

Biodiversity of plants in lonar lake forest.

¹Dr. Vinayak Rathod

¹Lecturer in Botany, ¹Department of Botany.

¹Vasantaraj Science Jr. College, Chorpangra, Buldhana.

Date of Submission: 02-01-2026

Date of acceptance: 10-01-2026

Abstract- This study has been undertaken to study biodiversity of plant in lonar lake forest. Biodiversity that we see today is the outcome of over 3.5 billion of years of evolutionary history mainly influenced by natural processes and of late influence of humans. The study has been carried out for the basic concept of biodiversity such as levels and patterns of biodiversity, expanse, importance, loss and conservation methods and efforts undertaken.

Keywords-

history, importance, evolution, levels, patterns.

I. Introduction

Diversity is variety. This variety of life is called Biodiversity. Biodiversity includes a vast array of species of microorganism-viruses, algae, fungi, plants animals occurring on Earth, either in terrestrial or aquatic habitat and the ecological complexes of which they are part. In lonar forest, the diversity is with respect to size, shape, colour, form, reproduction, mobility, mode of nutrition, type of habitat, duration of life cycle span.

This is due to attempt of living beings to accommodate with different environmental conditions (climate, edaphic, topographic, geographic, etc.) or situation, solely for their survival and perpetuation. In doing so, living organism adopts themselves to overcome different situations and thus develops distinct but different features and that has actually leads to diversity in them.

The diversity in features become influence in environments serves as basis for diversity.

The term Biodiversity was actually coined by Walter and Rosen (1982) but the term was proposed by sociologist Edward Wilson to describe combined

diversity at all the levels of biological organization.

II. Objectives

Protection, upliftment and scientific management of biodiversity to maintain its optimum level and to derive sustainable benefits for the present and future strategies.

III. Material and Methods

To study the biodiversity of plant in lonar lake forest, the main method is used the vegetation study. Later on another method is used as to initiate field study. With these study different levels and patterns of biodiversity of plants has been studied in lonar lake forest area.

Levels of biodiversity of plants in lonar lake forest

– diversity of plants can be observed at various levels, ranging from molecular to ecosystem levels. Major interrelated levels are genetic diversity, species diversity (community), ecosystem diversity (ecological)

Genetic diversity- It includes variations within a population and diversity between population that are associated with adaptation to local condition. This also improve the chances of continuation of species in the changing environmental condition or allow the best adapted to survive.

Another case of genetic diversity is a medicinal plant *Raulfia vomitoria* which secretes active components reserpine is found. This plant shows variation in terms of potency and concentration of active chemical, from location to location.

Plant found which shows genetic diversity is - *Raulfia vomitoria*

Species diversity- The number of species of plants that are present in a lonar lake forest region, constitute its species diversity. Some area are richer in species than the other areas. Species diversity related with variety of species of plants (species

richness) as well as number of individuals of species of plants (species evenness) observed in area under study. Terrestrial plant species are more in lonar lake forest.

Ecological diversity – It is related to the different types of ecosystems/habitats within a given geographical area of lonar lake forests.

Patterns of Biodiversity – There are two patterns: Latitudinal and Altitudinal gradient and species-area relationship.

Method of study of biodiversity of plants – There are different methods of study of biodiversity: transect sampling, quadrat sampling, species inventories.

Another methods are – systematic collection of data, species distribution abundance, community composition within a given area. (Agarkar S.B. 1953)

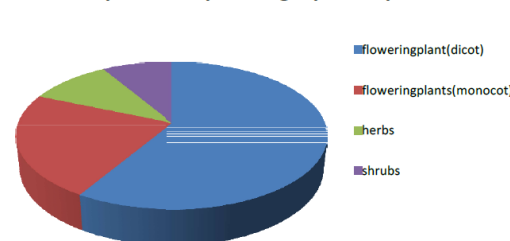
Vegetation/field survey and collection of data – The field survey of lonar lake forest for study of biodiversity of plants are carried out and followings are the species of plants are found as –

Table-1

Sr.no	Name of the plants species		
1	Ashvagandha	40	Bel
2	Valerian	41	Vasaka
3	Indian squill	42	Calamus
4	Tylophora	43	Avonite
5	Gokhru	44	Indian acalypha
6	Bishknapra	45	Sida
7	Tinospora	46	Saussura
8	Belleric myrobalan	47	Ashoka
9	Tamarind	48	Sandalwood
10	Jmbol	49	Castor oil seed
11	Lodh		
12	Chirayata	50	Rhubarb
13	Karaya	51	Raulfia
14	Kantakari	52	Indian kino
15	Digitalis	53	Psyloria
16	Dathura	54	Indian podophyllum
17	Cymbopogon	55	Ishbagul
18	Costus	56	Picrorhiza
19	Coscinium	57	Pergulatia

20	Coptis	58	Harmal
21	Colchicum	58	Turpeth
22	Cinnamum	59	Tulsi
23	Cinchona	60	Jatamansi
24	Ipecac	61	Kamlala
25	Centratherum	62	Madhuca
26	Centrela	63	Lobelia
27	Cathranthus	64	Henna
28	Cassia	65	Kaladana
29	Butea	66	Hyoscyamus
30	Punarnava	67	Talamakhana
31	Indian barberry	68	Chalmogra
32	Brahmi	69	Kurchi
33	Nim	70	Indian sarsaparilla
34	Bellodonna	71	Liquorice
35	Wormseed	72	Indian gentian
36	Indian birthwort	73	Wintergreen
37	Kalmegh	74	Asafoetida
38	Chhatim	75	Euphorbia

Known species of plants-graphic representation



Graphic representation of known species of plant.

Graphic representation of known species of plant.

In the diagram, we have identified around 75 species of plant in lonar lake forest. But major concern is the possibility of loss of these varieties. It needs conservation. (vegetation study)

IV. Result and conclusions-

It should be made clear that, the purpose of the present study is to prepare plant products and conservation of biodiversity of plant for valuable products from nature. (Biswas K. 1956)

It is concluded that, the immense importance of biodiversity and dire need to protect it. (B.P.C. 1963)

We do not right to destroy the diversity simply because we share the Earth with them

All living beings have equal right to survive

irrespective of their known or prospective economic use. (Bhandarichandraraj 1951-57)

Not least important reason is that so many plants of medicinal value, actual or potential, grow there. (Jain SK 1963)

For millennia, early and primitive culture have understood the healing and restorative property of wild plant, not only those growing in rain forests or the tropics. Even with the modern ability to synthesize drugs, wild plants are today of crucial importance in pharmacology. (Bhatnagar, S.S., 1961)

References-

- Agarkar S.B. 1953. Gazetteer of Bombay state, General - A botany pt-1- Medicinal plants, Bombay.
- B.P.C. 1963. The pharmaceutical codex, London.
- Bhandarichandraraj 1951-57. Vanaushadi chandrodaya Varanasi, 10 parts (in hindi) (49) 5
- Biswas K. 1956. Common medicinal plants of Darjeeling and the Sikkim Himalayas Calcutta.
- Bhatnagar, S.S., 1961. Physiological activity of Indian medicinal plants, J. sci. & industry. res. suppl. 20A; 1-24
- Chopra R.N. 1958. Chopra indigenous drugs of India, New Delhi.
- Gupta R. 1972. Vital Drugs and essential oil-bearing plants as future cash crop in India, Indian farming, p-33.
- Jain SK 1963. Studies of Indian Ethnobotany - plant used in medicine. region. res. la. jammu 1(2); 126-128
- Majumdar G.P. 1927. Vana spati. plants and plant life as in Indian treatises and traditions, Calcutta.
- Santpau, H. 1953. The flora of Khandala on the western ghat of India Rec. Bot. surv. India (16) 1-335.
- Several journals on general science, economic botany, particularly followings, *Indian Journals of Medical research and Journals of Scientific and Industrial Research*.