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Status and Distribution of *Anogeissus sericea* var. *nummularia* in Udaipur District, Rajasthan (India)

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Abstract: The present distribution of *Anogeissus sericea* var. *nummularia* has been assessed in this study in Udaipur district of Rajasthan. *Anogeissus sericea* var. *nummularia* locally called *Indrokh*, is moderate sized multipurpose hard wood tree of dry deciduous forests. *Anogeissus sericea* var. *nummularia* is threatened due to unsustainable harvesting by local community. Habitats of *Anogeissus* were degraded by cutting of mature trees, soil erosion, enchroachment, developmental activities and human inhabitation that lead to viability reduction. A probable list of location of the species in the study area was prepared, based on the literature, reports, thesis and informal interviews with the local people. Using the above information, random transects were located and surveyed. Present study reveals that *Anogeissus sericea* var. *nummularia* is dotted in eastern part of Udaipur district.

Key Words: Threatened, Rare, Habitat degradation, Endemic, arid and semiarid areas

INTRODUCTION

Udaipur district have been facing various levels of pressure for the past few decades and as a result, habitat degradation & habitat fragmentation have constantly been increased. Numerous plant species facing direct & indirect threat and their number reduces naturally. One of the plant is *Anogeissus sericea* var. *nummularia*, belong to genus *Anogeissus.* This plant is a rare species of arid and semi-arid areas yielding timber, fuelwood and fodder. *Anogeissus sericea* var. *nummularia*is an endemic and rare species. The reason behind the rareness of this tree is due to the hefty exploitation for commercial purposes (for making agricultural implements and furniture) and it has been categorized as 'Rare (R)' by Nayar and Sastri[1]; WCMC[2]; IUCN[3];GEC[4], MSU[5] and GUIDE[6].

Study Area: The study area includes Udaipur district of Rajasthan. It lies between 27º42'N and 75º33'E. This district comprises of 7 sub divisions which are further sub divided in to 11 Tehsils namelyGirwa,Gogunda,Kherwada,Rishabdev,Mavli,Vallabhnagar,Kotra,Jhadol,Lasadia,Salumber and Sarada. Udaipur district includes protected areas viz. Kumbhalgarh, Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary, Phulvari ki Naal and Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary. Temperature in Udaipur district ranges from 39ºC to 11ºC. Annual rainfall varies from 50-95 cm.

Methodology: To study distribution and status of *Anogeissus sericea* var. *nummularia*, the entire study area was subdivided into two strands - protected and unprotected. A probable list of location of the species in the study area was prepared, based on the literature, reports, thesis and informal interviews with the local people. Survey of sacred grooves are also done. Surveys are done especially in rainy and winter season because during these seasons, plant show flowering, fruiting and new recruitments. The vegetation was analyzed by means of random samples. Tribals and forest department were also contacted to get information about plant [7-12].

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Present study reveals that *Anogeissus sericea* var. *nummularia* is dotted in eastern part of Udaipur district. The present study also reveals that if the current rate of exploitation continues, this species may be replaced by other species and drastic changes may occur in species composition. The inevitable pressure on *Anogeissus sericea* var. *nummularia* is leading to its severe destruction and may create its scarcity in the near future.

Table -1: Records and Status of *Anogeissus sericea* var.*nummularia* in Udaipur, Rajasthan (INDIA)

District	Locality	Status	GPS	Habitat
Udaipur	Salumbar - Sarvani	+	$24^0$08’13’’N $74^0$02’41”E	Roadside
Udaipur	Dabok Cement Factory	+	$24^0$37’38”N $73^0$51’50”E	Roadside
Udaipur	Dawana Naka (Jaisamand WLS)	+	$24^0$14’22.1’’N $73^0$57’16.9’’E	Foothill and valleys
Udaipur	Chatpur RF (Jaisamand WLS)	+	$24^0$14’11.3’’N $73^0$57’31.2’’E	Foothill and valleys
Udaipur	Ret Guriya (Jaisamand WLS)	+	$24^0$14’13.8’’N $73^0$57’36.6’’E	Foothill and valleys
Udaipur	Vallabhnagar – Bheruji S.G.	++	$24^0$40’26’’N $74^0$0’11’’E	Stoney plates
Udaipur	UmardaGhati	+	$24^0$58’13’’N $76^0$23’33’’E	Foot hills

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