

## Present scenario of Angiospermic Flora of Bhopal District of Madhya Pradesh

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### Abstract

Because of its strategic location, in the heart of the country, the district has a rich floristic heritage which mainly comprises of angiosperms. Due to rapid urbanization, & industrialization, the composition of its flora has undergone drastic change. On one hand many existing species of plants have almost vanished from the scene and on the other new species from neighbouring states have invaded the area because of congenial climatic and edaphic conditions prevailing in the area. Apart from wild plants, new species of ornamental plants have also found a firm footage in the area. Some of the wild plants which used to grow abundantly are seldom seen. These are exemplified by species such as *Fumaria parviflora*, *Spergula arvensis*, *Lindernia ciliata*, *Indigofara linifolia*, *Anotis lancifolia*, *Polycarpaea corymbosa*, *Potentilla supina* and *Exacum petiolare* etc. Some arboreal species which have been introduced are *Conocarpus lancifolius*, *Wodyetia bifurcata*, *Malus domestica* etc.

**Key words :** Exotic, medicinal plants Endangered species, conservation.

**B**hopal the capital city of Madhya Pradesh has a panorama of wild, native, exotic (wild) and ornamental plants. Oommachan<sup>3</sup> has reported more than a thousand species of flowering plants belonging to various families. Khan<sup>1,2</sup> has reported more than 1200 species of angiosperms from Bhopal and its suburbs.

It is unfortunate that due to urbanization, industrialization and collection of plants for various purposes (medicine, Timber and fire wood), some species of plants have vanished from the area. The richness and diversity of Bhopal has made it one of the green capitals of India.

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Table-1. Some exotic plant species growing in Bhopal

S.No	Name of the species	Habit	Nativity
1.	<i>Adansonia digitata</i> L.	Tree	Africa (Yemen, Oman)
2.	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i> (L.) R.Br.	Tree	S. China
3.	<i>Antigonon leptopus</i> Hook. & Arn.	Climber	Mexico
4.	<i>Averrhoa carambola</i> L.	Small tree	S.E. Asia
5.	<i>Conocarpus lancifolius</i> Engl.	Tree	Somalia, Yemen
6.	<i>Crescentia cujete</i> L.	Tree	Central & S. America West Indies
7.	<i>Citrus maxima</i> (Burm.) Merr.	Small tree	S.E. Asia
8.	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> (Thunb.) Lindl.	Small Tree	S.C. China
9.	<i>Juglans regia</i> L.	Small Tree	Balkans, S.W. China
10.	<i>Malus domestica</i> Borkh	Small tree	Central Asia
11.	<i>Kleinhovia hospita</i> L.	Medium sized tree	Indonesia & Malaysia
12.	<i>Phyllanthus acidus</i> (L.) Skeels ( <i>Cicca acida</i> Merr.)	Small tree	Madagascar
13.	<i>Tabebuia aurea</i>	Medium sized tree	S. America, Brazil
14.	<i>Tabebuia rosea</i> DC.	Medium sized tree	Mexico, Ecuador, Venezuela
15.	<i>T. roseo-alba</i> (Ridl.) Sandwith	Tall tree	Brazil
16.	<i>Wodyetia bifurcata</i> A.K. Irvine	Small tree	Queensland, Australia

Table-2. Location and common names of some exotic species of Bhopal

S. No	Name of the species	Common name(s)	Location
1.	<i>Adansonia digitata</i>	Baobab, Khurasani Mandav imli	Berasia Area Colony
2.	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>	Scholars tree	VIP roadside
3.	<i>Antigonon leptopus</i>	Coral vine, Queen's wreath	Eidgah hills. VIP road fencings
4.	<i>Averrhoa carambola</i>	Star friut, Kamrakh	Dr. Jameel Ansari's residence, near Milan Shadi Hall, Koh-e-Fiza, Bhopal
5.	<i>Conocarpus lancifolius</i>	Qalab, Dhamas (Arabic)	Near Govt. H/s School Ahmedabad, Koh-e-Fiza
6.	<i>Crescentia cujete</i>	Calabash tree	Old R.T.O. Campus, Flag house, Ahmedabad & at the gate of Shaurya Smark
7.	<i>Citrus maxima</i>	Pomelo, Chakotra	Arera Hills Malak home, Eidgah Hills
8.	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat	Bada Bagh, Govt Hamidia College, Bhopal
9.	<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut, Akhrot	E-72, B.D.A. Colony, Koh-e-Fiza, Bhopal
10.	<i>Malus domestica</i>	Apple	Shalimar Garden, VIP Road, Bhopal
11.	<i>Kleinhovia hospita</i>	Guest tree, Bataria Teak	Hamidia College, Bhopal
12.	<i>Phyllanthus acidus</i>	Harpharori, Malay Gooseberry	Govt. Hamidia College Bhopal, Professors Colony
13.	<i>Tabebuia aurea</i>	Tree of gold	Koh-e-Fiza, Arera Colony
14.	<i>Tabebuia rosea</i>	Trumpet tree, Pink Poui	Najma Heplullah's Bungalow, VIP Road, Bhopal
15.	<i>T. roseo-alba</i>	White ipe, Lapacho blanco	Near Soofia Masjid Ahmedabad Palace
16.	<i>Wodyetia bifurcata</i>	Fox tail palm	Bhopal

Table-3. Endangered medicinal plants of Bhopal

S. No	Name of the species	Common name	family
1.	<i>Andragraphis paniculata</i> Burm. & Nees	Kalmegh	Acanthaceae
2.	<i>Anisomeles malabarica</i> (L.) R.Br. ex Sims	Malabar catmint	Lamiaceae
3.	<i>Asphodelus tenuifolius</i> Cav.	Pyazi	Liliaceae
4.	<i>Astercantha longifolia</i> (L.) Nees	Taalmakkana	Acanthaceae
5.	<i>Bacopa monnieri</i> (L.) Wettst.	Brahmi	Scrophulariaceae
6.	<i>Boerhaavia diffusa</i> L. nom. cons	Punarnava	Nyctaginaceae
7.	<i>Bridelia retusa</i> (L.) A. Juss.	Kasai	Euphorbiaceae
8.	<i>Clerodendron phlomoides</i> L.f.	Arni	Verbenaceae
9.	<i>Cuscuta chinensis</i> Lam.	Aftimun Vilayati	Cuscutaceae
10.	<i>Evolvulus nummularius</i> (L.) L.	Lakshmikanta	Convolvulaceae
11.	<i>Grangea maderaspatana</i> L.	Madras carpet	Asteraceae
12.	<i>Indigofera linifolia</i> (L.f.) Retz	Ratnamala, Hazardana	Fabaceae
13.	<i>Maytenus senegalensis</i> (Lam.) Exell	Henkal	Celastraceae
14.	<i>Psoralea corylifolia</i> L.	Babchi	Fabaceae
15.	<i>Sphaeranthus indicus</i> L.	Mundi, Gorakmundi	Asteraceae
16.	<i>Spilanthes acmella</i> (L.) Morray	Aqarqara	Asteraceae

*The species of plants which have almost vanished from the scene :*

Some of these species are:

*Fumaria parviflora*, *Spergula arvensis*, *Exacum petiolare*, *Stellaria media*, *Canscora diffusa*, *Cythocline purpurea*, *Glossocardia bosvallea* *Zeuxine sulcata* and scores of others.

Some of the exotic species, mainly arboreal are tabulated in table-1 Showing their nativity and table-2 showing their common names and exact location in Bhopal.

*Endangered medicinal plant species :*

A number of medicinally important plants have become endangered owing to their selective and unplanned removal by the herb collectors and practitioners of herbal medicine. Here is a brief list of such plants which face extermination from the floristic scenario of this area. The plants are given in table-3.

Concerted efforts are required for the conservation of the existing species of angiosperms in the area under study. There should be a ban for the indiscriminate felling of trees and uprooting of medicinal plants. This can be achieved by the active participation of NGOs and Government agencies. If concrete steps are taken forth with, we will lose the rich phytodiversity which comprises of a variety of herbs, shrubs, climbers, trees both indigenous and exotic plus an array of omanental plants from various parts of the country and exotics.

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