

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 gardens.

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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Leaves short petioled ovate or reniform. Tendrils at distant nodes. Flowers greenish in short umbellate cyme. Occasionally planted in gardens.

***Clerodendrum splendens* G. Don. (Verbenaceae):**

A beautiful woody climber. Leaves sub-orbicular, coriaceous, dark green above. Flowers deep red in dense multi-flowered cyme. Commonly planted in gardens.

***Cocculus hirsutus* Diels (Menispermaceae):**

A tomentose climber, leaves with triangular obtuse lobes. Male and female flowers in axillary panicles. Fruit compressed commonly found in shrubby habitats.

***Cryptolepis buchanani* Roem. (Asclepiadaceae):**

A woody climber with twinner habit. Leaves opposite, elliptic, oblong, shining above. Flowers light yellow. Follicles divaricate. Occasionally found in shrubby habitats.

***Dregea volubilis* Benth. (Asclepiadaceae):**

A large climber with lenticellate bark. Leaves opposite broadly cordate, dark green above. Flowers light green in drooping umbels. Follicle ribbed. Occasionally found along drains and low lying areas climbing on large trees.

***Ichnocarpus frutescens* (Linn.) Ait. (Apocynaceae):**

An extensive climber. Leaves opposite, elliptic-oblong, dark green above. Flowers greenish. Follicle linear slender. Generally found in shrubby areas.

***Ipomoea cairica* (Linn) Sweet. (Convolvulaceae):**

A large extensively branched climber. Leaves deeply palmately 5-7 lobed. Flowers large, violet, capsule subglobose Rarely found in shrubby areas.

***Jasminum grandiflorum* Linn. (Oleaceae):**

A climbing shrub with drooping branches. Leaves opposite, rachis flattened, leaflets 5-8, elliptic. Flowers white, fragrant. Generally planted in temple and house compuses.

***Jasminum sambac* (Burm. f.) Ait. (Bela, Oleaceae):**

A much branched climber. Leaves broadly ovate. Flower white, fragrant. Generally planted in temple and house compuses.

***Porana paniculata* Roxb. (Convolvulaceae):**

A large tomentose climber. Leaves cordate, long petioled. Flower with small, white in drooping panicles. Capsule hairy, membranous. Rarely found in the area.

***Quisqualis indica* Linn. (Combretaceae):**

A climbing shrub. Leaves oblong-lanceolate. Petiole persistent and become thorny. Flowers red, pink or white. Abundantly found in gardens.

***Pyrostegia venusta* (Ken-Gawl.) Miers. (Bignoniaceae):**

An extensive climber. Leaves compound, leaflets ovate-oblong, with terminal tendrils. Flowers orange in drooping cyme. Occasionally found in gardens.

***Tecomaria capensis* (Thumb.) Spach. (Bignoniaceae):**

A climbing shrub. Leaves imparipinnate, leaflets ovate, serrate. Flowers orange-red. Generally found in shrubby habitats.

***Telosma pallida* (Roxb.) Craib. (Asclepiadaceae):**

A small sized woody twineer. Leaves ovate with cordate base. Flowers yellowish, scented. Follicle long tapering. Generally found in shrubby habitats.

***Tiliacora accuminata* (Lamk.) Miers. (Menispermaceae):**

A large woody climber. Leaves elliptic ovate with cordate base. Flowers yellow. Fruit reddish. Rarely found in shrubby habitats.

***Vallisneria spiralis* (L.) Kuntze. (Alismaceae):**

A large climber with drooping branches. Leaves opposite, oblong – lanceolate, petiole gland dotted. Flowers white. Fruit long.

***Ventilago madraspatana* Gaertn. (Rhamnaceae):**

A large woody climber. Leaves elliptic-ovate, crenulate. Flowers greenish in drooping panicles. Fruit sub-globose Rarely found in village orchards.

***Vitis vinifera* Linn. (Vitaceae):**

A large woody climber. Leaves tomentose deeply lobed, margins with acute teeth. Flowers greenish. Rarely cultivated for its edible fruits.

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