

Studies on the species diversity and phytosociological importance of woody climbers of district-Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh

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SUMMARY

The present paper enumerates woody climbers of district Jaunpur. Woody climbers show specialized phytosociological association as they entirely depend on their host plant for their support. In all 24 species have been collected belonging to 12 families. Family Bignoniaceae is dominant among woody climber represented by 4 species followed by family Asclepiadaceae representing 4 species. All representing families belong to dicot. Plants are arranged in alphabetical order followed by their macroscopic characters and ecological notes.

Key words : Climbers, Dicot, Ecological association

Jaunpur an eastern district of U.P. is situated between $25^{\circ} 24' - 26^{\circ} 12'$ north latitude and $82^{\circ} 7' - 83^{\circ} 5'$ east longitude. Total area of the district is 4038 km². Azamgarh, Sultanpur, Sant Ravidas Nagar and Varanasi are neighbouring district. Gomati and Sai are important rivers. Area is intercepted by many perennial lakes locally called 'Tal'. Some important tal are Bithan, Gujar. District is characterized by typical monsoon type of climate with different seasons, summer, rainy and winter. The average rainfall is 987cm annually which occur mainly during July to September. Soil of the area is sand loam, clay soil in low lying areas.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

For present work, collection trips were arranged in such a way so as to collect woody climbers of entire area at regular intervals. During trips observations on the morphological characters and ecological notes are recorded. The climbers are collected and the herbarium prepared. The plants are identified using local flora (Duthie, 1903-1929; Haines, 1921-25; Raizada, 1976). Name of family has been given in parenthesis against each species. Collected specimen includes wild as well as cultivated representative.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Adenocalymma nitidum Mart. (*Lahsunlata*, *Bignoniaceae*):

An extensive woody climber. Leaves digitately

compounded, 2-3 foliate, leaflets leathery above. Tendrils simple. Flowers purplish, scented. Commonly planted in garden crushed leaves smell like *Alium sativum* Lin. 'Lahsun'.

Allamanda cathartica Linn. (*Apocynaceae*):

A large woody climber with drooping branches. Leaves whorled and short petioled. Flowers large, yellow, generally planted in lans and garderns.

Antigonon leptopus H. and A. (*Polygonaceae*):

A much branched climber. Leaves ovate, coriaceous with undulate margin. Flowers small pink. Fruit 3-angled. Occasionally found along neglected walls.

Argeria nervosa (Burm. f.) Baj. (*Convolvulaceae*):

A large tomentose, woody climbers leaves large, cordate, silvery beneath. Flowers purple within and white woolly outside. Generally planted in villages climbing on hut.

Bougainvillea spectabilis Wild. (*Nyctaginaceae*):

A thorny, woody climber. Leaves ovate to orbicular ovate. Bracts 3 large, red, white, pink, or purple. Perianth whitish clustered. Abundantly planted in garden and along roadsides.

Campsis grandiflora K. Schum. (*Bignoniaceae*):

A woody climber with angled stem. Leaves compound, odd-pinnate, unequal sided at the base. Flowers orange color in drooping cyme. Generally planted in gardens. Plant shows myrmecophilly while flowering.

Cissus quadrangularis Linn. (*Vitaceae*):

A woody climber, succulent, with quadrangular stem.

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