

ADDITIONS TO THE FLORA OF DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI (U.T.)

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ABSTRACT

In the present paper 26 species of angiosperms belonging to 20 families have been reported for the first time from union territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

INTRODUCTION

The union territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is situated on the west coast of India, between lat. of 20°0'-20° 25'N & long. of 72° 50' 73° 15' E. The total area of 491 sq. km comprises of two enclaves (pockets), viz: Dadra and Nagar Haveli. These two pockets are separated from each other by about 4 km belt of land from Valsad district of Gujarat state. The territory is surrounded on the west, north & north-east by Valsad district of Gujarat state and on the south and south-east by Thane district of Maharashtra state.

Except for a small portion of plain land towards north-west the whole area is undulating and hilly, with hilly terrain specially towards the east, north-east and south ; the latter form the foot spurs of Western Ghats. The main river in the area is "Damanganga", it arises from Western Ghats in Nasik district of Maharashtra state, 64 km

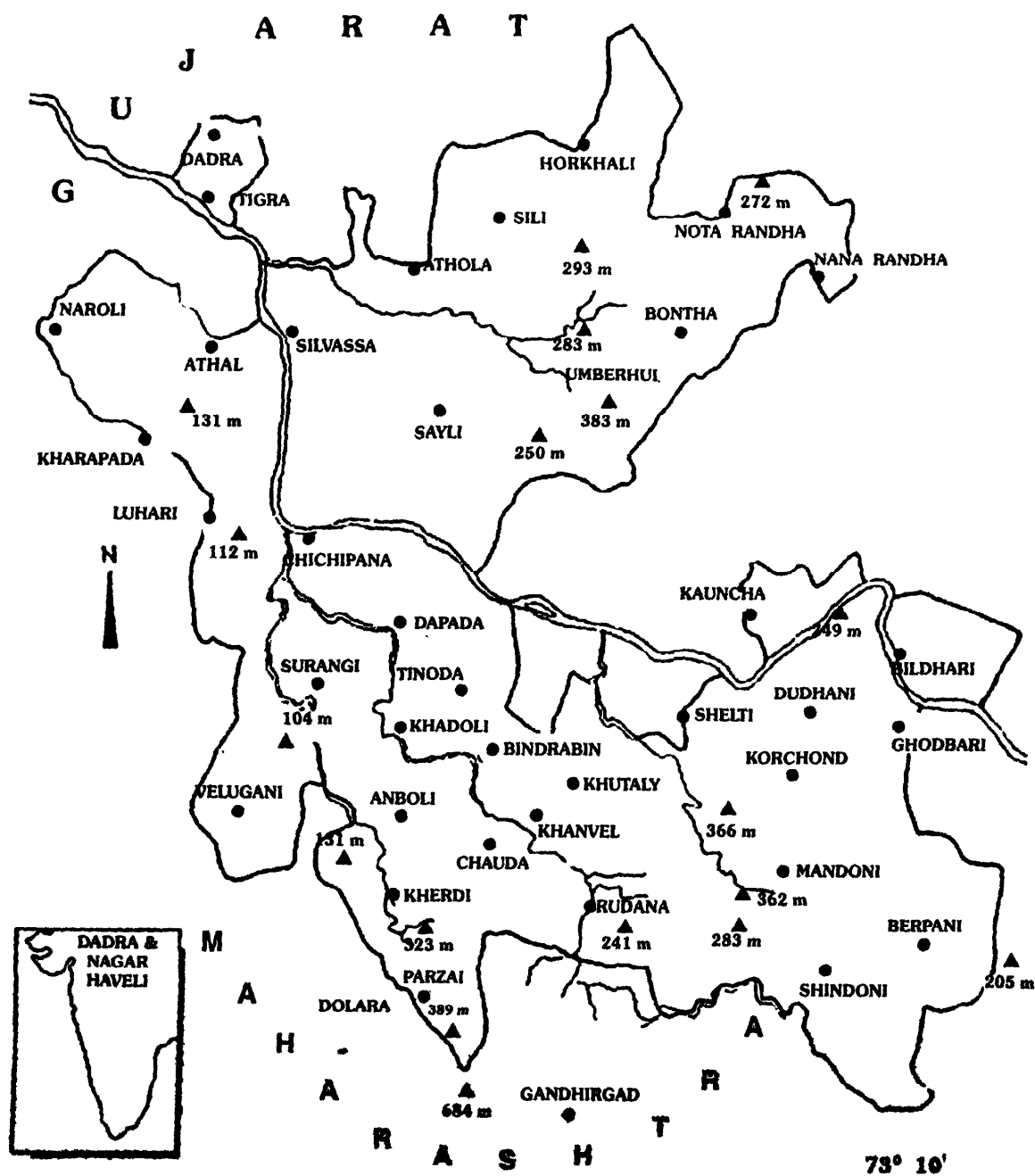
away from the coast and discharges itself in the Arabian sea at the port of Daman.

According to Rao (1985) the first work on the flora of this area was by Caetano Gracias (1899) and C. F. Xavier Gracias (1902 and 1927), publishing three small books in portuguese, but these are of no practical utility and are much outdated. At the beginning of 19th century, some workers made notable contributions to the Floristics of western India, such as Cooke (1901 1908), Saxton & Sedgwick (1918), Talbot (1909-1911) and several others. Though there were such comprehensive works on the flora of whole western India, data on Plants of Dadra and Nagar Haveli based on authentic herbarium materials were lacking.

Rao (1985) while working on the flora of Goa, etc. had also worked out this area by undertaking several explorations. In the

DADRA & NAGAR—HAVELI

MAP 1.



course of recent explorations in Dadra & Nagar Haveli we came across 26 plants, that are not recorded by Rao 1985 from this area. Some of these species are common in the adjoining areas also. Herbarium specimens of these 26 species have been deposited in the Botanical Survey of India, Western Circle, Pune herbarium (BSI) under the senior author's collection numbers (PPS).

In the enumeration below, species have been arranged alphabetically and the family names have been provided for each in parenthesis. The description provides a few notable characters. The distribution within the area, alongwith localities and field collection Nos. have also been given.

ENUMERATION

1. *Acacia leucophloea* (Roxb.) Willd.
(Mimosaceae).

Trees ; bark yellowish. Flowers whitish-yellow. Pods yellowish-brown, tomentose.

Distrib. : Frequent on hill slopes ; Nagar Haveli ; Karchond.
173372.

2. *A. torta* (Roxb.) Craib. (Mimosaceae).

Shrubs ; branches grooved, yellow or dark brown. Flowers yellowish-white. Pods dark brown to pale brown.

Distrib. : Frequent on hill slopes ; Nagar Haveli ; Dolara.
173921.

3. *Argyrea nervosa* (Burm.f.) Boj.
(Convolvulaceae).

Climbers with grey-white, tomentose stems. Flowers purplish-white. Fruits subglobose.

Distrib. : Occasional, along forest edges ; Nagar Haveli ; Sily.
176434.

4. *Arisaema tortuosum* (Wall.) Schott.
(Araceae).

Herbs. Spathes striate, green, cucullate ; spadix with smooth, purple appendage. Berries ovoid.

Distrib. : Occasional, occuring in the forest outskirts in shady areas ; Nagar Haveli ; Karchond.
173369.

5. *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss. (Meliaceae).

Trees. Flowers white, fragrant. Drupes glabrous.

Distrib. : Naturalised, seen growing wild in forests ; Nagar- Haveli ; Dudhani.
176453.

6. *Blumea obligua* (L.) Druce (Asteraceae).

Herbs Annual. Flowers yellow. Achenes minute, oblong, compressed.

Distrib. : Common amidst grasses ; Nagar Haveli ; Chauda.
173931.

7. *Canthium rheedii* DC. (Rubiaceae).

Shrubs, spiny. Flowers greenish. Drupes obcordate, didymous, rugose.

Distrib. : Frequent in deciduous forests; Nagar Haveli ; Kawancha.

173977.

8. *Capparis sepiaria* L. (Capparaceae).

Shrubs, armed with spines. Flowers white. Fruits globose.

Distrib. : Common in hedges around the fields & on the slopes ; Nagar Haveli ; Kawancha.

173978.

9. *Cissus trilobata* Lamk. (Vitaceae).

Shrubs ; stems stout, cylindric or tetragonous. Flowers numerous near the ends of branches. Berries obovoid, black.

Distrib. : Occasional in the deciduous forests ; Nagar Haveli ; Amboli.

176410.

10. *Cuscuta reflexa* Roxb. (Cuscutaceae).

Twining ; stems creamy-yellow or greenish-yellow, thick, fleshy, leafless. Flowers greenish-yellow. Capsules globose.

Distrib. : Parasitic on bushes and trees ; Nagar Haveli ; Bontha.

173940.

11. *Cyperus pangorei* Rottb. (Cyperaceae).

Herbs, perennial ; rhizomes short, woody. Spikelets reddish-brown. Nuts blackish-brown.

Distrib. : Few near nallahs ; Nagar Haveli ; Khanvel.

173926.

12. *Ixora arborea* Roxb. ex J. E. Sm. (Rubiaceae).

Trees with thick, reddish-brown bark. Flowers white in trichotomous cymes. Fruits didymous.

Distrib. : Common in forests ; Dadra ; Tighra.

173319.

13. *I. brachiata* Roxb. (Rubiaceae).

Trees. Flowers white, on puberulous branches. Fruits globose or didymous, purple-black when ripe.

Distrib. : Common on slopes ; Nagar Haveli ; Dolara.

173988.

14. *Jatropha gossypifolia* L. var. *elegans* Muell.-Arg. (Euphorbiaceae).

Shrubs, Flowers red. Capsules greenish-yellow.

Distrib. : Occasional near villages ; Dadra ; Tighru.

173969.

15. *Leucaena latisligua* (L.) Guill.
(Mimosaceae).

Trees. Flowers white in globose heads.
Pods straight, strapshaped.

Distrib. : Few in waste places ; Dadra ;
Tighra.

173323.

16. *Macaranga peltata* (Roxb.) Muell.-Arg.
(Euphorbiaceae).

Trees, much branched. Flowers yellow,
small. Capsules globose, hairy, glandular.

Distrib. : Few on hill slopes ; Nagar
Haveli ; Bedpa.

176448.

17. *Melia dubia* Cav. (Meliaceae).

Trees. Flowers greenish-white. Drupes
ovoid, green, glabrous.

Distrib. : Scarce on hill slopes ; Nagar
Haveli ; Bildhari.

173976.

**18. *Moringa concanensis* Nimo ex Dalz. &
Gibs. (Moringaceae).**

Trees. Flowers whitish-yellow. Capsules
straight, acutely triquetrous with slight
constrictions between the seeds.

Distrib. : few in the forests & near
villages ; Nagar Haveli ; Dudhni.

173949.

19. *Physalis angulata* L. (Solanaceae).

Herbs, annual. Flowers yellow. Berries
enveloped in bladder-like calyx teeth.

Distrib. : Frequent on hill slopes and in
cultivated fields ; Nagar Haveli ; Parazai.

173356.

20. *Semecarpus anacardium* L.f.
(Anacardiaceae).

Trees. Flowers greenish-yellow. Drupe
black, seated on fleshy receptacles.

Distrib. : Occasional on hill slopes ;
Nagar Haveli ; Bildhari.

173338.

21. *Spilanthes paniculata* Wall. ex DC.
(Asteraceae).

Herbs, stems decumbent. glabrescent.
Heads ovoid-conical in axillary panicles.
Achenes obovate, sparsely scabrid.

Distrib. : Few along roadsides in moist,
shady places ; Nagar Haveli ; Silvassa.

176457.

22. *Stereospermum coalis* (Dillvo)
Mabberley (Bignoniaceae).

Trees. Flowers yellow. Capsules
subquadrangular, curved, terete.

Distrib. : Infrequent in forests ; Nagar
Haveli ; Amboli.

176406.

23. Terminalia chebula Retz.
(Combretaceae).

Trees. Flowers white or pale-yellow.
Drupes yellowish-green, faintly ribbed ; stone
oblong.

Distrib. : Few on hill slopes ; Nagar
Haveli ; Bindrabin.

173930.

24. Thunbergia laevis Nees (Acanthaceae).

Undershrubs, climbing. Flowers white.
Capsules glabrous, basal part globose.

Distrib. : Occasional in forests ; Nagar
Haveli ; Dolar.

173984.

25. Tinospora cordifolia (L.) Merr.
(Menispermaceae).

Shrubs, climbing, woody. Flowers
yellow. Drupes green, hanging in bunches
from leafless stems.

Distrib. : Sparse on hill slopes ; Nagar
Haveli ; Dudhni.

176468.

26. Wattakaka volubilis (L.f.) Stapf
(Asclepiadaceae).

Twining, woody, sap watery. Flowers
green. Follicles ovoid, tapering to a blunt
point.

Distrib. : Frequent on hill slopes ; Nagar
Haveli ; Khutaly.

173304.

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