Annual Report

2023-2024

AMBIKA PRASAD RESEARCH FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

AMBIKA PRASAD RESEARCH FOUNDATION
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CONTENTS

Better Environment Better Tomorrow

DR. SANJEET KUMAR
CEO, AMBIKA PRASAD RESEARCH FOUNDATION, ODISHA

A better environment ensures a better tomorrow by encouraging a sustainable future for all living beings. Environmental health is intricately linked to the well-being of humans, animals, and plants, forming a delicate balance that supports life on Earth. By taking conscious steps to protect and restore our environment, we make the way for a healthier & more prosperous future. Global warming, driven by human activities, causes a significant threat to future generations. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency, adopting green technologies, and transitioning to low-carbon economies, we can check the adverse effects of climate change. This dynamic approach will ensure more stable weather patterns, protecting agriculture, reducing the frequency of natural disasters, and preserving natural habitats. Additionally, the conservation of biodiversity is crucial in maintaining a robust ecosystem. Protecting natural habitats and endangered species is vital which promotes the ecological equilibrium. Biodiversity boosts the productivity of ecosystems and offers valuable resources like food, medicine, and raw materials, which play a key role in ensuring economic stability and human existence. A collective effort towards a better environment lead a healthier, more sustainable world. We, representing Ambika Prasad Research Foundation in Odisha, emphasizing the importance of collective effort in preserving the environment and forests to enhance the overall quality of life on our planet. The message we wish to convey is that the responsibility does not lie solely with one individual, but with all of us working together to save the environment and create a sustainable future for all.

Sanjeet Kumar

(Sanjeet Kumar)

Celebration of Ecological days

Ambika Prasad Research Foundation (APRF) takes an initiative to celebrate various ecological days throughout the year. Celebrating these days can be a great way to raise awareness about environmental issues and encourage actions that support sustainability.

World Environment Day (5th June, 2023)

Celebrated World Environment Day by throwing seed ball of native species near Mahanadi River areas like *Dalbergia sissoo, Semecarpus anacardium, Anacardium occidentale, Gmelina arborea, Pongamia pinnata* etc.

Vanamahothsav (1st -7th July, 2023)

The team celebrated Vanamahotsav by planting saplings of indigenous tree species like *Saraca asoca, Schleichera oleosa, Terminalia bellirica, Syzygium cumini, Pongamia pinnata, Azadirachta indica* etc. near Mahanadi River areas.

National Bird Day (5th Jan 2024)

APRF team celebrated National Bird Day by counting the local birds available in urban areas near Mahanadi River and observed Asian green bee-eater, Yellow-wattled lapwing, Purple sunbird, Yellow-eyed babbler etc.

National Wildlife Week (2nd - 8th, October)

APRF celebrated National Wildlife Week by educating the Forest Officials of Jamtara Forest Division, Jharkhand on biodiversity, and conservation.

World Wetlands Day (2nd Feb, 2024)

APRF celebrated World Wetlands Day at Naraj by collecting plastic and other waste from river beds, talking to local communities, and documenting medicinal plants and birds.

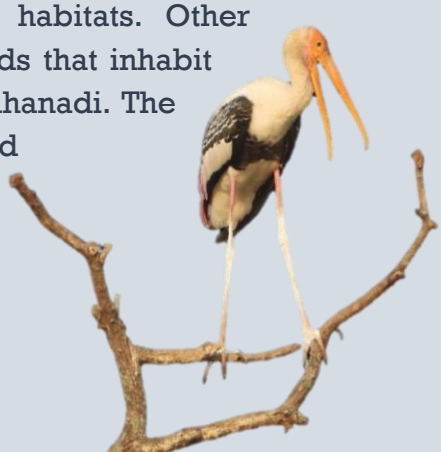
World Sparrow Day (20th March, 2024)

APRF initiatives to preserve sparrows and other small birds in urban areas by providing grains, water, and nests, APRF is tackling several of the critical challenges that birds face in urban environments. It not only aids in the direct survival of sparrows and other small birds in urban settings but also enhances urban biodiversity, which benefits the ecological health of the city.

APRF's celebration of key ecological days such as World Wildlife Day (March 3, 2024), International Day of Forests (March 21, 2024), and World Water Day (March 22, 2024) indicates a comprehensive approach to raising awareness and promoting conservation of our natural resources and biodiversity. By engaging with these dedicated days, APRF effectively uses them as platforms to inform communities to take part in conservation efforts. These celebrations help to foster a deeper connection between individuals and the natural world, encouraging actions that contribute to environmental sustainability. Through education and advocacy, APRF aims to inspire a more conscientious approach to environmental stewardship.

Avifaunal Diversity of Mahanadi River

Ambika Prasad Research Foundation has conducted extensive surveys to document the avifaunal diversity along the Mahanadi River and documented 54 species of water birds from 15 families. Out of these, 46 species are categorized as Least Concern, 6 species as Near Threatened, and 2 species as Endangered. This diversity highlights the ecological significance of the area, indicating that these birds play a crucial role in maintaining the balance of the river's ecosystems. The detailed findings emphasize the importance of conservation efforts to protect these avian species and their habitats. Other documented species include various migratory birds that inhabit the riverine and wetland ecosystems around the Mahanadi. The foundation's efforts are aimed at conservation and raising awareness about these avian species and their habitats.

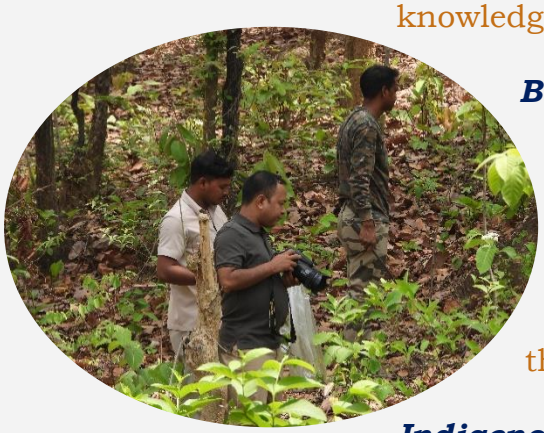


Some common water birds found in the vicinity of the Mahanadi River are Grey heron, Purple heron, Cattle egret, Great egret, Intermediate egret, Little egret, Oriental darter, Common moorhen, White-breasted waterhen, Grey-headed swamphen, Eurasian coot, Pheasant-tailed Jacana, Black-winged stilt, River lapwing, Lesser whistling duck, Little Grebe, Indian spot-billed duck, Northern shoveler, Northern pintail Anas, Common snipe, Red-crested pochard, Painted stork etc.

It was observed that the most common birds in semi-urban areas near Mahanadi River are Red vented bulbul, Black drongo, Asian pied starling, Paddy field pipit, Purple-rumped sunbird, Spotted dove, White browed wagtail, White throated kingfisher, Common hoopoe, Coppersmith barbet, House sparrow, Indian robin, Indian roller, Magpie robin, Pied bush chat, Rock pigeon, Rosy starling etc

Assessment of Floral Diversity in Rourkela Forest Division

Ambika Prasad Research Foundation carried out a study in the Rourkela Forest Division to evaluate biodiversity and indigenous traditional knowledge.



Biodiversity Assessment

- To enlist the diverse range of plant and animal species within the forest.
- To identify the species that comes under threatened category.
- To describe various habitat types and their ecological characteristics.

Indigenous Traditional Knowledge

- To document the traditional uses of local flora and fauna for medicinal purposes.
- To record cultural practices related to sustainable use and conservation of natural resources.

- To capture traditional agricultural methods and pest control practices.

Compiling a comprehensive list of species found in the Rourkela Forest Division and identifying species that require conservation efforts and proposing measures to protect them. It helps for assessing the overall health and diversity of the ecosystem. Studying Indigenous Traditional Knowledge for documenting plants and animals used in traditional medicine and recording rituals, customs, and traditional practices related to biodiversity. It helps in capturing traditional agricultural knowledge that promotes sustainable farming practices.

Significance

- Providing data to inform conservation policies and strategies.
- Highlighting the importance of involving local communities in conservation efforts.
- Ensuring that valuable traditional knowledge is documented and preserved for future generations.
- Raising awareness about the importance of biodiversity and traditional knowledge within and beyond the local community.

Documentation Of Urban Flora

Ambika Prasad Research Foundation has initiative to document urban biodiversity in the Cuttack district, particularly in the areas surrounding the Mahanadi River. This initiative is aimed at understanding and preserving the rich ecological diversity found in this urban setting. Teams APRF conducted many field surveys in different season to identify and record plant species. These surveys cover different habitats, including parks, wetlands, riverbanks, and urban gardens.

Objectives of the Initiative

Biodiversity Assessment: The primary goal is to assess and document the available plant species in the urban and semi-urban areas of Cuttack, particularly around the Mahanadi River. This includes enlisting of native species, as well as identifying invasive species that may be present. It is helpful to monitor the health of local ecosystems. This involves studying the interactions between

different species and their environments, and understanding how urban development impacts on ecological balance.

Conservation Efforts: The documentation will provide crucial data that can be used to build conservation strategies. This includes protecting endangered species and critical habitats, and developing plans to enhance urban green spaces.

Public Awareness and Education: Another important objective is to raise awareness among local communities about the importance of biodiversity and conservation.

In summary, the initiative by the Ambika Prasad Research Foundation to document urban biodiversity in Cuttack district near the Mahanadi River is a significant step towards understanding and preserving the region's ecological wealth. It aims to create a detailed inventory of local flora and fauna, promote conservation efforts, and engage the community in sustainable environmental practices.

Floral Diversity of Mahanadi River

The area around Cuttack along the Mahanadi River is a hub of floral diversity, featuring a rich mix of aquatic plants, riparian flora, wetland vegetation, and agricultural crops. This diverse plant life thrives due to the unique interplay between the river, the surrounding wetlands, and the adjacent forested areas. Such an environment fosters a dynamic and biologically rich ecosystem. Common aquatic and riparian plants include *Cleome viscosa, Heliotropium indicum, Lindernia anagallis, Lindernia procumbens, Mecardonia procumbens* are often found in moist, marshy areas, contributing to the biodiversity with their small, colourful flowers.

Verbascum coromandelianum

Wetland areas host species like *Murdannia spirata*, which thrives in waterlogged conditions, and *Centella asiatica*, known for its medicinal properties. *Croton bonplandianus*, a common herb, and *Enhydra fluctuans* an aquatic herb with floating stems, also add to the rich tapestry of wetland flora. Some common flora includes *Oxalis corniculata, Alternanthera sessilis, Persicaria hydropiper, Sida cordifolia, Chrozophora rottleri, Rumex maritimus, Tamarix ericoides* etc.

Conservation efforts in the region are crucial to maintain this unique ecosystem. Protecting the diverse flora ensures the sustainability of the environment and the well-being of the local communities. Initiatives to control pollution, manage wetlands, and promote afforestation are essential to preserve the dynamic and biologically diverse environment of the Mahanadi River near Cuttack.

Kalinga Herbal Fair

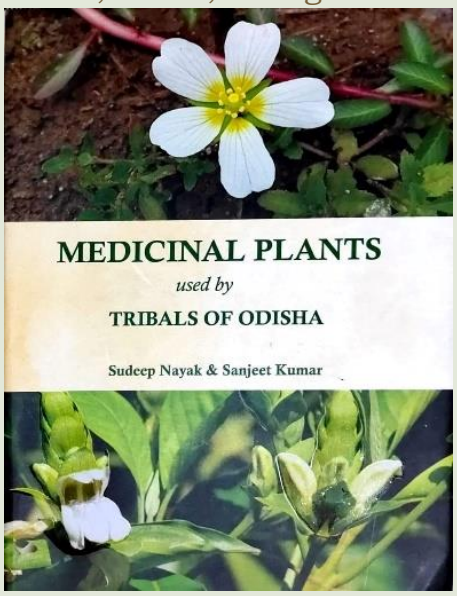
Odisha, showcased a variety of herbal and medicinal plants, promoting traditional herbal knowledge and sustainable practices. The event featured numerous stalls and exhibitors, including local farmers, herbal practitioners, and entrepreneurs. It provided a platform for exchanging knowledge on the cultivation, processing, and marketing of herbal products. Additionally, the fair included workshops, seminars, and cultural programs to educate and engage the public on the benefits and uses of medicinal plants. The fair aimed to boost the herbal industry, support local communities, and encourage the conservation of biodiversity in Odisha.

During this, Dr. Sanjeet Kumar addressed students from Rama Devi Women's University, Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar Autonomous College (BJB), Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT), and other colleges, emphasizing the importance of biodiversity conservation. In his speech, Dr. Kumar highlighted the critical role that young people play in preserving the rich biodiversity of Odisha. He encouraged students to actively participate in conservation efforts and to integrate sustainable practices into their daily lives and future careers.

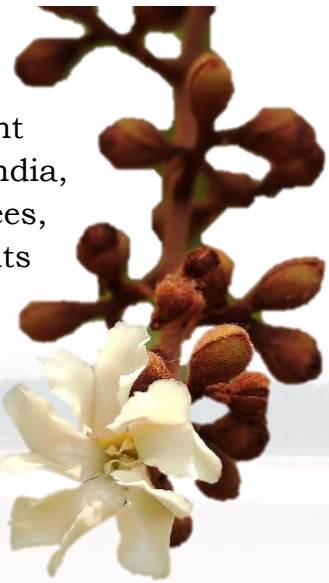
Dr. Kumar discussed the various threats to biodiversity, including habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change, and underscored the need for concerted efforts to mitigate these challenges. He also highlighted the significance of traditional knowledge and practices in maintaining ecological balance and urged students to engage with local communities to learn and preserve this wisdom. The student meet served as an interactive platform where students could exchange

ideas, learn from experts, and explore opportunities in the field of environmental conservation and herbal medicine. Dr. Kumar's address aimed to inspire and empower the next generation of conservationists to take proactive steps towards safeguarding their natural heritage.

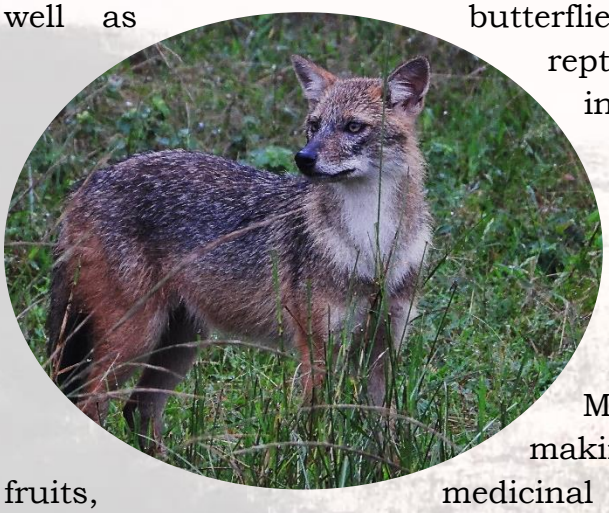
During the 16th State Level Kalinga Herbal Fair, 2023, a significant highlight was the inauguration of the book titled "Medicinal Plants Used by Tribals of Odisha." This book was a collaborative effort by a team from the Ambika Prasad Research Foundation (APRF) in association with the State Medicinal Plants Board. The book provides an in-depth look into the rich heritage of medicinal plants traditionally used by the tribal communities of Odisha. It serves as a valuable resource for understanding the ethnobotanical practices of these communities, documenting various plants and their applications in traditional medicine. This compilation aims to preserve indigenous knowledge and promote the conservation of medicinal plant species.



Biodiversity Assessment in Jamtara Forest Division, Jharkhand



A field survey conducted in 2023 at Ladna-Guvakola-Chandradipa-Nildaha Hills area, Jamtara Range, Jamtara Forest Division, Jharkhand revealed a significant biodiversity. Dr. Sanjeet Kumar, APRF, Odisha, India, identified 435 species of plants in the area, including trees, herbs, shrubs, climbers, and ground orchids. These plants belong to approximately 90 different families. The most prevalent family observed was Poaceae with 66 species, followed by Fabaceae with 34 species, Cyperaceae with 33 species, Malvaceae with 22 species, and Asteraceae with 16 species, among others. Additionally, the Ladhna-Guvakola hills area is known for its abundance of ground orchids such as Habenaria plantaginea and Geodorum densiflorum. The survey also identified 119 species of birds, as well as butterflies, moths, dragonflies, insects, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. The indigenous fish species documented in the survey highlight the importance of Ladhna dam as a source of livelihood for tribal communities such as the Santhal, Munda, Bhuiyan etc. These communities rely on the hills for Minor Forest Products like grasses for making broom, wild edible fruits, medicinal plants, mushrooms along with that fire woods and stuffs for day-to-day life. The area also provides preferred food plants for Asian Elephants and serves as a habitat for key species like Indian Jackal, Indian Hare, Wild boar, and Porcupine. The rich diversity of flora, fauna, and local communities in Ladhna-Guvakola hills area suggests its potential as a biological heritage site.



Survey Work

Installation of Grains and Nest

Ambika Prasad Research Foundation (APRF) has taken an initiative to install nests and provide grains for small birds such as sparrows and munias as part of their conservation efforts. This initiative is designed to address the decline in populations of these birds, which is attributed to factors such as urbanization, habitat destruction, and environmental pollution.

Installation of Nests: To create safe and conducive nesting environments for small birds whose natural habitats are diminishing. This is essential for their breeding and population recovery. The nests are crafted to resemble natural nesting sites and are strategically placed in urban and semi-urban areas to provide shelter in adverse weather conditions.

Provision of Grains: To ensure that small birds have a reliable source of food, which is often lacking in urban environments due to the reduction of natural food sources. The foundation supplies grains that are part of the natural diet of birds like sparrows, thereby supporting their nutritional needs

Environmental Impact

Biodiversity Preservation: By providing habitats and food sources, the initiative helps to support and maintain small bird populations, thereby contributing to overall biodiversity.

Ecosystem Benefits: Small birds play a crucial role in pollination, seed dispersal, and pest control, which are vital for ecological balance.

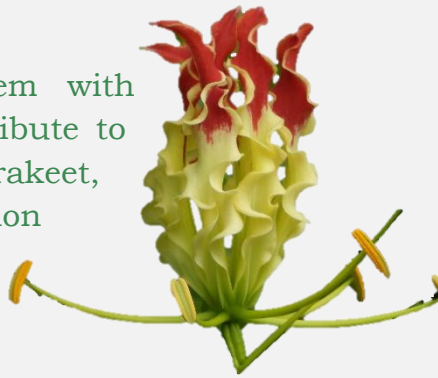
This conservation effort by the Ambika Prasad Research Foundation aims to mitigate the adverse effects of urbanization and environmental degradation on small bird populations. Through the installation of nests and provision of food, the foundation is making significant strides in ensuring the survival and thriving of species like sparrows. This initiative not only aids in the preservation of these birds but also promotes a greater understanding and appreciation of wildlife conservation among the locals.

Monitoring of Miyawaki Plantation

Team Ambika Prasad Research Foundation has documented the rich floral and faunal diversity in a successfully developed Miyawaki forest located in the Badampahar Range under the Rairangpur Forest Division. This achievement highlights the potential of the Miyawaki method for rapid forest regeneration and biodiversity enhancement.

The study documented a diverse array of plant species within the Miyawaki forest, including 30 native tree species like *Aegle marmelos, Shorea robusta, Pterocarpus marsupium, Phyllanthus emblica, Terminalia arjuna, Terminalia bellirica, Terminalia chebula, Ficus benghalensis, Ficus racemose, Ficus religiosa* etc. that contribute to the forest canopy. Shrubs and herbs support a balanced ecosystem.

The faunal survey revealed a thriving ecosystem with numerous species. Various bird species that contribute to seed dispersal and pest control like Alexandrine parakeet, Asian koel, Black drongo, Black-hooded oriole, Common



myna, Coppersmith barbet, Eurasian collared dove, Green bee-eater etc. Small mammals like rabbit that play roles in the food chain and soil aeration. A variety of insects that are crucial for pollination and as a food source for other animals. Reptiles and amphibian species were also documented that indicate a healthy, moist forest floor environment.

Impact and Significance

The successful development of the Miyawaki forest in the Badampahar Range demonstrates several key impacts. It enhanced Biodiversity: The increase in plant and animal species supports ecological balance and resilience. Climate Mitigation: Dense forests act as carbon sinks, helping to mitigate climate change. Soil and Water Conservation: Improved soil structure and water retention contribute to reduced erosion and better watershed management.

The documentation by the Ambika Prasad Research Foundation serves as a model for future afforestation projects. The success of the Miyawaki forest in the Rairangpur Forest Division exemplifies the method's efficacy in creating rich, biodiverse, and sustainable forest ecosystems. It not only aids in local conservation efforts but also provides valuable data for researchers and environmentalists aiming to replicate such success in other regions.

Dr. Sanjeet Kumar also educated students about biodiversity and conservation. His efforts in teaching and mentoring play a crucial role in fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of environmental sciences among young minds.

Restoration & Plantation Work Near Mahanadi River areas

The Ambika Prasad Research Foundation has made significant contributions to environmental restoration and reforestation efforts in the Mahanadi River basin through innovative methods like throwing seed balls and planting native plants.

The foundation uses seed balls, which are small balls made of clay, compost, and seeds. This technique is highly effective for reforestation because it protects seeds from predators, retains moisture, and provides essential nutrients, enhancing the likelihood of seed germination and growth. By dispersing these seed balls over degraded areas, the foundation helps restore native vegetation.

In addition to seed balls, the foundation also engages in direct planting of saplings. This method ensures immediate greening and provides a head start for reforestation. The selected plant species are typically native to the region, promoting biodiversity and ecological balance.

The reforestation efforts help reduce soil erosion, which is a major issue in river basins. By stabilizing the soil with plant roots, the foundation prevents sediment from washing into the river, thereby maintaining water quality.

Increased vegetation cover enhances the water cycle through improved infiltration and reduced runoff. This can lead to better groundwater recharge and a more stable water flow in the river, benefiting both local ecosystems and human communities. Planting native species helps restore the natural habitat, supporting a wide range of flora and fauna. This increase in biodiversity contributes to a healthier and more resilient ecosystem.

Community Involvement and Awareness

The foundation often involves local communities in their restoration projects. It provides local knowledge and raises awareness about the importance of environmental conservation. By educating local populations about the benefits of reforestation and sustainable practices, the foundation ensures the longevity and success of their efforts. Community members are more likely to protect and nurture restored areas if they understand their value.

Development of State Botanical Garden, Odisha

ORCHIDARIUM

Ambika Prasad Research Foundation (APRF) is working on the management and development of the Orchidarium within the State Botanical Garden in Odisha, India.

Collection and Conservation of Orchids

APRF has been involved in the collection of various orchid species, particularly those native to Odisha and other parts of India. This includes epiphytic orchids like *Pelatantheria insectifera, Dendrobium herbaceum, Luisia zeylanica, Rhynchostylis retusa* etc. The foundation focuses on the conservation of rare and endangered orchid species to prevent their extinction and to preserve biodiversity. APRF conducts research on the cultivation and propagation of orchids, employing both traditional and advanced horticultural techniques. The foundation organizes workshops, training sessions, and seminars to educate the public, students, and researchers about orchid cultivation and conservation. They aim to raise

awareness about the importance of orchids in the ecosystem and the need to protect these delicate plants.

The involvement of the Ambika Prasad Research Foundation in the Orchidarium has several positive impacts like

Enhanced Biodiversity: The orchidarium serves as a genetic reservoir for numerous orchid species, contributing to biodiversity conservation.

Scientific Advancements: Research conducted by APRF contributes to the scientific knowledge base regarding orchid biology, propagation, and conservation.

Educational Outreach: Training programs help educate the public and inspire future generations to take an active interest in plant conservation.

Sustainable Development: By promoting eco-tourism and involving local communities, APRF supports sustainable development in the region.

MEDICINAL GARDEN

Ambika Prasad Research Foundation has been working in the management and development of the medicinal garden within the State Botanical Garden in Odisha, India.

Collection and Conservation of Medicinal Plants

APRF focuses on collecting a wide variety of medicinal plants, particularly those native to Odisha and other regions in India. This includes seeds of rare and endangered species that have significant medicinal value. The foundation aims to conserve these plants, ensuring that they are preserved for future generations and protected from overexploitation.

Research and Documentation

The foundation conducts research on the medicinal properties of various plants, documenting their uses in traditional medicine as well as exploring potential new applications.

Educational and Outreach Programs

APRF organizes workshops, seminars, and training sessions to educate the public, students, and researchers about the importance of medicinal plants and their uses. They aim to raise awareness about the conservation of medicinal plants and promote their sustainable use in traditional and modern medicine.

The contributions of Ambika Prasad Research Foundation in managing the medicinal garden have several significant impacts:

Biodiversity Conservation: The garden serves as a repository for a diverse range of medicinal plants, contributing to the conservation of plant biodiversity.

Scientific Research: Research conducted by APRF enhances the understanding of medicinal plants, leading to potential new discoveries in the field of natural medicine.

Education: The garden serves as an educational resource for students, researchers, and the public, fostering an appreciation for medicinal plants and their uses.

CARNIVOROUS GARDEN

Ambika Prasad Research Foundation has undertaken an interesting initiative by collecting carnivorous plants for the purpose of managing and developing a carnivorous garden in State Botanical Garden, Odisha. Carnivorous plants, known for their unique adaptations that allow them to trap and digest insects and other small organisms, are fascinating both scientifically and horticulturally. This initiative likely aims to preserve biodiversity, promote education, and possibly support conservation efforts. Population of many carnivorous plants are declined in their natural habitats due to habitat destruction and climate change. A dedicated garden can help preserve these species.

Team has collected diverse carnivorous species like *Utricularia aurea, Utricularia gibba, Utricularia bifida, Drosera burmanni*, each with unique trapping mechanisms. By focusing on carnivorous plants, Ambika Prasad Research Foundation not only highlights the incredible diversity of the plant kingdom but also emphasizes the importance of conservation. This initiative can inspire future research, conservation efforts, and a greater public appreciation for these remarkable **plants.**

Ride For Conservation

Dr. Sanjeet Kumar, CEO of Ambika Prasad Research Foundation, has introduced a "Ride for Conservation" to mark the beginning of the new year. The main goal of this initiative is to promote awareness about medicinal plants and highlight the critical need for their preservation. Engaging discussions on medicinal plants were conducted throughout the rides. Dr. Kumar has covered approximately 300 km, visiting various rural areas near Mahanadi and its surrounding regions. Numerous medicinal plants such as *Solanum nigrum, Aerva lanata, Psonia aculeata, Abrus precatorius, Tinospora cordifolia, Cissampelos pareira*, and more were encountered during the journey. By organizing this event, the foundation is making a substantial effort to educate the community about the essential contribution of these plants to healthcare and biodiversity.

Training on Core Ecological Process

Dr. Sanjeet Kumar, the CEO of Ambika Prasad Research Foundation, led a training session focused on core ecological processes. This educational event aimed to enhance the understanding and awareness of ecological principles, biodiversity, Indigenous Tradition Knowledge, medicinal plants etc. among students and local community members. Organized by the **Foundation for Ecological Security, Angul** on March 5th, and 6th, 2024. Participants were given insights into the fundamental aspects of ecology, empowering them to contribute to environmental conservation and sustainability efforts in their region.

Restoration and management of orchids at Anandvan, Bhubaneswar

Ambika Prasad Research Foundation has undertaken an interesting and ecologically beneficial project by introducing orchids to Anandvan. This initiative involves installing orchids in trees, contributing to the biodiversity and natural beauty of the area.

Orchids are a diverse and widespread family of flowering plants with blooms that are often colorful and fragrant. They are known for their complex flower structures and ecological interactions. Installing orchids in trees mimics their natural epiphytic growing conditions, where they typically grow on other plants, relying on them

for physical support but not for nutrients. Team introduced *Vanda* spp., *Bulbophyllum* spp., *Dendrobium* spp., *Luisia* spp., *Thunia* spp. etc.

The introduction of orchids at Anandvan serves several purposes:

Biodiversity Enhancement: Orchids are a key part of many ecosystems, and their presence can enhance local biodiversity. They attract various pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and birds, contributing to the overall health of the ecosystem.

Conservation: Many orchid species are threatened due to habitat loss and over-collection. By cultivating orchids in a controlled environment like Anandvan, the Ambika Prasad Research Foundation is helping to conserve these delicate plants and ensure their survival.

Aesthetic Value: Orchids are renowned for their beauty. Their installation in trees adds to the visual appeal of Anandvan, making it a more attractive place for visitors and nature enthusiasts.

Educational Opportunities: It provides an excellent opportunity for education and research. Students, botanists, and researchers can study the growth patterns, ecological relationships, and conservation techniques associated with orchids.

First Sundarban Biodiversity Festival

The first Sundarban Biodiversity Festival was conducted under the management of Sundarban Netaji Swasthya Sadan, Kultali, West Bengal in association with Ambika Prasad Research Foundation, Odisha and BDO, Kultali Block. Mr. Binod Saradar was the Convener of this event. The festival was conducted from 10th February to 12th February 2024. Over the course of this three-day event, esteemed scientists, researchers, and Sundarban experts actively participated. The primary objective of this festival was to exchange knowledge, explore the diverse flora and fauna across the Sundarbans' various islands, ranging from Kaikhali ghat to Bonnie Island, and gather valuable information on the region's biodiversity from the fishing and local communities.

On the first two days, the tour conducted from Koikhali to Bonnie Island and Bonnie Island to Koikhali. Throughout the journey, discussions were held regarding the abundant diversity found in the Sundarbans. Various types of flora and fauna were spotted along the way. Some commonly observed plants during the trip included *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza, Sonneratia griffithii, Xylocarpus granatum, Phoenix paludosa, Ceriops tagal* and many more.

As for the fauna, species like Spotted deer, Wild boar, and Rhesus monkey were sighted. Additionally, a wide range of bird species were observed, including Brown-headed Gull, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Lesser Adjutant Stork, Eurasian Curlew, Black-headed Ibis, and various types of Kingfishers. The participants thoroughly enjoyed witnessing the mesmerizing sight of basking Crocodiles.

The third day of this Festival was concluded successfully with a student-teacher meet. Students from different schools actively participated in this event. We were honoured to have Suchandan Baidya, BDO of Kulkali, as our esteemed guest, along with Dr. Sanjeet Kumar from APRF, Odisha, Mr. Binod Saradar, Convener, First Sundarban Biodiversity Festival. Teachers from various schools, forest officials, and research scholars also took part in this event. It was a platform for everyone to engage in discussions and share their knowledge about the biodiversity of Sundarban. Dr. Sanjeet Kumar particularly enlightened the students about the diverse ecosystem of Sundarban. An essay competition was organized among the students to explore the biodiversity of Sundarban, and prizes were awarded for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.

Blanket Distribution

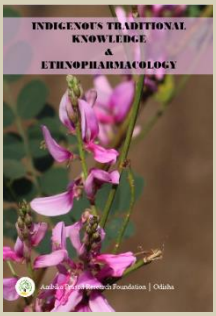
Ambika Prasad Research Foundation has taken a commendable initiative to distribute blankets to impoverished individuals. This effort aims to provide warmth and comfort to those in need, especially during the colder months. Such initiatives are crucial in addressing the immediate needs of vulnerable populations and showcasing a commitment to social responsibility and community support. By distributing blankets, the foundation is not only offering physical relief but also demonstrating compassion and solidarity with the less fortunate. This act of kindness highlights the foundation's dedication to improving the well-being of the community and supporting those who are most in need.

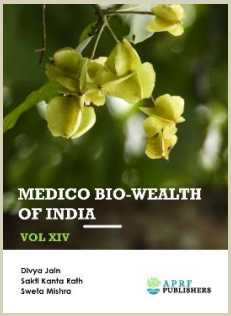
Online Trainings and Webinar

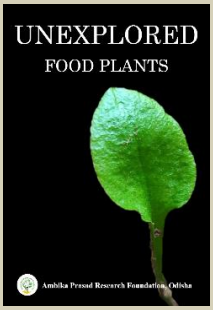
Ambika Prasad Research Foundation conducts various online training programs and webinars to raise awareness about biodiversity and conservation. These initiatives are designed to educate and engage a wide audience, from students and researchers to the public, on important topics related to environmental protection and sustainable practices. These initiatives by the Ambika Prasad Research Foundation play a crucial role in promoting a deeper understanding of environmental issues and actions that support biodiversity and conservation.

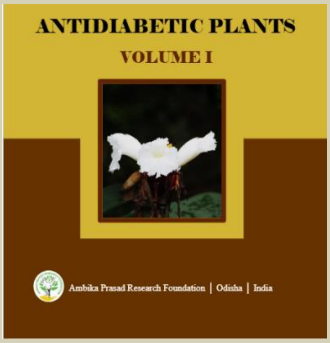
PUBLICATIONS

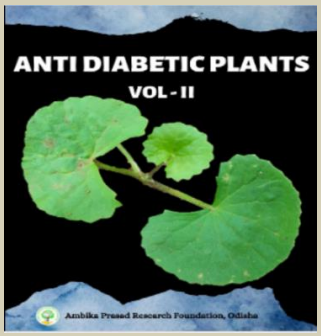
BOOKS

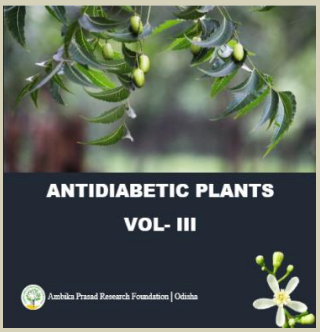


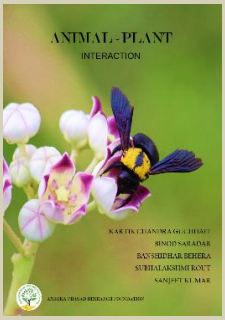


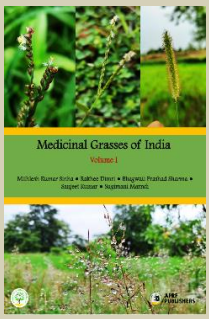


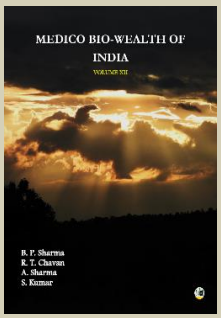


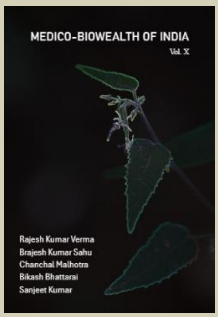


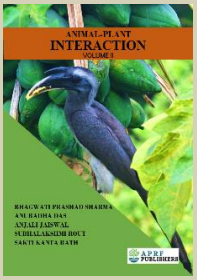


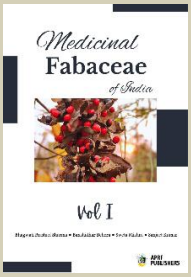


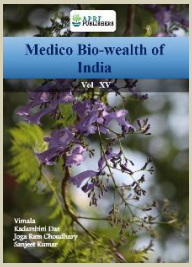


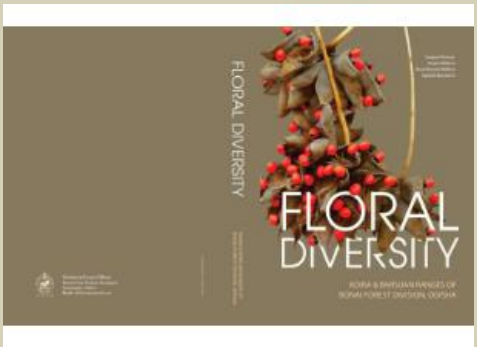


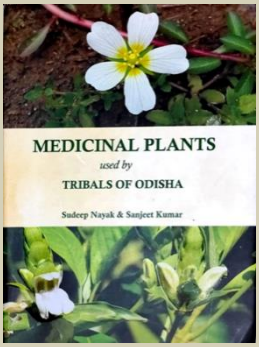


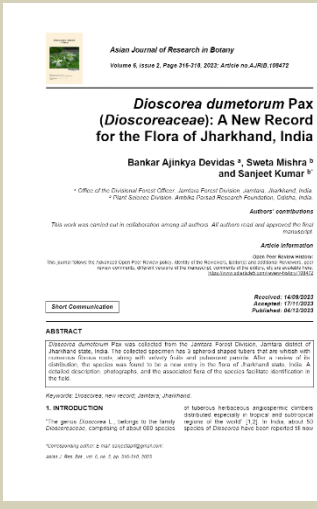












Asian Journal of Research in Botany

Volume 6, Issue 2, Page 316-319, 2022; Article no.AJRB.106472

Dioscorea dumetorum Pax (*Dioscoreaceae*): A New Record for the Flora of Jharkhand, India

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[b] Plant Science Division, Ambika Prasad Research Foundation, Odisha, India.

Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Short Communication

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ABSTRACT

Dioscorea dumetorum Pax was collected from the Jamtara Forest Division, Jamtara district of Jharkhand state, India. The collected specimen has 3 spherical shaped tubers that are whitish with numerous fibrous roots, along with velvety fruits and pubescent pericle. After a review of its distribution, the species was found to be a new entry in the flora of Jharkhand state, India. A detailed description, photographs, and the associated flora of the species facilitate identification in the field.

Keywords: Dioscorea, new record, Jamtara, Jharkhand.

1. INTRODUCTION

The genus *Dioscorea* L., belongs to the family *Dioscoreaceae*, comprising of about 600 species of tuberous herbaceous angiospermic climbers distributed especially in tropical and subtropical regions of the world" [1,2]. In India, about 50 species of *Dioscorea* have been reported till now

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Research Article

Validation of tribal claims for formulation of future drugs through evaluation of ethno-pharmacological values of *Ludwigia adscendens*

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[1]School of Applied Sciences, Centurion University of Technology and Management, Bhubaneswar-752050, Odisha, India
[2]Biodiversity and Conservation Laboratory, Ambika Prasad Research Foundation, Cuttack-753014, Odisha, India

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ABSTRACT

Ludwigia adscendens (L.) H. Hara (291: 1953) commonly known as Water primrose, a perennial floating herb distributed all over Asia, Australia, Africa, and South America, it looks like a creeper on wetlands having elliptic leaves and creamish-white flowers with five petals, five sepals and ten stamens (Nadeuka and Nguyen, 2007; Rao, 2006). In India, it is distributed near the wetlands and marshy areas. The plant is used as food and medicines by different tribal communities in the distributional areas. The aerial parts of the plant are used against diarrhea, cough, and fever. The whole plant parts are used as a contraceptive agent in Papua New Guinea (Ahmad *et al.*, 2005) and as a tonic against weak health and gastro-intestinal problems (Abell, 2018). Few reports are available on antimicrobial activities of *L. adscendens* and the ethnomedicinal practices show the possibility for a strong antibacterial agent. The entire world is facing problems of antimicrobial resistance and diseases caused by novel pathogenic microbes. The researchers throughout the world are looking out for a novel raw material to screen and isolate new bioactive compounds to fight against contemporary global problems. Therefore, keeping the importance of *L. adscendens* and availability

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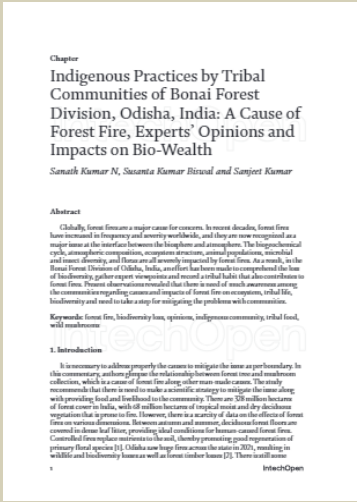
INTRODUCTION

Ludwigia adscendens (L.) H. Hara (291: 1953) commonly known as Water primrose, a perennial floating herb distributed all over Asia, Australia, Africa, and South America, it looks like a creeper on wetlands having elliptic leaves and creamish-white flowers with five petals, five sepals and ten stamens (Nadeuka and Nguyen, 2007; Rao, 2006). In India, it is distributed near the wetlands and marshy areas. The plant is used as food and medicines by different tribal communities in the distributional areas. The aerial parts of the plant are used against diarrhea, cough,



Chapter

Indigenous Practices by Tribal Communities of Bonai Forest Division, Odisha, India: A Cause of Forest Fire, Experts' Opinions and Impacts on Bio-Wealth

Sanath Kumar N, Susanta Kumar Biswal and Sanjeet Kumar

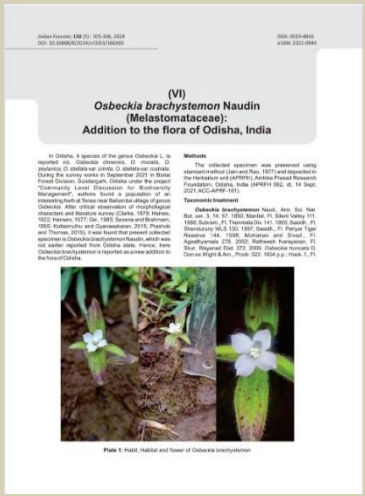
Abstract

Globally, forest fires are a major cause for concern. In recent decades, forest fires have increased in frequency and severity worldwide, and they are now recognized as a major issue at the interface between the biosphere and atmosphere. The biogeochemical cycle, atmospheric composition, ecosystem structure, animal populations, microbial and insect diversity, and floras are all severely impacted by forest fires. As a result, in the Bonai Forest Division of Odisha, India, an effort has been made to comprehend the loss of biodiversity, gather expert viewpoints and record a tribal habit that also contributes to forest fires. Present observations revealed that there is need of much awareness among the communities regarding causes and impacts of forest fire on ecosystem, tribal life, biodiversity and need to take a step for mitigating the problems with communities.

Keywords: forest fire, biodiversity loss, opinions, indigenous community, tribal food, wild mushrooms

1. Introduction

It is necessary to address properly the causes to mitigate the issue as per boundary. In this commentary, authors glimpse the relationship between forest tree and mushroom collection, which is a cause of forest fire along other man-made causes. The study recommends that there is need to make a scientific strategy to mitigate the issue along with providing food and livelihood to the community. There are 338 million hectares of forest cover in India, with 68 million hectares of tropical moist and dry deciduous vegetation that is prone to fire. However, there is a scarcity of data on the effects of forest fires on various dimensions. Between autumn and summer, deciduous forest floors are covered in dense leaf litter, providing ideal conditions for human-caused forest fires. Controlled fires replace nutrients to the soil, thereby promoting good regeneration of primary floral species [1]. Odisha saw huge fires across the state in 2021, resulting in wildlife and biodiversity losses as well as forest timber losses [2]. There is still some



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ISSN: 0019-4816
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(VI) *Osbeckia brachystemon* Naudin (Melastomataceae): Addition to the flora of Odisha, India

In Odisha, 4 species of the genus Osbeckia L. is reported viz. Osbeckia chinensis, O. muralis, O. zeylanica, O. stellata var. crinita, O. stellata var. rostrata. During the survey works in September 2021 in Bonai Forest Division, Sundargarh, Odisha under the project 'Community, Forest Fire and Conservation: Keys of Wildlife Management', authors found a population of an interesting herb at Tensa near Bahamda village of genus Osbeckia. After critical observation of morphological characters and literature survey (Clarke, 1879; Haines, 1922; Hansen, 1977; Gir, 1983; Saxena and Brahmam, 1995; Kottaimuthu and Ganeasekaran, 2015; Prashob and Thomas, 2018), it was found that present collected specimen is Osbeckia brachystemon Naudin, which was not earlier reported from Odisha state. Hence, here Osbeckia brachystemon is reported as a new addition to the flora of Odisha.

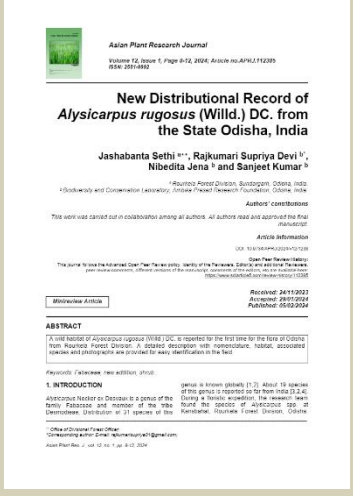
Methods

The collected specimen was preserved using standard method (Jain and Rao, 1977) and deposited in the Herbarium unit (APRFH), Ambika Prasad Research Foundation, Odisha, India (APRFH 062, dt. 14 Sept. 2021 (ACC-APRF-181).

Taxonomic treatment

Osbeckia brachystemon Naud., Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot. sér. 4, 15: 300. 1850. Mardal, Fl. Silent Valley 111. 1986; Sukiran, Fl. Tropicalia Du. 141. 1993; Saxdh., Fl. Shendaruny WLS 130. 1997; Sasidh., Fl. Periyar Tiger Reserve. 144. 1998; Mohanan and Sivad., Fl. Ageathyamala 278. 2002; Ratheesh Narayanan, Fl. Stud. Wayanad Dist. 372. 2009. *Osbeckia hunuala* D. Don ex Wight & Arn., Prodr. 322. 1834 p.p.; Hook. f., Fl.

Plate 1: Habit, Habitat and flower of *Osbeckia brachystemon*



Asian Plant Research Journal

Volume 12, Issue 1, Page 9-12, 2024; Article no.APHJ.112385
ISSN: 2581-8952

New Distributional Record of *Alysicarpus rugosus* (Willd.) DC. from the State Odisha, India

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Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Article Information

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Mini review Article

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ABSTRACT

A wild habitat of *Alysicarpus rugosus* (Willd.) DC. is reported for the first time for the flora of Odisha from Rourkela Forest Division. A detailed description with nomenclature, habitat, associated species and photographs are provided for easy identification in the field.

Keywords: Fabaceae, new addition, shrub.

1. INTRODUCTION

Alysicarpus Neck. ex Desvaux is a genus of the family Fabaceae and member of the tribe Desmodieae. Distribution of 21 species of this genus is known globally [1,2]. About 19 species of this genus is reported so far from India [3,2,4]. During a floristic expedition, the research team found the species of Alysicarpus spp. at Kendahear, Rourkela Forest Division, Odisha.

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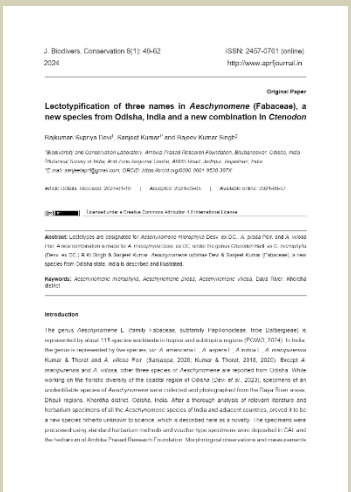
**Corresponding author: E-mail: rajkumarisupriya01@gmail.com;*

Asian Plant Res. J., vol. 12, no. 1, pp. 9-12, 2024



J. Biodivers. Conservation 8(1): 49-62
2024

ISSN: 2457-0761 (online)
http://www.aprfjournal.in

Original Paper

Lectotypification of three names in *Aeschynomene* (Fabaceae), a new species from Odisha, India and a new combination in *Ctenodon*

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[1]Biodiversity and Conservation Laboratory, Ambika Prasad Research Foundation, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India
[2]National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, Pusa Campus, New Delhi-110012, India
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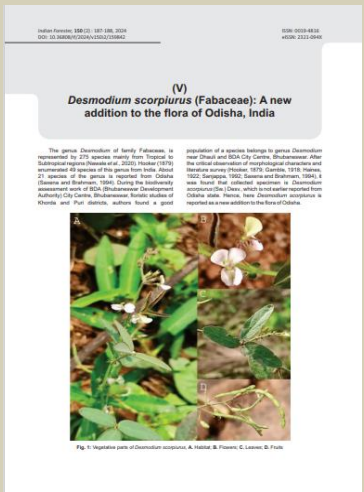
Article Online: 10/12/2022; Accepted: 25/12/2022; Available online: 30/12/2022

Abstract: Lectotypes are designated for *Aeschynomene hirsophila* Dalz. ex DC., *A. pilosa* Poir. and *A. villosa* Poir. A new combination is made for *A. hirsophila* Dalz. ex DC. under the genus *Ctenodon* Hall. ex G. Nicholson (Dalz. ex DC.) R.K. Singh & Sanjeet Kumar. *Aeschynomene ashmae* Devi & Sanjeet Kumar (Fabaceae), a new species from Odisha state, India is described and illustrated.

Keywords: *Aeschynomene hirsophila*, *Aeschynomene pilosa*, *Aeschynomene villosa*, Dalz. ex DC., Khordha district

Introduction

The genus *Aeschynomene* L. (family Fabaceae, subfamily Faboideae, tribe Dalbergieae) is represented by about 115 species worldwide in tropics and subtropics regions (POWO, 2014). In India, the genus is represented by few species viz. *A. americana*[1], *A. aspera*[2], *A. indica*[3], *A. evenia*[4], *A. hirsophila*[5], *A. pilosa*[6], *A. villosa*[7] (Sanjappa, 2020; Kumar & Thorat, 2018, 2020). Except *A. evenia*, *A. hirsophila* and *A. villosa*, other three species of *Aeschynomene* are reported from Odisha. While working on the floristic diversity of the coastal region of Odisha (Devi *et al.*, 2022), specimens of an undescribable species of *Aeschynomene* were collected and photographed from the Daya River areas, Dhauli regions, Khordha district, Odisha, India. After a thorough analysis of relevant literature and herbarium specimens of all the *Aeschynomene* species of India and adjacent countries, proved it to be a new species hitherto unknown to science, which is described here as a novelty. The specimens were processed using standard herbarium methods and voucher type specimens were deposited in CAL and the herbarium of Ambika Prasad Research Foundation. Morphological observations and measurements



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eISSN: 2321-094X

(V) *Desmodium scorpiurus* (Fabaceae): A new addition to the flora of Odisha, India

The genus *Desmodium* of family Fabaceae, is represented by 275 species mainly from Tropical to Subtropical regions (Nawale *et al.*, 2020). Hooker (1879) enumerated 49 species of this genus from India. About 21 species of the genus is reported from Odisha (Saxena and Brahmam, 1994). During the biodiversity assessment work of BDA (Bhubaneswar Development Authority) City Centre, Bhubaneswar, floristic studies of Khorda and Puri districts, authors found a good population of a species belongs to genus *Desmodium* near Dhauli and BDA City Centre, Bhubaneswar. After the critical observation of morphological characters and literature survey Hooker, 1879; Gamble, 1918; Haines, 1922; Sanjappa, 1992; Saxena and Brahmam, 1994), it was found that collected specimen is *Desmodium scorpiurus* (Sw.) Desv., which is not earlier reported from Odisha state. Hence, here *Desmodium scorpiurus* is reported as a new addition to the flora of Odisha.

Fig. 1: Vegetative parts of *Desmodium scorpiurus*, **A.** Habitat; **B.** Flowers; **C.** Leaves; **D.** Fruits

Indian Forester, 149 (5): 487-490, 2023
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Community, Forest Fire and Conservation: Keys of Wildlife Management

Prevention of forest fire with community in Bonai Forest Division, Odisha.

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Accepted: 25/2

Forest fire and loss of biodiversity are alarming issues throughout the world. *Together, both issues are creating lots of negative impacts globally in all aspects of life on earth. The issues could be reduced and solved only with community under long-term strategy. Keeping this in view, an attempt has been made to understand the community's perception in Bonai Forest Division (BFD), Sundargarh, Odisha, India. Bonsai range of BFD is rich with floral diversity and unique landscapes along with mining activities. Six villages were selected. Through Participant Data Form (PDF), semi-structured questionnaire was done using standard methods. Results from the questionnaire (Pre-data) and PDF (Post-data) were analyzed. Pre-data (Non-division Forest procedure) and Post. The paper highlights the causes of forest fire and biodiversity loss and suggests the mitigation measures to make a long-term strategy for the conservation of biodiversity and management of wildlife.*

Keywords: Wildlife management plan, Community conservation, Global ecological issues, Forest fire

Introduction

Management of wildlife and biodiversity conservation are important activities for which different panaceas, surveys, case studies, scientific and study approaches have been carried out worldwide. Extensive forest fires are also making a lot of damage to the forest and wildlife in Bonai region along with mining activities, forest fire, shifting cultivation and trade-hunting of wildlife (Bohlen, 2001). Wildlife management and biodiversity conservation can be treated as an utmost problem throughout the world. The problems could be solved through local communities and also World Conservation Union's protected areas categories V and VI suggest the same for management of wildlife and conservation works (Andrade and Rhodes, 2012). If the conservation activities and implementation in Reserve Forest or Protected areas do not have any social-political controversy, State Forest Department could be able to manage under low-cost solution in better way with local communities through community conservation. Community conservation is an approach to biodiversity conservation and wildlife management which tries to focus on community needs, connect people with place (Robert *et al.*, 2015), connect people with Forest Department, create opportunities for people to get involved, energize the community. The involvement of the local communities in conservation activities is also demonstrated in the importance and role of community conservation in minimizing the forest fire, wildlife trade, hunting and how they will provide the information for making a long-term wildlife management and conservation plan, an attempt is taken by way of a case study in Bonai Forest Division, Sundargarh, Odisha.

Material and Methods

Study area

Bonai Forest Division is situated in the Sundargarh district in North-

Media Coverage

ଅମ୍ବିକା ପ୍ରସାଦ ରିସର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଫାଉଣ୍ଡେସନ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଜଳ ଦିବସ

କଟକ (ସ୍ୱପ୍ର) : ପ୍ରତି ବର୍ଷ ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ ୨୨ ରେ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଜଳ ଦିବସ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଏ ଯାହା ମଧୁର ଜଳର ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱକୁ ଦର୍ଶାଇଥାଏ । ଏହି ଦିନ ମୁଖ୍ୟତଃ ପ୍ରତି ବର୍ଷ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବିଶେଷତ୍ୱ ସହିତ ଜଳ ଉପର ନିରନ୍ତର ବ୍ୟବହାର ଏବଂ ପରିଚାଳନା ଉପରେ ଧ୍ୟାନ ଦିଆଯାଇଥାଏ । ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଜଳର ଉପଲବ୍ଧତା କୁ ସୁନିଶ୍ଚିତ କରିବା ଏବଂ ଜଳକୁ ଏକ ଶାନ୍ତିପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ବିଶ୍ୱ ପାଇଁ ସାଧନ କରିବା ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ରେ ଏହି ବର୍ଷ ର ବିଷୟବସ୍ତୁ ଶାନ୍ତି ପାଇଁ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଏକତ୍ର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବା ବିଷୟରେ । ଦିନକୁ ଦିନ ଆମେ ଜଳ ଅଭାବ ର ସମସ୍ୟା ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ବାଙ୍ଗାଲୋର ସାଂପ୍ରତିକ ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ହେଉଛି ଏହି ଦୃଶ୍ୟ ର ସର୍ବୋତ୍ତମ ଉଦାହରଣ । ଯଦି ଆମେ ଏହି ସମସ୍ୟା ଗୁଡିକ ବିଷୟରେ ଅବଗତ ନ ଥାଉ ତେବେ ଭାରତ ରେ ଏପରି ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ଅତି ସାଧାରଣ ହେବ । ହ୍ରଦ, ପୋଖରୀ, ନଦୀ ଏବଂ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ପରି ଜଳ ସମ୍ପଦ କୁ ସଫା ରଖିବା ଏଂ ଜଳ ପ୍ରଦୂଷଣ କୁ ରୋକିବା ପାଇଁ ଆମକୁ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନେବାକୁ ପଡିବ । ଏହି ଅବସରରେ କଟକ ଭିତ୍ତିକ ସଂଗଠନ ଅମ୍ବିକା ପ୍ରସାଦ ରିସର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଫାଉଣ୍ଡେସନ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ସମ୍ପ୍ରଦାୟ ଙ୍କ ସହିତ କଟକ ନରାଜ ରେ ଉକ୍ତ ଦିନ କୁ ପାଳନ କରିଥିଲା । ଫାଉଣ୍ଡେସନ ର ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଡକ୍ଟର ସଂଜିତ କୁମାର ଙ୍କ ନେତୃତ୍ୱ ରେ ଅନ୍ୟ ସଦସ୍ୟ ତଥା ରାଜକୁମାରୀ ସୁପ୍ରିୟା ଦେବୀ, ଶ୍ୱେତା ମିଶ୍ର, ସୁଗୀମନି ମରାଣ୍ଡି, ଶୁଭଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀ ରାଉତ ଏବଂ ନିବେଦିତା ଜେନା ପ୍ଲାଷ୍ଟିକ ପ୍ରଦୂଷଣ ଏଂ ମହାନଦୀ ସମ୍ବନ୍ଧୀୟ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ସମସ୍ୟା ଉପରେ ଆଲୋକପାତ କରିଥିଲେ । ସେମାନେ ଏହି ଦିନ ପାଳନ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ବାସିନ୍ଦା ଙ୍କ ସହ ନରାଜ ରେ ମହାନଦୀ କୂଳକୁ ସଫା କରିବାକୁ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ନେଇଥିଲେଛ ମହାନଦୀ ହେଉଛି ଓଡ଼ିଶା ରାଜ୍ୟ ର ବୃହତ୍ତମ ନଦୀ, କିନ୍ତୁ ନଦୀ ର ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ର ଦୁଃଖଦ ସ୍ଥିତି ଦେଖିବା କଷ୍ଟକର । ଆମ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ମହାନଦୀ ର ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ହାତ ମିଳାଇବାକୁ ପଡିବ କାରଣ ଏହା ରାଜ୍ୟ ର ପ୍ରତ୍ୟେକ ନାଗରିକ ଙ୍କ ଦାଇତ୍ୱ ଅଟେ ।

ଆଜି ବିଶ୍ୱ ଘରଚଟିଆ ଦିବସ

ବଂଶବୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଇଁ ଗବେଷଣା

ଏପିଆରଏଫ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ବିଶ୍ୱ ବନ୍ୟଜନ୍ତୁ ଦିବସ

କଟକ, (ସ୍ୱପ୍ର): ବିଶ୍ୱ ବନ୍ୟଜନ୍ତୁ ଦିବସ ପାଳନ ଅବସରରେ, ମହାନଦୀ କୂଳରେ ଦଳ ଏପିଆରଏଫ ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତାର ପର୍ଯ୍ୟବେକ୍ଷଣ କରିଥିଲେ । ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ ୩ ପାଇଁ ଧାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ହୋଇଥିବା ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବୃକ୍ଷ ଏବଂ ପକ୍ଷୀ ପ୍ରଜାତିଗୁଡିକ ଦେଖା ଯାଇଥିଲା । ଯାହା ଏହି ଇକୋସିଷ୍ଟମକୁ ଜୀବନ୍ତ ରଖି ଆସିଛନ୍ତି । ମହାନଦୀ ଏହାର ପରିବେଶଗତ ମହତ୍ୱ ପାଇଁ ଜଣାଶୁଣା ଅନେକ ଉଦ୍ଭିଦ ଏବଂ ପକ୍ଷୀ ପ୍ରଜାତି ପାଇଁ ଏହା ଏକ ଆଶ୍ରୟ ସ୍ଥଳ । ମହାନ୍ ଜଳପ୍ରବାହ ଠାରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରି ଅନେକ ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ଧନସମ୍ପଦକୁ ନେଇ ବହି ଚାଲିଛି ଆମ ମହାନଦୀ । ଏହି ବର୍ଷର ବିଶ୍ୱ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ଦିବସର ଥିମ ଥିଲା କନେକ୍ଟିଂ ପିପୁଲ୍ ଆଣ୍ଡ ପ୍ଲାନେଟ୍ : ଏକ୍ସପ୍ଲୋରିଂ ଡିଜିଟାଲ୍ ଇନୋଭେସନ୍ ଇନ୍ ୱାଇଲଡ୍ ଲାଇଫ୍ କଜରଭେସନ୍ । ମହାନଦୀ କୂଳରେ ପ୍ରକୃତି କୋଳରେ ନିଜକୁ ବୁଡାଇ ଆମେ ସକରାତ୍ମକ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକୁ ପ୍ରେରଣା ଦେଇପାରିବା ଏବଂ ଏହି ଅମୂଲ୍ୟ ଇକୋସିଷ୍ଟମକୁ ସଂରକ୍ଷିତ କରିପାରିବା ଏହା ହିଁ ଟିମ୍ ଏପିଆରଏଫ୍‌ର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ।

ଅମ୍ବିକା ପ୍ରସାଦ ରିସର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଫାଉଣ୍ଡେସନ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ଦିବସ

କଟକ, (ସ୍ୱପ୍ର): ଫେବୃଆରୀ ୨ ତାରିଖ ହେଉଛି ବିଶ୍ୱବ୍ୟାପୀ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ଦିବସ । ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତା ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ତଥା ନଦୀ ପରିବେଶ ଉପରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁଥିବା କଟକ ଭିତ୍ତିକ ସଙ୍ଗଠନ ଅମ୍ବିକା ପ୍ରସାଦ ରିସର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଫାଉଣ୍ଡେସନ ଶୁକ୍ରବାର ବିଶ୍ୱ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ଦିବସରେ ମହାନଦୀ ଶଯ୍ୟାରେ ପ୍ଲାଷ୍ଟିକ ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ବର୍ଜ୍ୟବସ୍ତୁ ସଂଗ୍ରହ କରିଥିଲା। ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ସମ୍ପ୍ରଦାୟ ସହ ଆଲୋଚନା କରିବା ଏବଂ ଔଷଧୀୟ ବୃକ୍ଷର ଡକ୍ୟୁମେଣ୍ଟେସନ୍ ଦ୍ୱାରା ନରାଜ ଠାରେ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ଦିବସ ପାଳନ କରିଥିଲେ। ଆର୍ଦ୍ରଭୂମି ହେଉଛି ପୃଥିବୀର

କିଡନୀ । ଏହା ଅନେକ ପରିବେଶ ସେବା ଯୋଗାଇଥାଏ ଏବଂ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ପ୍ରକାରର ଉଦ୍ଭିଦ ଏବଂ ଜୀବଜନ୍ତୁଙ୍କ ଘର ଅଟେ । ଅନେକ ନଦୀ ସହିତ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଆଶୀର୍ବାଦ ପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ହୋଇଛି । ମହାନଦୀ ଏଥି ମଧ୍ୟରୁ ଅନ୍ୟତମ। ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ଡକ୍ଟର ସଞ୍ଜିତ କୁମାର, ରାଜକୁମାରୀ ସୁପ୍ରିୟା ଦେବୀ, ଶ୍ୱେତା ମିଶ୍ର, ସୁଗିମାନି ମାର୍ଣ୍ଡି, ନିବେଦିତା ଜେନା ଏବଂ ଶୁଭଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀ ରାଉତ ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଯୋଗଦେଇ ପ୍ରକୃତି, ପରିବେଶ ଓ ପକ୍ଷୀ ଜଗତ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଉପରେ ଆଲୋକପାତ କରିଥିଲେ ।

ବିଶ୍ୱ ଘରଚଟିଆ ଦିବସ

କଟକ,୨୦।୩(ବ୍ୟୁରୋ): ଅମ୍ବିକା ପ୍ରସାଦ ରିସର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଫାଉଣ୍ଡେସନ୍ (ଏପିଆର୍‌ଏଫ୍) ପକ୍ଷରୁ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଘରଚଟିଆ ଦିବସ ମହାନଦୀ କୂଳରେ ପାଳିତ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ଏହି ଅବସରରେ ଫାଉଣ୍ଡେସନର ଛାତ୍ରୀମାନେ ଘରଚଟିଆ ସମେତ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ ଛୋଟ ପକ୍ଷୀଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ବସା ସ୍ଥାପନ କରିଥିଲେ ଏବଂ ଖାଦ୍ୟ ଦେଇଥିଲେ । ଛାତ୍ରୀମାନେ ପକ୍ଷୀଙ୍କ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଓ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣର ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ ବିଷୟରେ ମଧ ସଚେତନତା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିଥିଲେ । ବିଶେଷ କରି ଘରଚଟିଆମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଏକ ଆତିଥ୍ୟପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ପରିବେଶ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବା ଏବଂ ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତାରେ ସେମାନଙ୍କ ଉପସ୍ଥିତିର ମହତ୍ତ୍ୱ ସଂପର୍କରେ ଆଲୋକପାତ କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଫାଉଣ୍ଡେସନ୍ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଏଭଳି ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ଏପିଆର୍‌ଏଫ୍ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଡକ୍ଟର ସଂଜୀତ କୁମାର, ରାଜକୁମାରୀ ସୁପ୍ରିୟା ଦେବୀ, ଶ୍ୱେତା ମିଶ୍ର, ସୁଗିମାନି ମର୍ଣ୍ଡି, ଶୁଭଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀ ରାଉତ, ନିବେଦିତା ଜେନା ପ୍ରମୁଖ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମରେ ସାମିଲ ହୋଇଥିଲେ ।

ସମୟ

ପ୍ରତିଷ୍ଠାତା - ବସନ୍ତ କୁମାର ବିଶ୍ୱାଳ

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ଅମ୍ବିକା ପ୍ରସାଦ ରିସର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଫାଉଣ୍ଡେସନ୍ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ବିଶ୍ୱ ପୃଥିବୀ ଦିବସ

କଟକ, (ସ୍ୱପ୍ର): ପ୍ରତି ବର୍ଷ ୨୨ ଏପ୍ରିଲକୁ ବିଶ୍ୱ ପୃଥିବୀ ଦିବସ ରୂପେ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଇଥାଏ। ସୋମବାର ଏହି ଦିବସ ଅବସରରେ, କଟକ ସହର ଠାରୁ ଦୂରରେ ଥିବା ଉପଖଣ୍ଡ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଛୋଟ ଛୋଟ ପକ୍ଷୀମାନଙ୍କ ରହିବା ପାଇଁ ବସା ସ୍ଥାପନ କରିବା ଏବଂ ଖାଦ୍ୟ ଶସ୍ୟ ଦେଇ ଅମ୍ବିକା ପ୍ରସାଦ ରିସର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଫାଉଣ୍ଡେସନ୍ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଏହି ଦିନକୁ ପାଳନ କରାଯାଇଥିଲା । ପରିବେଶ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ଜନ ସଚେତନତା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବା ସହ ଆମ ଗ୍ରହର ପ୍ରାକୃତିକ ସମ୍ପଦର ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ, ଜଳବାୟୁ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ, ପ୍ରଦୂଷଣ ଏବଂ ବାସସ୍ଥାନ ନଷ୍ଟ ଭଳି ପରିବେଶ ହାନିର ସମାଧାନକୁ ଗୁରୁତ୍ୱ ଦେଇ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରିବା ଆମର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟ ବୋଲି ଏହାର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକର୍ତ୍ତାମାନେ ପ୍ରକାଶ କରିଥିଲେ । ଛୋଟ ପକ୍ଷୀମାନଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଖାଦ୍ୟ ଶସ୍ୟ ଏବଂ ଜଳ ଯୋଗାଇ ଆମେ ସ୍ଥାନୀୟ ବନ୍ୟଜନ୍ତୁ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ସହିତ ପରିବେଶ ଚେତନାରେ ସହଯୋଗ କରୁଛୁ । ଏଥିରେ ଏପିଆରଏଫର ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଡ. ସଂଜୀତ କୁମାରଙ୍କ ସହିତ ରାଜକୁମାରୀ, ସୁପ୍ରିୟା ଦେବୀ, ଶ୍ୱେତା ମିଶ୍ର, ସୁଗୀମାନି ମର୍ଣ୍ଡି, ଶୁଭଲକ୍ଷ୍ମି ରାଉତ, ନିବେଦିତା ଜେନା ପ୍ରମୁଖ ଯୋଗ ଦେଇଥିଲେ ।

ଏପିଆରଏଫ୍ ପକ୍ଷରୁ ବୃକ୍ଷରୋପଣ

ଭୁବନେଶ୍ୱର, ୨୨/୬ (ଇମିସ): 'ଅମ୍ବିକା ପ୍ରସାଦ ରିସୋର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଫାଉଣ୍ଡେସନ' (ଏପିଆରଏଫ୍) ପକ୍ଷରୁ 'ବିଶ୍ୱ ପରିବେଶ ଦିବସ' ଅବସରରେ ମହାନଦୀ ପାର୍ଶ୍ୱବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ସିଡ୍ ବଲ୍ ମାଧ୍ୟମରେ ଅନେକ ଦେଶୀ ପ୍ରଜାତିର ଗଛ ଲଗାଯାଇଛି। ଏହା ଜୀବଜନ୍ତୁ, ପକ୍ଷୀ ଓ ଅନେକ ସୂକ୍ଷ୍ମ ଜୀବଜନ୍ତୁଙ୍କ ବାସସ୍ଥାନ ପାଲଟିବ। ଏପିଆରଏଫ୍ ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଆରମ୍ଭ କରିଥିବା ବେଳେ ଆଗାମୀ ଦିନରେ ବ୍ୟାପକ ବୃକ୍ଷରୋପଣ କରାଯିବ ଓ ଏହି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ ଆଗାମୀ ବର୍ଷଗୁଡ଼ିକରେ କରି ପରିବେଶକୁ ସରସ ସୁନ୍ଦର କରିବ ବୋଲି ସଂସ୍ଥା ପକ୍ଷରୁ କୁହାଯାଇଛି।

ଅମ୍ବିକା ପ୍ରସାଦ ରିସର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଫାଉଣ୍ଡେସନର ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ଦିବସ

କଟକ, (ସ୍ୱପ୍ର): ପ୍ରତି ବର୍ଷ ମାର୍ଚ୍ଚ ୨୧କୁ ସମଗ୍ର ବିଶ୍ୱରେ ସୁସ୍ଥ ପରିବେଶ ପାଇଁ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ବିଷୟରେ ସଚେତନତା ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରିବା ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ ଆନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ଦିବସ ପାଳିତ ହୋଇଯାଇଛି । ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ଫରେଷ୍ଟ ଆଣ୍ଡ ଇନୋଭେସନ୍ ନାମକ ବିଷୟକୁ ନେଇ ଏକ ଉତ୍ତମ ବିଶ୍ୱ ପାଇଁ ନୂତନ ସମାଧାନ ପରିପ୍ରେକ୍ଷୀରେ, କଟକ ସ୍ଥିତ ଅମ୍ବିକା ପ୍ରସାଦ ରିସର୍ଚ୍ଚ ଫାଉଣ୍ଡେସନ ତରଫରୁ ଦେଶୀ ବୃକ୍ଷ ଗୁଡିକ ପ୍ରତି ରହିଥିବା ଧାର୍ମିକ ବିଶ୍ୱାସ ସହିତ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଯୋଗାଇ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପାଇଁ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ନିଆଯାଉଛି। ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ସୃଷ୍ଟି ଦ୍ୱାରା ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବନ୍ୟପ୍ରାଣୀ ମାନଙ୍କୁ ଉତ୍ତମ ବାସଗୃହ ଯୋଗାଇବା ସହିତ ମୃତ୍ତିକା ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ଏବଂ ଜଳବାୟୁ ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନକୁ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣ କରିଥାଏ। ସହରୀକରଣ, କୃଷି, ରାସ୍ତା ବିସ୍ତାର ଏବଂ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ନଷ୍ଟ ପରି ଅସଚେତନତା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକଳାପ ଜଙ୍ଗଲ ପରିବେଶ ପାଇଁ ବିପଦ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରୁଛି । ଫଳରେ ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ବାୟୁମଣ୍ଡଳରେ ତାପମାତ୍ରା ଦିନକୁ ଦିନ ବୃଦ୍ଧି ପାଇବାରେ ଲାଗିଛି । ବର୍ଷାର ଅନୀୟମିତତା ସହିତ ମହାନଦୀର ଜଳ ଶୁଖିବାରେ ଲାଗିଛି । ଫଳରେ ଅନେକ ଜଳଚର ପ୍ରାଣୀମାନେ ଲୋପ ପାଇବାକୁ ବସିଲେଣି। ଏହି ସମସ୍ୟା ଗୁଡିକୁ ଦୃଷ୍ଟିରେ ରଖି ଡକ୍ଟର. ସଂଜୀତ କୁମାରଙ୍କ ସମେତ ରାଜକୁମାରୀ ସୁପ୍ରିୟା ଦେବୀ, ଶ୍ୱେତା ମିଶ୍ର, ସୁଗିମନି ମରାଣ୍ଡି, ସୁଭଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀ ରାଉତ, ନିବେଦିତା ଜୈବ ବିବିଧତାର ସଂରକ୍ଷଣ ପାଇଁ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁଛନ୍ତି ।

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