Diversity of Genus Ficus in Nandgaon and Chandwad tehsils District Nasik (Maharashtra)

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ABSTRACT: The paper deals with the diversity of Genus Ficus from Nandgaon and Chandwad tehsils of Nasik District (Maharashtra State) based on detailed field studies. A total of species were recorded from the study area out of which Ficus mollis is recorded as a new record to the flora of Nasik district.

Key Words: Diversity, Ficus, Nasik District, New record

Introduction – Genus Ficus is an important genus, which plays an important role in the ecosystem as a Key stone species. Chandwad and Nandgaon tehsils are located approximately in the centre of the district, Constituting the drier parts of the district, traversed by the Satmala range an offshoot of Sahayadri. During the floristic studies undertaken in this area, it was found that the area is quite rich in diversity of Ficus species. Out of the nine species found six were recorded as new to the study area and Two Ficus mollis and Ficus palmata were recorded as a new record to Nasik district. Plants were photographed with Sony DSC-H 400 camera, new record for district were shot with vivo Mobile with goggle app for precise location and proof.

Enumeration –


Large spreading trees up to 25 meters high. Leaves simple alternate, ovate oblong or elliptical –oblong, subcoriaceous. Receptacles globose sub-sessile crowned towards tip of branch lets. Smooth ripens purple. February – December Occasional – Tangdi, Kundane, Dheku


Trees about 12 meter high. Leaves broadly ovate, sub-coriaceous with wavy margin. Leaf tips pointed acuminate but short. Receptacles about 1 cm in diameter, depressed, globose ripens purple with green spots

Common on Hill tops Indrai fort, Mahadev dongar


Large spreading evergreen tree, up to 15 meters high. Numerous aerial roots, thicken and become stilts. Bark of Stems grayish brown smooth. Receptacles in axillary pairs, sessile, scarlet red when ripe. Sadetin rodga dongar, Ekhurke


Trees unto 25 m high, descending aerial roots arising from stout branches. Bark grey or brownish. Smooth Leaves simple, blade ovate elliptical with a round base. Leaves densely pilose or strigose early, later glabrous –coriaceous. Figs sessile, axillary paired ripening yellow to orange, ellipsoid–globose thick walled. Tepals free male flowers few. pedicels about 4 mm long tepals 2-3 filaments bristly at base anthers wide. Female flowers sessile tepals 3-4 Gall flowers pedicillate

Receptacles – April – May Dheku Rare


610 | IJRAR- International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews Research Paper
Deciduous trees growing up to 15 m tall, branchlets tomentose. Bark 5-6 mm thick. Leaves simple alternate spiral. Lamina 6-15 x 3-9 cm elliptical, oblong, obovate, elliptical-ovate, base round or cordate, apex obtuse, subacute or obtusely tomentose. Figs sessile in axillary pairs, globose tomentose about 1 cm across, basal bracts 3, apical bracts 3, tepals 3-4 reddish free. Male flowers disperse pedicillate. Gall flowers sessile or pedicillate, female sessile.

Receptacles - January - September

**Ficus palmata Forrs.** Fl. Aegypt-Arab. 179.1755; King in Hook. Fl. Brit. India 5:530.1888


Umbar

Trees up to 30 m high. Bark grayish white to pinkish. 7-10 mm thick. Young shoots and figs finely hairy. Latex milky. Leaves ovate-oblong, Elliptical - lanceolate, base cuneate, apex sub acute or acuminate. Receptacles in large clusters on main branches and trunks, about 3 cm across, subglobose to pyriform. Peduncles 0.3-1.2 cm long. Pale green to red to reddish on ripening. Male flowers near ostiole in 2-3 rings sessile, lamina 4-5 cm long tepals -4, female flowers sessile, gall flowers shortly stalked tepals 3-4.

Receptacles - February - June


March to August


Amba payer

Strangling fig, aerial roots wrapping around main stem. Leaves elliptic or ovate lanceolate, 8-9 cm long and 3-6 cm wide with a whitish midrib. Figs in pairs, peduncles 1-7 cm long, globose greenish white to brown with spots.

Receptacles - October - August

Few - Chandreshwar - Chandwad fort. Occasional

References

Ficus benghalensis L

Ficus drupacea Thunb var pubescens (Roth) Corner

Ficus racemosa L

Ficus religiosa L

Ficus palmata Forssk

Ficus mollis Vahl

Ficus virens W.T.Aiton