

Plant Biodiversity of Different Compartments of Gorewada Forest, Nagpur District, (M.S.)

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Abstract:

World's largest biodiversity is in Tropical forests which play an important role in the maintaining the global terrestrial carbon budget. Gorewada forest is one of the tropical forests located in Nagpur district, (M.S.), India. It is a rich source of biodiversity which represents a valuable global resource such as food, fodder, fruits, fuel, gums and medicines that are beneficial to mankind. Among various resources of forests, legumes and non-legumes represents a very large and diverse group of plant kingdom, ranging from herbs, shrubs, trees, climbers and grasses. In the present study, variety of legume and non-legume plants from seven different compartments of Gorewada forest viz. 790-796 of Gorewada forest of Nagpur district were surveyed and collected for taxonomic identification of plants and their distribution pattern i.e. density to find out the dominant flora. Most of the plants in the different compartments are common which includes the leguminous plants which were in large number as compared to non-legumes. Leguminous plants found are Abrus precatorius, Acacia sp., Albizia lebbeck, Butea monosperma, Bahunia sp., Caesalpinia pulcherima, cassia fistula, Cassia tora, Leucaena leucocephala, Mimosa hamata, Mucuna pruriens, Pithecellobium dulce, Pongamia pinnata, Tamarindus indica, Tephrosia purpurea, Tephrosia hamiltonii etc. and were as non-legumes are Blumea sp., Tectona grandis, Santalabum album, Zizipus sp., Celosia argentea, Cleistanthus collinus, Mytragyna perbifolia, Partheneium sp., Semicarpus anacardium, Sida sp., vernonia cinerea etc. This study will be useful in determining the species diversity of plant which will be useful in characterizing the structure of the community available in and around Gorewada International Zoo.

Keywords: Tropical forest, plant biodiversity

Introduction:

Forests provide over US \$ 400 billions to the world's economy annually and are vital to maintain healthy ecosystem. Yet, current demand for forest products may exceed the limit of sustainable consumption by 25%. To satisfy this, maintenance of earth's biological diversity is today's need for the continued vitality of agriculture and medicine and perhaps even to life on earth itself. Yet, human activities such as mining activity are pushing many thousands of plant and animal species into extinction. Two of every three species are estimated to decline.

1. The forest cover in India was estimated as 675,538 sq. km. and constitutes 20.55 percent of its geographic area. Of this, dense and open forest cover constitutes as 12.68 and 7.87 percent, respectively. However, the area of non-forest in the country is 2,611,725 sq. km. and constitutes 79.45 percent of the geographical areas (Katiyar, 2005). Development of richness in the vegetation wealth and biodiversity of soil is of prime importance in the forest cover as well as on the non - forest area to conserve the bioresource and tree wealth.

2. Many parts of country are facing problem of forest resources depletion, due to lack of proper physico-chemical and microbiological status of forest soils. Forests of the tropical zones constitutes about half of the world's forest and mostly occur in developing countries. In recent years tropical forests have received much attention





because of their species richness, high standing biomass, and global net primary productivity. Tropical forests consist of world's largest biodiversity and play an important role in the global terrestrial carbon budget. The structure, composition and functioning of this forests are undergoing rapid changes because of anthropogenic activities, biotic pressure and widespread economic growth are altering the natural vegetal cover and putting tremendous pressure on the sustenance of the few left over tropical forest covers in India. As a result, there is lot of spatial and temporal variations in the reported values of species richness, composition and productivity. There is a pressing need to monitor the rate and extent of changes in the tropical forest covers in countries like India for efficient planning and management leading to sustainable development. Sustainable management of forest practices is many. In forest management practices, high scientific skills are required. Development of richness in the vegetation wealth and biodiversity of soil is of prime importance in the forest cover as well as on the nonforest area to conserve the bioresources and tree wealth. Many parts of country are facing problem of forest resources depletion due to poor nutritive condition of rhizospheric soils of forest. Therefore, in the proposed study an attempt has been made to characterize Gorewada forest with respect to the native flora of forest to determine the species diversity for determining the structure of the community available in and around Gorewada International Zoo.

Material and Methods:

The plants from Gorewada International Zoo were collected for the preparation of herbaria and were botanically identified with the help of floras.

Site Survey:

- 1. The total area of Gorewada forest area is 1881.66 ha.
- **2.** The total area of Gorewada forest area is unequally divided in to two parts by Nagpur-Kalmeshwar highway.
- **3.** Between the two parts, area on left side of the Nagpur-Kalmeshwar highway is divided into three compartments allotted with numbers 790, 791,and 792.
- **4.** While the second part that is to the right side of the Nagpur-Kalmeshwar highway has four compartments allotted with No. 793, 794, 795 and 796 along with a water tank of 57.93 ha. Visual depiction of water body present in Gorewada forest is presented in Plate 1.

Survey of native plant species in and around Gorewada International Zoo:

The tour in and around different compartments of Gorewada forest was made in phased manner so to cover most of the parts of the Gorewada forest for the survey of native plant species and soil sampling. Survey of Gorewada forest was conducted by project team from Sevadal Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur. During every visit, as many specimens as possible were collected and photographs were taken.

Specimens were brought to the college laboratory and all plants were indentified by using reference floras by Hooker's (1872-1897), Ugemuge (1986),





Almeida (1990), Joshi (2000) and Singh *et al.* (2001). During visit A few plants collected during visit have been listed. Weedy species have also been recorded.

Result and Discussion:

Description of Gorewada forest Site

Intensive and extensive site surveys were conducted at Gorewada forest during December-2007 to March-2008. During survey it was found that seven different compartments have characteristic features with respect to plants species available during winter season. Total area of Gorewada forest area is 1881.66 ha. The forest area is unequally divided in to two parts by Nagpur-Kalmeshwar highway. Among the two, part on left side of the Nagpur-Kalmeshwar highway, is divided into three compartments allotted with numbers 790, 791, and 792 and second part, to the right side of the Nagpur-Kalmeshwar highway, has four compartments allotted with No.793, 794, 795 and 796 along with a water tank of 57.93 ha.

Description of Flora available in different Compartments of Gorewada Forest

Compartment No. 790:

This site has almost a barren look with very few plant species towards its entrance with some of the pits dug for plantation on barren land. However, the density of plants improved towards the center. Types of plant species comprising of trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers and grasses present in this compartment is presented in **Table 1.** Among the plant species available, *Alternanthera pungens* and *Cassia tora* (herbs) and trees such as *Acacia catechu, Butea monosperma, Cassia siamea, Diospyros melanoxylon, Maytenus emarginata, Mitragyna perbifolia, Ziziphus mauritiana* are the predominant species followed by *Acacia catechu, Albizia odoratissima, Azadirachta indica* and *Dulbergia sisso.* Along the extremity of the compartment i.e. towards Nagpur-Kalmeshwar highway monoseries plantation of *Dendrocalamus strictus* was found which was planted to provide protective barriers from invaders. The forest present in 790 compartment is of dry deciduous type.

Compartment No. 791:

This site also has almost a barren and dry deciduous look like that found in compartment No. 790. with comparatively a very few plant species. However, the density of plants improved towards the center. Types of plant species comprising of trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers and grasses present in this compartment is presented in **Table 1.** Among the plant species available, *Alternanthera pungens*, *Cassia tora* (herbs) and *Acacia catechu*, *Butea monosperma*, *Mitragyna perbifolia*, *Cassia siamea*, *Maytenus emarginata*, *Ziziphus mauritiana*, *Diospyros melanoxylon* (trees) are the predominant species followed by *Dulbergia sisso*, *Albizia odoratissima*, *Acacia catechu* and *Azadirachta indica*.

Compartment No. 792:

In compartment number 792 of Gorewada forest about 42 different plant species classified as trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers and grasses (**Table. 1**). Among the tree species dominant types were *Acacia catechu*, *A. leucophloea. A. nilotica*,



Albizia odoratissima, Butea monosperma, Cassia siamea, Mitragyna perbifolia, and Ziziphus mauritiana.

Compartment No. 793:

This compartment is located at West side of Gorewada Catchments area. Multi-species plantation was found which comprised of predominant species viz. Acacia catechu, Hardwickia binata, Butea monosperma, Cleistanthus collinus, Dalbergia sisso followed by Santallum album, Acacia arabica, Bombox cieba, Acacia leucophloea, Soymida febrifuga, Mimosa hamata, Ziziphus mauritiana (**Table 1**). Different types of herbs and shrubs were also found. Fruit bearing plants of Ziziphus oenoplia and Abrus precatorius were also found. Plantation of Santalum album was also observed

Compartment No.794:

This compartment is situated on the right side of Nagpur - Kalmeshwar highway. Major part of this compartment is densely populated with multiple plant species (**Table 1**). However, successful monospecies plantation of *Xylia xylocarpa* is found in small area of this compartment with few plants of *Butea monosperma*, and *Azadirecta indica*. Perennial plant species of this compartment are *Maytenus emarginata*, *Butea monosperma*, *Acacia catechu*, *Acacia nelotica*, *Delbergia sisso*, *Cassia fistula*, *Ailanthus excelsa*, *Acacia leucophloea*, *Albizia lebbeck*, *Pithecellobium dulci*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Phoenix sylvestris*, *Dendrocalamus strictus* along with herbs, shrubs and climbers. Different types of thorny shrubs *Ziziphus rotandifolia* bearing fruits are found in this dry deciduous compartment. Termite infestation was found in *Butea monosperma* and *Acacia leucophloea*. An example of climber viz. *Macuna pruriens* present in compartment number 794.

Compartment No.795:

This compartment has a water body measuring 57.93 ha. and multispecies plantation and list of plants found during survey is presented in **Table 1**. Some of the predominant types of plant species available in compartment number 795 are Acacia catechu, Acacia leucophloea, Butea monosperma, Cleistanthus collinus, Mimosa hamata, Tectona grandis, and Ziziphus mauritiana.

Compartment No. 796:

This compartment is adjacent to Compartment number 794. It is characterized to have natural hilly area. In the centre of this compartment almost barren rocky area with very few plant species viz., *Tectona grandis, Ziziphus mauritiana* and *Ziziphus oenoplia* are found giving dry deciduous look to the compartment. The barren area of this compartment needs plantation. However, on the lower side of hilly area there is Gorewada reservoir and on top of the hilly area dense forest is present. Top of the hilly area is densely covered with green canopy and the dominant plant species available are *Maytenus emarginata, Ziziphus oenoplia, Butea monosperma, Acacia catechu, Acacia nelotica, Delbergia sisso, Cassia fistula, Ailanthus excelsa, Acacia leucophloea, Albizia lebbeck, Pithecellobium dulci, Pongamia pinnata, Gmelina arborea, Phoenix sylvestris, Dendrocalamus*





strictus, Tectona grandis, Semicarpus anacardium, Mimosa hamata, Grewia tiliifolia, Hardwickia binata, Terminalia arjuna **(Table 1**). In this compartment there is mother plant of Terminalia arjuna. In this compartment, barren patch of land is present which is almost devoid of vegetation due to inhabitation of Sita Gondi people (the local tribal community). However, Ziziphus sp. were found sparsely. Amanalla is passing through this compartment that is a centre of Gorewada catchment area. Few plants of Tectona grandis and Acacia leucophloea are found to be infested by termites.

Table. 1- List of Various Plant Species Present in different Compartments of Gorewada forest

S. No.	Comp. No. 790	Comp. No.791	Comp. No.792	Comp. No.793	Comp. No.794	Comp. No.795	Comp. No.796
	Trees	Trees	Trees	Trees	Trees	Trees	Trees
1	Acacia	Acacia	Acacia	Acacia arabica	A	Acacia	Acacia
	catechu	catechu	catechu	Ατατία αταρίτα	Асиси сигесни	catechu	catechu
2	Acacia	Acacia	Acacia	Acacia catechu	Acacia	Acacia	Acacia
2	leucophloea	leucophloea	leucophloea		leucophloea	leucophloea	leucophloea
3	Acacia nilotica	Acacia nilotica	Acacia nilotica	Acacia leucophloea	Acacia nilotica	Azadirachta indica	Acacia nilotica
4	Adina	Aegel	Albizia	Acacia nilotica	Ailanthus	Butea	Azadirachta
4	cordifolia	marmalosa	odoratissima	Acucia milouca	excelsa		indica
5	Ailanthus	Ailanthus	Andropogon	Albizia lebbeck	Albizia	Cleistanthus	Bauhinia
э	excelsa	excelsa	pumilus	AIDIZIU IEDDECK	lebbeck	collinus	purpuria
C	Albizia	Albizia	Azadirachta	Albizia	Azadirachta	Emblica	Bauhinia
6	odoratissima	odoratissima	indica	odoratissima	indica	officinalis	racemosa
-	Anogeissus	Azadirachta	Bauhinia	Annona	Bauhinia	Leucaenea	Bombaxi
7	latifolia	indica	racemosa	squamosa	racemosa	leucocephala	cieba
_	Azadirachta	Bauhinia	Butea	Azadirachta	Butea	Mimosa	Butea
8	indica	racemosa	monosperma	indica	monosperma	hamata	monosperma
_	Bauhinia	Butea	Cassia		1	Phoenix	Dalbergia
9	racemosa	monosperma	siamea	Bombaxi cieba	Cassia fistula	sylvestris	sissoo
		Cassia	Dalbergia	Butea	Dalbargia	Pongamia	Dandrocalam
10	Bombaxi cieba	siamea	sissoo	monosperma	sissoo	pinnata	us strictus
	Butea	Dalbergia	Dandrocalam	Cleistanthus	Dandrocalamu	Santalum	Delonix regia
11	monosperma	sissoo	us strictus	collinus	s strictus	album	
	Cassia	Dandrocalam	Dolichandron	Dalbergia	Leucaena	Tamarindus	Diospyros
12	angustifolia	us strictus	e falcata	sissoo	leucocephala	indica	melanoxylon
	Cassia		Maytenus		Maytenus	Tectona	Grewia
13	siamea	Delonix regia	emarginata	Eucalyptus sp.	emarginata	grandis	tiliifolia
	Dalbargia	Diospyros	Mimosa	Gemelina	Mimosa	Ziziphus	Leucaena
14	sissoo	melanoxylon	hamata	arborea	hamata	mauritiana	leucocephala
	Dandrocala	Leucaena	Mitragyna	Hardwickia	Mitragyna	maannana	Maytenus
15			perbifolia	binata	perbifolia	Shrubs	emarginata
	mus strictus Diospyros	leucocephala Maytenus	Phoenix	Leucaenea	Phoenix	Lantana	Mimosa
16	melanoxylon	emarginata	sylvestris		sylvestris	camera	hamata
	0	0		leucocephala	Pithecellobium		
17	Dolichandrone	Mimosa	Semicarpus	Merremia		Xanthium	Mitragyna
	falcata	hamata	anacardium	emarginata	dulce	strumarium	perbifolia
18	Emblica	Mitragyna	Tamarindus	Mimosa	Pongamea	Climhers	Phoenix
	officinalis	perbifolia	indica	hamata	pinnata		sylvestris
19	Grewia	Phoenix	Tectona	Phoenix	Tamarindus	Abrus	Pithecellobium
	tiliifolia	sylvestris	grandis	sylvestris	indica	precatorius	dulce
20	Leucaena	Pongamia	Terminalia	Santalum	Tectona	Ipomea	Santalum
20	leucocephala	pinnata	bellirica	album	grandis	aquatica	album
21	Maytenus	Semicarpus	Ziziphus	Soymida	Woodfordia	Ipomea	Semicarpus
21	emarginata	anacardium	glaberrima	febrifuga	fruticosa	quamoclit	anacardium
22	Mimosa	Tamarindus	Ziziphus	Ziziphus	Xylia	Herbs	Sesamum
22	hamata	indica	mauritiana	glaberrima	xylocarpa	nerds	orientale





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00	Mitragyna	Terminalia	011	Ziziphus	Ziziphus	Ageratum	Tamarindus
23	perbifolia	bellirica	Shrubs	mauritiana	mauritiana	conyzoides	indica
24	Phoenix sylvestris	Ziziphus glaberrima	Lantana camera	Shrubs	Shrubs	Alternanther a pungens	Tectona grandis
25	Pithecellobium	Ziziphus	Xanthium	Goniocalon	Ipomea	Blumea	Terminalia
25	dulce	mauritiana	strumarium	glabrum	aquatica	eriantha	alata
26	Semicarpus	Shrubs	Climbers	Lantana	Lantana	Cassia tora	Woodfordia
	anacardium			camera Xanthium	camera		fruticosa Ziaintana
27	Soymida febrifuga	Lantana camera	Cocculus hirsutus	strumarium	Xanthium strumarium	Goniocalon glabrum	Ziziphus glaberrima
	Tamarindus	Xanthium	Coix	Ziziphus	Ziziphus	Hyptis	Ziziphus
28	indica	strumarium	lacryma-jobi	oenoplia	oenoplia	suaveolens	mauritiana
29	Tectona	Climbers	Hemidesmus	Ziziphus	Climbers	Ocimum	Shrubs
	grandis Terminali	Cocculus	indicus Ipomea	xylopyrus	Combretum	sanctum	Cappris
30	bellirica	hirsutus	quamoclit	Climbers	ovalifolium	Parthenium	zeylanica
0.1	Terminalia	Hemidesmus	-	Hemidesmus	Cuscuta	0.1	Lantana
31	alata	indicus	Herbs	indicus	reflexa	Sida acuta	camera
32	Ziziphus	Ipomea	Ageratum	Ipomea	Hemidesmus	Sida cordata	Malachra
04	glaberrima	quamoclit	conyzoides	quamoclit	indicus		capitata
33	Ziziphus glaberrima	Herbs	Alternanther	Mucuna pruriens	Mucuna pruriens	Tridax procumbens	Climbers
	Ziziphus	Ageratum	a pungens Blumea	prunens	pruriens	Vernonia	Cocculus
34	mauritiana	conyzoides	eriantha	Herbs	Herbs	cinerea	hirsutus
1	Shrubs	Alternanthera	Cassia tora	Ageratum	Alternanthera	Vicoa indica	Coix lacryma-
		pungens		conyzoides	pungens	Vicou intatea	jobi
35	Lantana camera	Blumea eriantha	Hyptis suaveolens	Alternanthera pungens	Blumea eriantha	Vinca rosea	Combretum ovalifolium
36	Xanthium strumarium	Cassia tora	Parthenium	Blumea erintha	Cassia tora	Grasses	Hemidesmus indicus
		Hyptis	G :1 (Celosia	Cynodon	Ipomoea
	Climbers	suaveolens	Sida acuta	Cassia tora	argentea	dactylon	aquatica
37	Cocculus hirsutus	Parthenium	Sida cordata	Celosia argentea or C. cristata	Cyathocline purpuria	Hackelochloa granularis	Mucuna pruriens
38	Combretum ovalifolium	Sida acuta	Tridax procumbens	Hyptis suaveolens	Hyptis suaveolens	1/-	Herbs
39	Hemidesmus	Sida cordata	Vernonia	Parthenium	Malachra		Alternanthera
0,	indicus		cinerea	hysterophorus	capitata		pungens
40	Mucuna	Tridax	Vicoa indica	Sida acuta	Parthenium	-	Blumea
	pruriens	procumbens Vernonia			hysterophorus		eriantha
	Herbs	cinerea	Grasses	Sida cordata	Sida acuta		Cassia tora
41	Alternanthera pungens	Vicoa indica	Apluda mutica	Tridax procumbens	Sida cordata		Celosia argentea
	Blumea		Hackelochloa		Solanum		Cyathocline
42	eriantha	Grasses	granularis	cinerea	xanthocarpum		purpuria
43	Cassia tora	Andropogon	Iseilema	Vicoa indica	Tephrosia		Hyptis
		pumilus	laxum		hamiltoni Tambua ai a		suaveolens Parthenium
44	Celosia argentea	Apluda mutica			Tephrosia purpureai		hysterophorus
	Cyathocline	Coix lacryma-			Tridex		Pennisetum
45	purpuria	jobi			procumbens		hohenackeri
46	Hyptis suaveolens	Hackelochloa granularis			Vernonia cinerea		Sida acuta
47	Malachra capitata	Iseilema laxum			Grasses		Sida cordata
	Parthenium	iuxum			Andropogon		Solanum
48	hysterophorus				pumilus		xanthocarpum
					Apluda mutica		Tephrosia
40	Sida ante				ADUUUU MUTCA	1	
49	Sida acuta				Coix lacryma-		purpureai Tridex





51	Solanum xanthocarpum			Eragrostiella bifaria	Typha angustata
52	Tephrosia			Iseilema	Vernonia
	hamiltoni			laxum	cinerea
53	Tephrosia			Pennisetum	Xanthium
	purpureai			hohenackeri	strumarium
54	Tridex				Grasses
	procumbens				
55	Vernonia				Andropogon
00	cinerea				pumilus
	Grasses				Apluda
					mutica
56	Andropogon				Iseilema
	pumilus				laxum
57	Apluda mutica				
58	Coix lacryma-				
30	jobi				
59	Eragrostiella				
	bifaria				
60	Iseilema				
	laxum	5.33			
61	Pennisetum				
	hohenackeri		X		

* **Comp.-**Compartment

Summary and Conclusions:

The proposed study of native plant species in and around Gorewada forest was conducted in total seven compartments. The dominant plant species observed in the Gorewada forest were Acacia catechu, Acacia leucophloea, Acacia arabica, Acacia nilotica, Albizia odoratissima, Albizzia lebbeck, Azadirachta indica, Bauhinia purpuria, Bauhinia racemosa, Bombox cieba, Butea monosperma, Cassia angustifolia, Cassia siamea, Cleisthanthus collinus, Dendrocalamus strictus. Diospyros melanoxylon, Dulbergia sisso, Grewia tiliifolia, Hardwickia binata, Leucaena leucoephala, Maytenus emarginata, Mimosa hamata, Mitragyna perbifolia, Phienix sylvestris, Santallum album, Soymida febrifuga, Tamarindus indica, Tectona grandis, Termenelia bellirica, Terminalia alata, Ziziphus glaberrima, Ziziphus mauritiana. Different types of herbs and shrubs were also found were Alternanthera pungens, Blumea eriantha, Celosia argentea, Parthenium hysterophorus (herbs) and the shrubs observed were Xanthium strumarium, Lantana camera. This study will be useful in determining the species diversity to characterize the structure of the community available in and around Gorewada International Zoo.

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