



Sanjeevani, the elusive herb of the Ramayana era: a review

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ABSTRACT: Sanjeevani, a term from Hindu mythology, can refer to a plant, mantra, or method believed to revive the dead. In "The Ramayana," it is described as a magical herb found on Gandhamardan hill in the Himalayas. This herb is renowned for its medicinal properties and has been used globally to treat various conditions like epilepsy, cancer, gynecological disorders and urinary tract infections. However, despite centuries of searching, the true Sanjeevani remains elusive, and its existence, whether real, extinct, or imaginary, remains uncertain. The quest for this wonder herb continues today.

Keywords: Dronogiri hill, medicinal herb, resurrection plant, *Selaginella bryopteris*, traditional uses

Research Article

Diversity and Conservation Significance of Angiosperm Climbers in Bhadrak District of Odisha, India

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ABSTRACT

The present study seeks to investigate the distribution patterns of angiosperm climbers within the Bhadrak district of Odisha, India, along with an assessment of the ecosystem services they provide. The ongoing inquiry into climbing plant species within the Bhadrak district reflects the diversity of 103 species distributed across 71 genera and 33 families. The three most diverse families are Convolvulaceae (22), Cucurbitaceae (15), and Fabaceae (14). Out of 103 climbing plant species, 72 species are herbaceous vines and 31 species are woody vines representing 69.9%, and 30.1%, respectively. The most common climbing method in the studied sites is stem twining, accounting for 70 species or 68% of the total, the second most common is tendril climbing (22 species, 21.4%), and the least, root climber (2 species, 1.9%). Local communities use these climbers for various purposes. It has been observed that out of 103 species, 61 species have medicinal properties (59.2%), 16 species have ornamental value (15.5%), 17 species are edible (16.5%), and the remaining 8 species have other uses (8.8%). These results indicate the importance of climber communities to plant diversity of Bhadrak district, enhancing the regional diversity and the conservation value of these forest remnants. Habitat degradation because of rapid development activities with limitation of the supporting tree species is found to be a serious threat to climbing plants. Employing a multifaceted strategy such as securing their habitats through protection, restoration, managing invasive species and promoting collaboration among local stakeholders and organizations, ensures the preservation of these vital plants, sustaining biodiversity and ecosystem health for the future.

Keywords: lianas; medicinal plants; ornamental climbers; stem twiner; vines

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Additions to angiosperm diversity in Bhadrak region of Odisha, India***Taranisen Panda, Master Apollo¹ and Manoj Kumar Kar²**

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ABSTRACT

This paper deals with the list of flowering plants from the Bhadrak district, Odisha, India. A total of 141 taxa (81 native species and 60 exotic species) have been recorded comprising 81 herbs, 22 climbers, 21 trees, and 17 shrubs that are distributed in 115 genera, represented in 48 families, three major clades, and 23 orders as per the APG IV classification. Lamids account for about 33.3% of the taxa. The family Fabaceae is the most species-diverse (14 species), followed by Convolvulaceae (10 species), Acanthaceae (9 species) and Poaceae (7 species). Of the total 141 plant species, most are economically useful as medicinal plants, and others are valuable as edible fruits, ornamentals, and fodders. It is believed that this inventory of angiosperm plant resources of the district provides a comprehensive and updated checklist of the floristic diversity of the Bhadrak district, Odisha.

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KEY WORDS : Agricultural rituals, Floristic diversity, Life form composition, Medicinal plants

Introduction

The state of Odisha (81° 43' and 87° 29' east longitudes and 17° 49' and 22° 34' north latitude), India, consisting of 30 districts and geographically situated at the head of the Bay of Bengal, has a coastal stretch of around 482 km. It extends over an area of 155,707 sq. km accounting for about 4.87% of the total area of the country. Based on physico-geographical characteristics, the state has been divided into 5 major regions i.e., the coastal plain in the east, the middle mountainous and highlands region, the central plateaus, the western rolling uplands and the major flood plains. The varying climatic condition provides suitable habitats for supporting rich flora and fauna in the region³². Furthermore, the Eastern Ghat range of hills runs through the heart of Odisha i.e., it starts from north of Similipal and runs through Malkangiri crossing 17 districts of the state harbouring primarily moist deciduous vegetation⁷. The state encounters a hot and humid climate round the year with short winters.

As far as the floristic study of the state of Odisha is concerned, it is in scattered form. The reports are available^{12,14,15,27,39}. The *Flora of Orissa* work that dealt with 2727 plant species included 2576 species of angiosperms belonging to 159 families.⁴¹ Recently some publications were made on floristic inventory and conservation aspects.^{1,4,5,18,19,24,25,28,29,37,38,40} A project was initiated to record the occurrence of species to supplement the angiosperm flora of Bhadrak district, Odisha, India.

Materials and Methods**Study site**

Bhadrak district (20° 43'-21° 13'N and 86° 6'-87° E) is located in northeast Odisha. It spreads over 2505 km² with 1.507 million inhabitants (2011 Census). Rice (*Oryza sativa*) is the major cereal crop cultivated by most of the people of the district. The district is located in the deltaic region close to the Bay of Bengal. Obviously, it has all the features of a coastal climate, i.e., saline weather, the influence of coastal wind, thunder storms