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A PRELIMINARY OUT COME REPORTS FROM FLORA OF SOUTH ANDAMAN ISLANDS, INDIA

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ABSTRACT:-

The present paper deals with Additions to flora of South Andaman Islands, located about 1200 km from the main land. South Andaman Islands with a geographical area of 2890 Km² lie between 10°30' to 12°14' N and 92°30' to 93°41' E. This area is recognized with an official administrative boundary designated as South Andaman district covering 3 thesils: Different types of forests met with south Andaman Islands are: Andaman tropical evergreen forest, Southern hilltop tropical evergreen forest, Andaman semi-evergreen forest, Andaman moist deciduous forest, Littoral forest, Mangrove forest, and scrub. Andaman and Nicobar Islands have 7 national parks and 93 wildlife sanctuaries, of which only three national parks: viz. Mount Harriet National Park, Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park and South Sentinel National Park are located in south Andaman Islands.

KEY WORDS: Andaman Islands, Andaman tropical evergreen forest.

INTRODUCTION:

Floristic Analysis of South Andaman Islands:

In the present study, a **total of 1436 plant taxa** were recorded from South Andaman Islands. Of the 1436 taxa, **147 are cultivated** or planted in different parts of the study area and the remaining are wild and naturalized. **These 1289 wild and naturalized taxa belong to 686 genera and 152 families**, the latter taxa identified following APG IV Classification. **Of the 1289, 1223 taxa are identified through 2021 herbarium specimens made in the present study and remaining 45 taxa are based on historic collections and published records**; of the latter, 44 are based on the specimens deposited in Botanical Survey of India, A & N Circle, Port Blair (PBL).

Abstract of major group-wise analysis of families, genera and species and infra-specific vascular plant taxa is as follows:

Taxonomic Category	Families	Genera	Plant Taxa
Dicots-Polypetalae	61	240	436
Dicots-Gamopetalae	26	189	360
Dicots-Monochlamydae	20	79	174
Monocots	21	145	266
Gymnosperms	3	3	6
Pteridophytes	21	30	47
Total	152	683	1289

Of the total wild and naturalized taxa, 950 (75%) are dicots, 265 (21%) are monocots, 6 (0.05%) are gymnosperms and 47 (4%) are pteridophytes.

The dominant families with respect to number of species are presented hereunder.

FAMILY	GENERA	SPECIES
Rubiaceae	44	95
Fabaceae	53	93
Orchidaceae	42	77
Euphorbiaceae	29	71
Poaceae	39	61
Cyperaceae	14	50
Malvaceae	21	37
Annonaceae	16	36
Convolvulaceae	11	35
Apocynaceae	28	34

Rubiaceae is the dominant family with 95 species (accounting for 7.5% of the total vascular flora of south Andaman Islands) belonging to 44 genera followed by Fabaceae with 93 species (7.4%) of 53 genera, Orchidaceae 77 species (6.0%) of 42 genera, Euphorbiaceae, 71 species (5.5%) belonging to 29 genera and Poaceae represent 61 species (4.8%) belonging to 39 genera. It is interesting to note that these five families accounted for 31% of the total vascular flora of south Andamans.

Additions of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

During our recent floristic explorations of South Andaman Islands in 2011-2018, till date we reported One Novel species and 34 new records to Andaman and Nicobar Islands species enlisted Novel Species: **Murdanniasanjappae**: Family records (2): **Zygophyllaceae** (*Tribulusterrestris* L.) and **Caryophyllaceae** (*Polycarpaeacorymbosa* (L.) Lam.): **Generic Records (2): Oxalidaceae** (*Biophytumreinwardtii* (Zucc.) Klotzsch) and **Commelinaceae** (*Cyanotisaxillaris* (L.) D. Don ex Sweet). **New records: (Asteraceae (6):** *Acmellaradicans* (Jacq.) R.K. Jansen, *Blumeafistulosa* (Roxb.) Kurz, *B. laciniata* (Wall. ex Roxb.) DC., *B. viscosa* (Mill.) V.M. Badillo, *Emilia scabra* DC., *Launaea acaulis* (Roxb.) Babc. ex Kerr. **Solanaceae (2):** *Daturainnoxia* Mill., *Solanumsisymbriifolium* **Convolvulaceae (3):** *Merremia marginata* (Burm. f.) Hallier f. and *Ipomoea triloba* L. and *Merremia umbellata* subsp. *orientalis* (Hallier f.) Ooststr **Euphorbiaceae (2):** *Euphorbia deccanensis* V.S. Raju and *Micrococcamercurialis* (L.) Benth. **Amaranthaceae (2):** *Alternanthera ficoidea* (L.) Sm. and *Gomphrenacelosoides* Mart. **Acanthaceae (1):** *Peristrophe bivalvis* (L.) Merr., **Fabaceae-faboideae (1):** *Rothia indica* (L.), **Lamiaceae (1):** *Leucascephalotes* (Roth) Spreng. **Zingiberaceae (1):** *Alpinia calcarata* (Roth) Spreng. **Cyperaceae (9):** *Fimbristylis bisumbellata* (Forssk.) Bubani, *F. littoralis* Gaudich., *F. microcarya* F. Muell., *Cyperus eragrostis* Lam., *C. pilosus* Vahl, *Pycnopus membranaceus* (Vahl) Govind., *P. polystachyos* var. *microdonta* (Torr.) Govaerts, *Schoenoplectus litoralis* (Schrader) Palla, *Scleria parvula* Steud. **Poaceae (3):** *Dimeria hohenackeri* Hochst. ex Miq., *Eragrostis pilosa* (L.) P. Beauv. and *Digitaria setigera* Roth.

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Fig.1. Showing of Some Rare and Endemic Species of Andaman Islands.