

# Studies On Some Sacred Plants of Narnala Wildlife Sanctuary, District Akola (MS)

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**Abstract**—The present paper highlights the significance of some sacred plants of Narnala Wildlife Sanctuary, District Akola. The sacred plants *Aegle marmelos* (L) Correa, *Annona squamosa* L, *Cynodon dactylon* (L.), *Mangifera indica* L. are used by the peoples during the various religious rituals, festivals and ceremonies for their pleasant and enrichment of the environment on specific occasion.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Narnala Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the popular and densely populated wildlife sanctuary of Maharashtra. The investigation comprises different localities in Narnala forest with 21°41'27" North Latitude and 77°1'42" East Longitude covering an area of 12.35 Sq.Km. Spread around Narnala Fort. The Narnala Wildlife Sanctuary is declared on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1997 and comprises of tropical dry deciduous forests. The area is well known for its richness of flora and fauna. The Sanctuary area has special historical, biological, mythological, archaeological, scenic and recreational

values and is a point of attraction for the tourists and the people of Maharashtra. (Gazette of India, 2022).

## II. STUDY SITE

Narnala Wildlife Sanctuary, situated at Akot tahasil of Akola District in Maharashtra. This study site visited periodically to collect information concern with the sacred plants. These plants are used by the peoples during the various religious rituals, festivals and ceremonies for their pleasant and enrichment of the environment on specific occasion.

## III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted after the ethical permission from Forest Department and Biodiversity Board. During study all the possible precautions and efforts were made to maintain the ecological temper and diversity conservation. The different sites of study area were visited at-least twice a week during study period to photograph the plants.

Table-

| SN. | Botanical Name                                 | Local Name | Family         | Part used              |
|-----|--|------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 1   | <i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L) Correa               | Bel        | Rutaceae       | Leaves, fruits         |
| 2   | <i>Annona squamosa</i> L.                      | Sitaphal   | Annonaceae     | Leaves, fruits         |
| 3   | <i>Azadirachta indica</i> A.Juss.              | Kaduneem   | Meliaceae      | Leaves, flower, fruits |
| 4   | <i>Bauhinia racemosa</i> Lam.                  | Aapata     | Fabaceae       | Leaves                 |
| 5   | <i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam.) Taub.           | Palas      | Fabaceae       | Flowers                |
| 6   | <i>Prosopis cineraria</i> (L.) Druce           | Shami      | Fabaceae       | Leaves, fruits         |
| 7   | <i>Calotropis procera</i> (Aiton) W.T.Aiton    | Rui        | Asclepiadaceae | Leaves, flower         |
| 8   | <i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers.             | Durva      | Poaceae        | Leaves                 |
| 9   | <i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L.                  | Awala      | Euphorbiaceae  | Leaves, fruits         |
| 10  | <i>Mallotus philippensis</i> (Lam.) Muell.Arg. | Kunku      | Euphorbiaceae  | Fruits                 |
| 11  | <i>Mangifera indica</i> L.                     | Amba       | Anacardiaceae  | Leaves, Fruits, Stem   |
| 12  | <i>Ensete superbum</i> Roxb.                   | RanKeli    | Musaceae       | Leaves, Flower, Fruits |
| 13  | <i>Oscimum sanctum</i> L.                      | Tulas      | Lamiaceae      | Leaves, Flowers        |

#### IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The above sacred plants used during the celebration of Gudipadva, Dashara, Diwali and Mahashivratri Utsav. All the peoples decorate their house door with Mango leaf Toran. In Ganpati utsav Durva used by the peoples for worshipping. The above listed sacred plants are used by the peoples in festivals and ceremonies to enrich the environment.

#### V. CONCLUSION

The Fabaceae is dominant in sacred plants played significant role in the life of human beings. The Narnala wildlife sanctuary is considered as the wealth of plants. The sacred plant parts such as leaves, flower, fruits and stem used by the peoples as per the requirements of the specific occasion. This plant maintains the pleasant environment on these festivals, ceremonies and havans. Therefore, the role and importance of sacred plants in the nature will be known to next generation for their peaceful and ecofriendly life.

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