



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Common Fauna Found In Andaman Islands

MUNIYASWARI

GUEST LECTURER

MAHATMA GANDHI GOVERNMENT COLLEGE, MAYABUNDER

ABSTRACT

This paper attempts to study the Common Fauna found in Andaman Islands, which are most beautiful fauna which includes trees, shrubs, herbs in Andaman Island. It is one of the safest zones for the threatened species which can rely their habitat and continue to evolve in the forest ecosystem with sufficient food stocks. This paper study involves, geological features, physical features, climate, biological diversity.. This paper makes an attempt to provide the information regarding Forest ecosystem and help the upcoming younger generation and field researchers in- depth analysis about the biological diversity of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

KEYWORDS

Forest, environment, wood, ornamental

INTRODUCTION

Forest resources plays an important role in the economy of any country. It is highly complex, changing environment made up of a living and non living things, Living things include trees, shrubs, wildlife etc and non living things include water, nutrients, rocks, sunlight and air, trees and plants make up a large portion of the forest. Forest are essential not only for human beings but also for all animals. The constituents of forest which are trees and plants form a major part of the forest. Furthermore, they create a healthy environment so that various species of animals can breed and live happily.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This study fulfill the following objectives:

To study the role of fauna of Andaman forest which is commonly available only in Andaman Islands.

To study and analyze about the biological diversity.

To analyze the positive and negative impact of Forest ecosystem.

METHODOLOGY

The sole purpose of the study is to analyze the species found in Andaman forest . The collection method is secondary data which are collected from the site's informative boards and analyzed with a proper visits during the seasonal and non-seasonal phase.

WHY FOREST IS IMPORTANT?

We are all aware of the fact that forest are an essential part of our livelihood . Forest are a divers ecosystem on the earth that includes trees, shrubs, and other important plants over 1.6 billion people depend on forest for food or fuel and some 70 millions people worldwide, including many indigenous communities call forest home. Forest provide us with oxygen, shelter, jobs, water, nourishment and fuel.

COMMON TREE FOUND IN ANDAMAN FOREST

ANDAMAN PADAUK (*Pterocarpus dalbergioides*)

- **Kingdom:** Plantae
- **Family:** Fabaceae (Legume family)
- **Genus:** Pterocarpus
- **Species:** P. dalbergioides

Paduak is a tall deciduous tree found only in Andaman. It grows up to 120 feet tall. Its wood is used for making furniture, which is valuable. Its reaches a height of 50m and diameter of 1.5m and the hole is cylindrical, mostly straight, buttresses that can reach up to 1.5m height. The bark is grey, fine and scaly. Bur and the buttress formation in Andaman Paduak are world famous for their exceptionally unique charm and figuring. Its known for its valuable timber and ornamental value.

SHIRISH TREE (*Albizia lebbeck*)

- **Kingdom:** Plantae
- **Family:** Fabaceae (Legume family)
- **Genus:** Albizia
- **Species:** A. lebbeck

This tree is 50 to 80 feet high, its stem is grooved, its rectangular stalked leaves are up to 6 inches long and up to 4 inches wide, which are spread in four to six circles around the stem, their upper part. The shiny and lower part is white, and the veins run at right angles to the middle part of the stem. It is known for its Timber and wood uses ,Medicinal properties and Ornamental value.

PYINMA TREE (*Lagerstroemia speciosa*)

- **Kingdom:** Plantae
- **Family:** Lythraceae
- **Genus:** Lagerstroemia
- **Species:** L. speciosa

With the recommendation of state board for wildlife for the union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands flower of Pyinma tree has been declared as state flower of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Pyinma is a medium to large sized tree found in the moist deciduous forests of our Islands with the Lilac colored flowers produced in bunches of pyramidal shape is endemic to our Islands and is very common in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

This tree is known for its:

- Ornamental value: Large, showy flowers in shades of pink, purple, or white
- Timber: Used for furniture-making and construction
- Medicinal properties: Various parts of the tree are used in traditional medicine

COMMON PLANTS AROUND THE ANDAMAN FOREST

1 FALSE IRONWORT (*Sideritis syriaca*)

- **Kingdom:** Plantae
- **Family:** Lamiaceae (Mint family)
- **Genus:** *Sideritis*
- **Species:** *S. syriaca*

False ironwort is an annual shrub native to central and North America that grows so freely that it is considered a weed. It is an introduced species in Australia and parts of Southeast Asia, growing up to 2m tall. False ironwort features aromatic foliage and clustered flowers. It is native to tropical regions, propagates well through showing fresh seeds in a well aerated, moist soil mix.

This plant is known for its:

- Medicinal properties: Used in traditional herbal medicine for various purposes
- Aromatic properties: Leaves and flowers have a distinct aroma
- Cultivation: Grows in rocky areas and is adapted to dry environments

2 RANGOON CREEPERS (*Quisqualis indica*)

- **Kingdom:** Plantae
- **Family:** Combretaceae
- **Genus:** *Quisqualis*
- **Species:** *Q. indica*

Combretum indicum, commonly known as Rangoon creeper, enjoys a broad distribution, being native to regions in southeast Asia and part of Africa. Rangoon creepers have also been introduced to various other tropical and subtropical areas across several continents. It is sometimes thought to be invasive in certain areas.

but typically without severe impact on ecosystems. Its seeds possess mild toxicity, causing gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea and vomiting, headaches and dizziness if ingested by human.

This plant is known for its:

- Fragrant flowers that change color from white to pink to red
- Climbing habit
- Ornamental value in gardens
- Medicinal properties in traditional practices

3 GIANT TARO (*Alocasia macrorrhizos*)

- **Kingdom:** Plantae
- **Family:** Araceae
- **Genus:** Alocasia
- **Species:** A. macrorrhizos

Giant taro is native to some countries in South Asia and Australia rainforests, and it has also been introduced to China, South America and some countries of Africa. It is ornamental in tropical gardens for its large leaves. It can improve the microclimate, reduce noise, conserve water sources, and regulate humidity. All parts contain calcium oxalate crystals causing irritation and discomfort. Immediate veterinary care is essential if pets consume giant taro.

This plant is known for its:

- Large, upright leaves
- Edible corms (underground stems)
- Tropical habitat
- Ornamental value

4 PORCUPINE FLOWER (*Strophanthus*)

- **Kingdom:** Plantae
- **Family:** Apocynaceae
- **Genus:** Strophanthus

Porcupine flower is native to a wide range of regions including the region of South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Arabian Peninsula and parts of Africa. Porcupine flower is grown as an ornamental plant for its bright golden flowers which can bloom several times a year in favorable climates with lots of sunlight.

This plant is known for its:

- Unique, fringed flowers
- Climbing habit

- Toxic seeds (some species)
- Medicinal properties (cardiac glycosides)

5 FALSE BIRD OF PARADISE (*Heliconia psittacorum*)

- **Kingdom:** Plantae
- **Family:** Heliconiaceae
- **Genus:** Heliconia
- **Species:** H. psittacorum

It is also known as hanging lobster claw heliconia. False bird of paradise is an herbaceous flowering plant native to central America and surrounding Islands. The nectar of their plant attracts birds. Its flower is the national flower of Bolivia. The flower are followed by eye-catching , fresh, blue fruits that keep visual interest for the most of the season.

This plant is known for its:

- Brightly colored, waxy bracts
- Unique, bird-like flowers
- Tropical habitat
- Ornamental value

6 ANDAMAN KOKUM (*Garcinia xanthochymus*)

- **Kingdom:** Plantae
- **Family:** Clusiaceae
- **Genus:** Garcinia
- **Species:** G. xanthochymus or G. andamanica

Andaman kokum is an endemic fruit species reported to occur in South Andaman Islands. A popular species in Maharashtra , Goa and Karnataka. Andaman Kokum occurs during dry period, mainly in February- March very limited natural population of Andaman Kokum are available and few local residents are aware of its edible fruits.

This plant is known for its:

- Edible fruit
- Medicinal properties
- Use in traditional cuisine
- Tropical habitat

7 BURMA PHAL (*Burmese ramiflora*)

- **Kingdom:** Plantae
- **Family:** Phyllanthaceae
- **Genus:** Baccaurea
- **Species:** B. ramiflora (or B. sapida)

Burma phal is an endemic fruit species found distributed mainly in the Little Andaman Islands. Trees as of 7 to 8m height and fruits are large , attractive, yellow and soul in taste. Promoting its cultivation and subsequent utilization of Burma phal would not only provide income source to the Island farmers but would also contribute in conservation of this endemic heritage of our Islands.

This plant is known for its:

- Edible fruit
- Traditional use in cuisine
- Medicinal properties
- Tropical habitat

CONCLUSION

Forest are a dynamic resources affected by many coexisting ecological processes and direct management interventions. Stronger tools are necessary of conflicting suitability and choices in resource allocation. Social forestry has increasingly become the tools to establish multipurpose plantations and to maximize returns from social forestry as a land use. Social forestry communities are the most marginalized and vulnerable to climate change and their capacity to adopt depends not merely on limited benefits or livelihood options but on secure access to resources.

SUGGESTIONS

On the basis of the present study, the following suggestions have been made;
The govt. should take adequate action plans to develop infrastructure of surrounding areas so that this spot do not get disturbed by the external surrounding.

REFERENCE

- "The Andaman and Nicobar Islands: A Comprehensive Study" by R. K. Gupta
- "Tropical Forests of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands" by S. N. Rai