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Original Research Paper

Wild Beautiful Plants of Ornamental Potential of Palghar Taluka, Palghar District, Maharashtra State, India

Botany

KEYWORDS: : Wild Beautiful Plants, Palghar Taluka, Palghar District, Ornamental, Maharashtra.

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ABSTRACT

Current study gives an account of Wild Flora observed and recorded from different localities of Palghar Taluka, Palghar District, Maharashtra State (18º42' and 20º20' North latitudes and 70º45' and 73º45' East longitude). A total of 47 species of 38 genera belonging to 21 families were found growing with promising use as ornamental plants.

1. Introduction

Human civilizations have and had made use of plants in many ways to simplify their life. The use includes fulfilling their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter which were reported in various old literatures that highlights the historic connection between plants and human beings (Datar and Vartak 1975). Man in some or the other ways relied on nature for plants. Nature was the only nurturer who took utmost care of the growing flora but due to over exploitation by mankind, many of them have become extinct and even counted as endangered (Arora 1993).

Wild ancestors of existing flowers are still found blooming in their natural habitat (Thomas et al., 2011). Flowers have always being considered as a symbol of beauty which increases the Aesthetic value when planted in garden around human residence (Bhattarcharjee, 2004). With increase in trends like landscape gardening, horticulture and floriculture, establishment of eco-friendly human habitats is emerging day by day (Reddy et al., 2012). Now day's large numbers of wild ornamental plants are used in landscape gardening as per changing taste and fashion (Ariyan et al., 2014).

Palghar Taluka is among 8 Talukas which comes under Palghar District. Palghar Taluka is also blessed with natural flora and fauna. Tribals residing in Palghar taluka make use of naturally available plants in their day to day life and also for treating various ailments from generation to generation (Tosh.1996, 2004 & 2012).

2. Materials and methods

Present investigation was carried out from Palghar Taluka, the tribal taluka of Palghar District. The geographical distribution of Palghar Taluka is 18º42' and 20º20' North latitudes and 70º45' and 73º45' East longitudes. Frequent visits to different localities of Palghar Taluka in different seasons have helped in assembling wild growing flowering species. In each and every visit, specimens were collected, they were properly identified using Flora (Cooke T, 1901-1908): (Ingalhalikar, 2001) and finally herbarium were prepared.

3. Results

The recorded plants are alphabetically arranged and given in Table 1. Graph 1. Shows species wise comparison among 21 families. Graph 2. Represent the Ornamental Utility of Recorded wild flora. Habit wise distribution of species is presented in Graph 3. Plate 1 indicates some beautiful flowers of wild origin. Altogether 47 species of 38 genera belonging to 21 families have been documented from the study area. There are 29 shrubs, 08 herbs, 06 Twiners, 02 climbers and 2 trees which unveil their potential approach as an decorative element for popular fields like landscape gardening, horticulture and floriculture.

4. Discussion

Plants can be potted in pots or either can be planted in lawns, hedges, edges, avenue etc. In some case plants inflorescence becomes the center of attraction while in some their leaves increases the overall charm of the area where it is planted hence on the basis of their unique features they can be used in various creative combinations. This can save some rare wild beautiful plants species used in traditional medicine as well as in ayurvedic medicines from extinction. This type of adaptation of wild beautiful plant species will protect our ecosystem from destruction due to introduction of different types of exotic plant species, some of which have very bad impact on our environment in many ways like ground water table depletion affecting the pattern of pollinating animals and other animals, soil erosion etc. Further research on these wild beautiful species to create better adaptable varieties can be done by planting them in different agro-climatic zones. We hope that our work will serve as a stepping stone for researchers and people who are curious in wild ornamental plants.

Acknowledgements

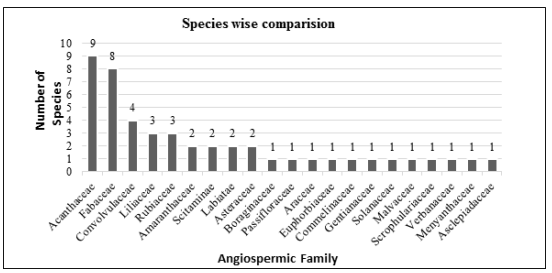
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Table 1: List of Wild Beautiful Plants in Study

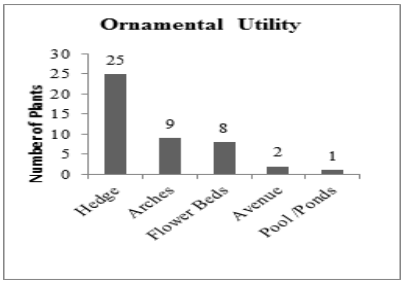
Sr. no	Botanical Name	Family	Habit	Phenology	Flower/ colour of Inflorescence	Ornamental utility
1	*Alternanthera philoxeroides* Griseb.	Amaranthaceae	Herb	Throughout the year	White	Hedge
2	*Ariposis peltata* Nimmo ex Grah.	Araceae	Herb	June-September	Yellow	Potted in Shady Area
3	*Blepharis asperrima* Nees.	Acanthaceae	Shrub	October-December	Blue and White	Hedge
4	*Barleria cristata* L.	Acanthaceae	Shrub	October-Decem-ber	Violet and Blue	Hedge
5	*Barleria gibsoni* L.	Acanthaceae	Shrub	September-November	Violet and Blue	Hedge
6	*Barleria prionitis* L.	Acanthaceae	Shrub	October-January	Yellow	Hedge
7	*Breynia patens* Rolfe.	Euphorbiaceae	Shrub	April-June	Yellow to Reddish-Green	Hedge
8	*Costus speciosus* Smith.	Scitaminae	Shrub	July-September	White with center portion in Red	Hedge
9	*Celosia argentia* L.	Amaranthaceae	Shrub	October-December	White and Pink	Hedge
10	*Cyanotis cristata* Schultes F.	Commelinaceae	Shrub	August-October	Blue and Violet	Hedge

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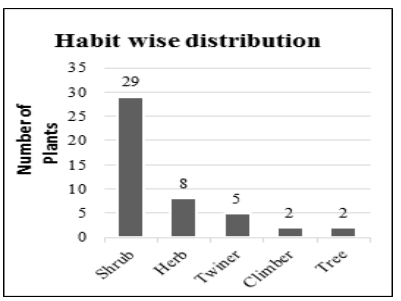
11	*Canavalia lineate* DC.	Fabaceae	Shrub	October-January	Blue and Violet	Arches
12	*Curcuma pseudomonta* Grah.	Scitamineae	Herb	July-September	Pinkish white	Seasonal Flower Beds
13	*Crotalaria retusa* L.	Fabaceae	Shrub	September-November	Yellow	Hedge
14	*Crotalaria verrucosa* L.	Fabaceae	Herb	October- November	Blue and White	Hedge
15	*Chlorophytum tuberosum* Baker.	Liliacea	Herb	June-July	White	Hedge
16	*Datura metal* L.	Solanaceae	Shrub	Throughout the year	White	Hedge
17	*Desmodium triquetrum* DC.	Fabaceae	Shrub	October- November	Violet and Blue	Hedge
18	*Desmodium polycarpum* DC.	Fabaceae	Shrub	August-October	Pink and Violet	Hedge
19	*Exacum bicolor* Roxb.	Gentianaceae	Shrub	August-November	White and Indigo	Hedge
20	*Eranthemum roseum* R.BR.	Acanthaceae	Shrub	November-January	Violet	Hedge
21	*Gardenia lucida* Roxb.	Rubiaceae	Tree	March-June	White	Avenue
22	*Gloriosa superba* L.	Liliaceae	Climber	July-October	Reddish-Yellow	Arches
23	*Hibiscus hirtus* L.	Malvaceae	Shrub	October-January	White-Some pinkish shade	Hedge
24	*Iphigenia indica* A.Gray.	Liliaceae	Shrub	June-July	Pink	Hedge
25	*Ipomoea nil* L.	Convolvulaceae	Twiner	August-November	Indigo with White center	Arches
26	*Ipomoea eriocarpa* R.BR.	Convolvulaceae	Twiner	September- October	White	Arches
27	*Ipomoea hederifolia* L.	Convolvulaceae	Twiner	October- December	Red	Arches
28	*Ipomoea obscura* Ker-Gawl.	Convolvulaceae	Twiner	October- December	Yellow-White	Arches
29	*Leonotis neptifolia* R.BR.	Labiatae	Shrub	September-November	Orange-Yellow	Hedge
30	*Limnophila gratioloides* R.BR.	Scrophulariaceae	Herb	November-May	Light Blue	Near Pool/Ponds
31	*Lippia nodiflora* Michaux.	Verbenaceae	Herb	Throughout the year	White-Some shade of Pink, Red and Yellow	Flower Beds
32	*Lepidagathis trinervis* Nees.	Acanthaceae	Shrub	November-February	Pinkish White	Seasonal Flower Beds
33	*Lepidagathis cuspidata* Nees.	Acanthaceae	Shrub	November-March	Yellow and White	Hedge
34	*Leucas aspera* Spreng.	Labiatae	Shrub	October-December	White	Flower Beds
35	*Nymphoides indica* L.	Menyanthaceae	Shrub	April-September	White	Pool/Ponds
36	*Oxystelma esculentum* R.BR.	Asclepiadaceae	Twiner	May-December	Pink	Arches
37	*Pavetta indica* L.	Rubiaceae	Shrub	March-May	White	Hedge
38	*Passiflora foetida* L.	Passifloraceae	Climber	May-August	White-Some shade of Pink and Indigo	Arches
39	*Randia dumetorum* Lamk.	Rubiaceae	Tree	May-June	Yellow-White	Avenue
40	*Strobilanthes callosus* Nees.	Acanthaceae	Shrub	September-November	Violet	Hedge
41	*Sphaeranthus indicus* L.	Asteraceae	Herb	November-January	Pink	Seasonal Flower Beds
42	*Smithia purpurea* Hook.	Fabaceae	Shrub	September- December	Yellow	Seasonal Flower Beds
43	*Smithia sensitive* Ait.	Fabaceae	Shrub	August- November	Yellow	Seasonal Flower Beds
44	*Thunbergia fragrans* Roxb.	Acanthaceae	Twiner	October- November	White	Arches
45	*Tricholepis amplexicaulis* C.B.Clarke.	Asteraceae	Shrub	November-December	White and Indigo	Seasonal Flower Beds
46	*Trichodesma indicum* R.BR.	Boraginaceae	Shrub	August- November	Bluish-White	Hedge
47	*Uraria picta* Desv.	Fabaceae	Shrub	August- September	Blue and Pink	Hedge



Graph 1: Species wise comparison between 21 Families.



Graph 2: Distribution of species based on Ornamental Utility.



Graph 3: Habit wise distribution of species.

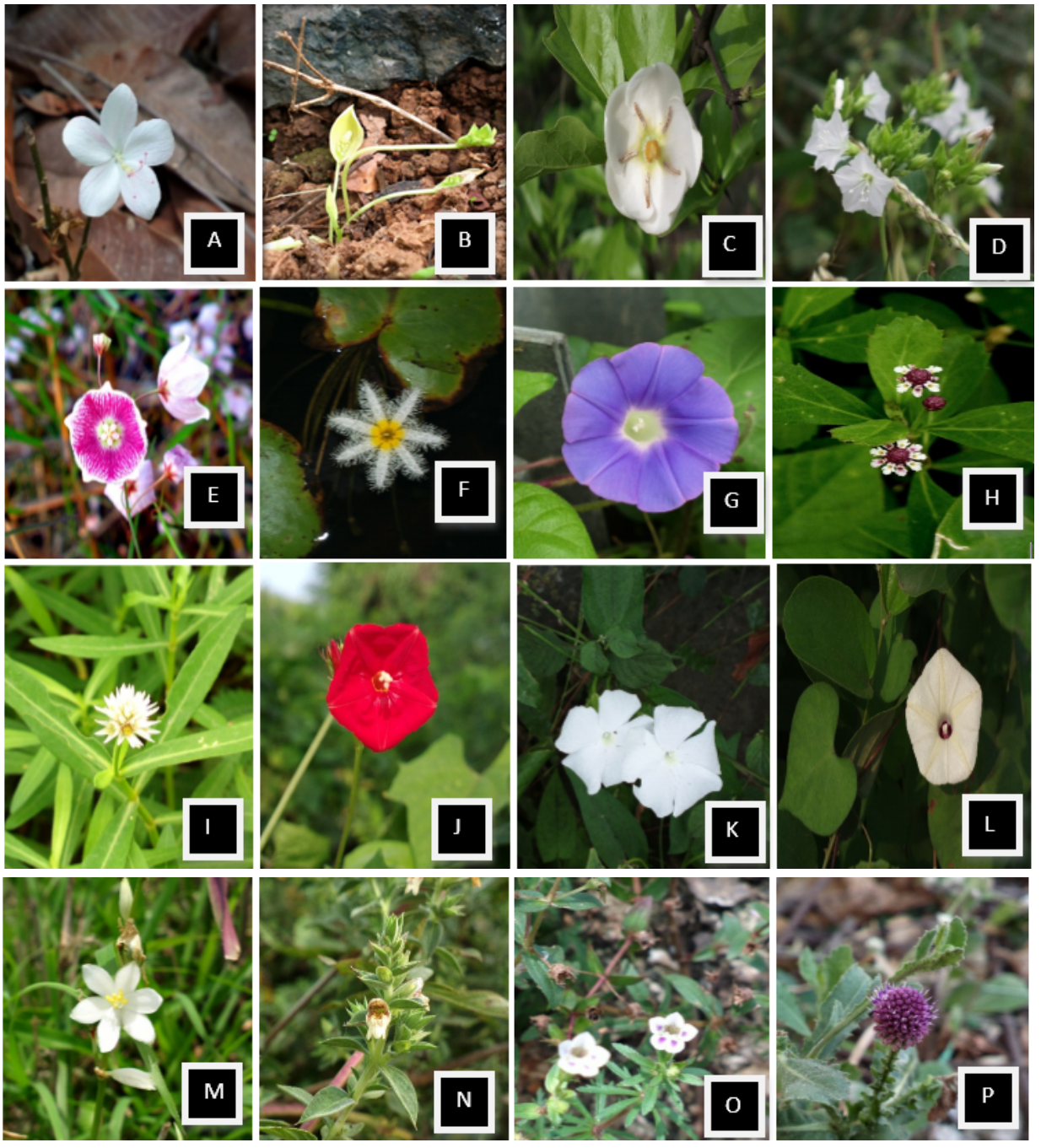


Plate 1:Beautiful flowers of wild origin

A. *Hibiscus hirtus* L.
B. *Ariposis peltata* Nimmo ex Grah.
C. *Gardenia lucida* Roxb.
D. *Ipomoea eriocarpa* R.BR
E. *Oxystelma esculentum* R.BR.
F. *Nymphoides indica* L.
G. *Ipomoea nil* L.
H. *Lippia nodiflora* Michaux.
I. *Alternanthera philoxeroide*s Griseb
J. *Ipomoea hederifolia* L.
K. *Thunbergia fragrans* Roxb.
L. *Ipomoea obscura Ker*-Gawl.
M. *Chlorophytum tuberosum* Baker.
N. *Lepidagathis cuspidata* Nees.
O. *Limnophila gratioloides* R.BR.
P. *Sphaeranthus indicus* L.

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