

**SURVEY OF INSECTIVOROUS PLANT IN SALEKASA TALUKA OF GONDIA DISTRICT ,
MAHARASHTRA (INDIA)**

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ABSTRACT

Insectivorous plants species represent the very small percentage in the world flora Insectivorous plants are among the curiosities of nature. They have ability to capture prey by special trapping mechanism and fulfill their nitrogen requirement by absorbing it. The present paper deals with the 11 species of carnivorous plants occurred in Salekasa Taluka. Out of these 9 species belong to the family Lentibulariaceae and remaining two belong to the family Droseraceae. All the specimens are preserved in the herbarium. Department of Botany, Shankarlal Agrawal Science College, Dist. Gondia (M.S.)

Keywords: Insectivorous plants, Droseraceae, Lentibulariace, Salekasa.

INTRODUCTION

Carnivorous plants also called as insectivorous plants are among the curiosities of nature. There are about 400 species of the carnivorous plants, distributed all over the world except Antarctica. The species generally grow in nutrient poor water logged soil where water is continuously dripping. Occurrence of the genus indicated the nitrogen deficient soil in that particular area. In common with most carnivorous plants, they exploit ecological niches poor in dissolved minerals, where their carnivorous nature gives them a competitive advantage; terrestrial varieties of *Utricularia* can frequently be found alongside representatives of the carnivorous genera *Drosera* (sundews) and others in very wet areas where continuously dripping water removes most soluble minerals from the soil.

STUDY AREA

Salekasa taluka spread over 446.36.90 km² area of which tribal population is 21356. The total land area covered by the forest is 321.85 km², where reserved forest 68.29 Km., protected forest 82.06 Km., and unclassified forest is 54.21 Km. The aquatic vegetation of the taluka is supported by several lakes, wetlands, pond , ditches and Bhag river. For the present study lakes, pond and wetlands in different parts of the taluka is surveyed.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The study is survey based and for this regular field visit to various villages and wetland area of taluka carried out during 2013-2016. The identification of the plants has been carried out with the help of available literature. The collected plants have been preserved in the form of herbarium and deposited to the Department of Botany, Shankarlal Agrawal Science College, Salekasa.

RESULT

Table 1: Distribution of aquatic species

Species	Lake studied											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>U. aurea</i>	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-
<i>U. exoelata</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
<i>U. stellaris</i>	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+

Table 2: Distributions of wetland terrestrial species

Species	Site studied											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<i>U. bifida</i>	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
<i>U. caerulea</i>	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
<i>U. foveolata</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
<i>U. minutissima</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
<i>U. polygaloides</i>	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+
<i>U. scandens</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
<i>D. burmannii</i>	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
<i>D. indica</i>	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+

GENERIC AND SPECIES KEY FOR STUDIES SPECIES

1. Trap present..... Lentibulariaceae
 2. Plants aquatic; leaves dissected:
 3. Seeds prismatic; winged or not:
 4. Float ellipsoid, many; testa cell reticulate..... U. stellaris
 4. Float absent, if present, 4 in number, fusiform; testa cells isodiametric . U. aurea
 3. Seeds lenticular, corky, winged U. exoleta
 2. Plant terrestrial; leaves spatulate, orbicular or linear
 5. Raceme twining:
 6. Flowers yellow..... U. scandens
 6. Flowers blue U. foveolata
 5. Raceme erect:
 7. Bract medifixed..... U. caerulea
 7. Bract basifixed:
 8. Fruiting pedicel recurved; flowers yellow..... U. bifida
 8. Fruiting pedicel erect; flowers other than yellow:
 9. Raceme more than 10 cm in height, flowers blue..... U. polygaloides
 9. Raceme not more than 5 cm in height; flower pure white... U. minutissima
1. Trap absent..... Droseraceae
 10. Leaves in basal rosettes; style 5.....D. burmannii
 10. Leaves born along the stem; styles 3.....D. indica

DISCURSION

The occurrence and distribution of Insectivorous species in the taluka shows presence of 11 species which belongs in two families namely Droseraceae and Lentibulariaceae. The family Droseraceae is represented by monotypic genus Drosera. The prominent habitat of the Drosera is wetlands where the water is continuously dripping. Generally in most of the habitat both species i.e. *D. indica* and *D. burmannii* coexist together and share the habitat. The family Lentibulariaceae is represented by 9 species out of which 3 are free floating submerge and other six are terrestrial wetland species. The distribution of *Utricularia aurea* and *Utricularia stellaris* is common in most of the lake, but lake polluted with anthropogenic activity largely support the growth *Utricularia aurea*. The other aquatic *Utricularia exoelata* is sparsely distributed aquatic species which occurred in few lake. Terrestrial wetland species are diverse, association of *Utricularia bifida*, *Utricularia polygaloides* and *Utricularia caerulea* is more predominant in most of the habitats. *Utricularia scandence* is spotted only in two sites which require specific microhabitat. *Utricularia fovelata* is a also sparsely distributed species. Both the species of *Drosera* more or less associated with *U. bifida*, *U. caerulea* and *U. polygaloides*.

CONCLUSION

Salekasa taluka represent the rich diversity of Insectivorous plant and represented by two families out of three families found in India. The Lentibulariaceae is represented by about two genus and more than 40 species. In India the genus *Utricularia* is represented by 40 species⁽²⁾ while in Maharashtra 18 species of *Utricularia* found⁽²⁾, out of which 9 species have been reported from the study area. The genus *Drosera* is represented by three species in India and in present study 2 have been reported from the taluka. The species, are decline due to loss of habitats by various anthropogenic activities. Due to their unique microhabitats the terrestrial species required to pay more attention for the conservation of habitats.

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