple. Siliqua sub ellipsoid to orbicular-cordate, emarginated, beaked. Seeds many 2- seriate, globose.

*Fls. and Frts.:* February - March.

**VERBENACEAE**

*Premna latifolia* Roxb. Var. *Viburnoides* C. B. cl. In Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 4: 578. 1885. 'Narval', 'Narvela'. (VERBENACEAE).

Erect, branched, Shrub or small tree, bark corky, light yellow. Leaves ovate, apex acute-apiculate, base rounded, margins serrate. Inflorescence of terminal corymbose panicles. Flowers greenish-white. Drupes light green at maturity, black when dry.

*Fls. and Frts.:* April – August.

**CONCLUSION**

The above species are reported for the first time from this region and this will be the addition to flora of Marathwada. Such attempt of extensive exploration of survey is needed in rest of districts which may certainly results into addition or deletion of species to the flora.

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