



Diversity of angiosperms and their conservation status in Biharinath Hill, Bankura, West Bengal, India

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Abstract:

The present study enlists the major angiosperm flora of Biharinath hill. The conservation status of the angiosperm taxa is also mentioned providing IUCN Red List categories. This work was shaped by the collection, documentation, description and identification of the taxa followed by checking of accepted names and IUCN categories of the identified taxa. We reported 85 species under 81 genera of 35 angiosperm families. The family Fabaceae was the largest in species composition.

Key words: Angiosperm, Conservation status, Biharinath Hill, Bankura.

1. Introduction

We are stepping towards the sixth mass extinction. The rapid and alarming biodiversity loss in this era indicates the beginning of another mass extinction. The whole living world in that sense is threatened by a series of factors such as overexploitation, invasion by invasive species, pollution, climate change, industrialization, urbanization, habitat loss and fragmentation [17].

Enlisting with proper documentation of threatened species according to IUCN categories is the most powerful tool for identifying their present status and range of distribution as well as for planning their habitat restoration with special attention to the vulnerable and endangered species [13]. So, species confined to a particular area need to be explored periodically to check their status [14]. Worldwide the total number of angiosperms accounts for around 2.5 lakhs, among which about 15000-17000 angiosperm are present in India [3]. Being a divergent nation, India provides a vast scope to study angiosperm diversity along with other aspects of their taxonomical study. The study of flowering plants is easier on plains as compared

to the hills [3].

A study on biodiversity alone is not sufficient to understand the ecosystem of an area. Further study on the conservation status of the species can show the balance of the ecosystem which is more important in the present context.

There is an imperative need felt to explore such a vegetation-rich area of Biharinath Hill. Detecting the lacunae and invigorating the studies of angiosperms in different aspects as much as possible are the tasks of the taxonomists [13].

2. Materials and methods

Study area

Biharinath hills lie between 23.56° N latitude and 86.95° E longitude. The hill is about 451 meters (1480 ft) in height. It is about 60 km away from the North-west of Bankura town and 14 km away from the North-East of Saltora town. Biharinath hill is considered the tallest hill in the district of Bankura and is also a witness of old Jain culture. It is one of the dense forest areas of the district and is also a part of the Eastern Ghats. The hill shows different looks seasonally.

During monsoon, it covers with green overgrown vegetation from all sides representing the verdant carpet that is laid on the overall hill from peak to foothill. The hill is enriched with both floral and faunal diversity and the main attractiveness of the region is the impressive tribal culture of foothill villages (Fig.1).

Sample collection method and identification

The plant specimens were collected during their flowering and fruiting period from different regions of the Biharinath hills of the Bankura district. A few field surveys have been carried out from January 2022 to November 2022. For

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identification of the plant specimen, authentic literature and standard method has been consulted [1-2, 4-12, 15-16, 18-22, 24-32]. Accepted names of the plant species have been verified by POWO [23]. Collected plant specimens were wrapped in alternating layers of newspaper until the plant specimens were completely dried. AS denotes the name of the second author (Anjali Sahis) for the present work. After drying, plant specimens were mounted on herbarium sheets for preservation in the herbarium, Department of Botany, S. K. B. University, Purulia.

3. Results and discussion

The present study was undertaken to carry out an extensive survey of angiosperms diversity in Biharinath hill, Bankura district, which revealed the documentation of 81 genera of angiosperms belonging to 35 families. The study recorded the habits of the collected angiosperms among which 35 species were herbs, 15 species were shrubs and 28 species were Trees (Table 1). Though climber and lianas species were difficult to find, *Cajanus scarabaeoides*, *Cardiospermum halicacabum*, *Hemidesmus indicus*, *Melothria pendula*, and *Mikania micrantha* were found as a climber as well as *Bougainvillea spectabilis* and *Ventilago denticulata* also found which were belongs to lianas (Fig.2).

Fabaceae was the most prevalent family with 11 genera which are displayed in Fig.3.

The present investigation also discloses the conservation status of observed angiosperms according to IUCN categories and the India biodiversity portal (Table 2). Due to a lack of available secondary data, the conservation status of other collected species was not provided. Out of the total 85 species, 37 species belong under the 'Least Concerned'(LC) category whereas eight species are under the 'Not Evaluated'(NE) category. *Mangifera indica* is under the 'Data Deficient' (DD) whereas *Cleistanthus collinus* and *Gossypium hirsutum* are 'Vulnerable'(VU) categories(Fig.4).

4. Conclusions

A total of 938 spp. of angiosperms belonging to 575 genera under 139 families have been reported by Sanyal (1994) from the entire district of Bankura in his book 'Flora of Bankura

District' West Bengal. He also included an additional 31 spp of angiosperms in the appendix of his book. Among the total 938 spp of angiosperms only 13 spp viz. *Grewia hirsuta* Vahl, *Dendrolobium triangulare* (Retz.)Schindl., *Senegalia chundra* (Roxb. ex Rottler) Maslin, *Flemingia bracteata* (Roxb.) Wight, *Rhynchosia rufescens* (Willd.)DC. *Ficus hispida* L., *Jasminum cuspidatum* Rottler *Nicoteba betonica* (L.) Lindau, *Lantana camara* L., *Persicaria glabra* (Willd.)M.Gomez , *Cyperus pangorei* Rottb., *Apluda mutica* L. and *Cymbopogon martinii* (Roxb.)W. Watson was reported from Biharinath hill. The species have not been seen by the present authors in Biharinath hill or in the neighboring areas.

After comparison with the previous work (Sanyal, 1994) it has been concluded that all the species (except *Lantana camara* L. and *Ficus hispida* L.f.) reported from Biharinath Hill of Bankura district by present authors seem to be novel.

The present study plays a vital role in gaining the awareness of local people for the conservation of biodiversity as a great natural resource. For the present study, we have collected various plants like *Ailanthus excelsa*, *Breynia retusa*, *Hemidesmus indicus*, *Flacourtie indica*, *Cephalanthus occidentalis*, *Holarrhena pubescens*, *Simarouba glauca*, *Vallesia glabra* and *Ventilago denticulata* are located from diverse locations in the entire area of Biharinath hill. Most of the plant species of this hill are economically important, some with their potential medicinal values.

The present study has shown that Biharinath hill is rich in angiosperms diversity as well as in ethnobotanical resources along with tribal people. There is tremendous scope for the conservation of biodiversity to revive the execution of one of the topmost global concerns. The present conservation status according to IUCN categories reveals that 37 species are LC, and two species are V. But a large number of species were not evaluated yet.

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Table 1. List of plant species identified from Biharinath hill, Bankura district.

Sl. No	Scientific names of the species and collection numbers	Family	Vernacular name	Habit and dates of collection
1	<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i> A. Cunn. Ex Benth. 01	Fabaceae	Aakashmoni	T, 20.03.22
2	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Correa AS-52	Rutaceae	Bel	T, 05.11.22
3	<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> Roxb. AS-39	Simaroubaceae	Mahanim	T, 20.03.22
4	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i> (L.) R.Br. 02	Apocynaceae	Chhatim	T, 20.03.22
5	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> (L.) R.Br. ex DC. 53	Amaranthaceae	Mati konduri	H, 09.05.22
6	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm.f.) Nees AS-59	Acanthaceae	Kalmegh	H, 05.11.22
7	<i>Anisomeles indica</i> (L.) Kuntze 03	Lamiaceae	Apang	H, 20.03.22
8	<i>Annona squamosa</i> L. 04	Annonaceae	Ata, Madal	T, 20.03.22
9	<i>Argemone mexicana</i> L. 05	Papaveraceae	Sheyal kata	H, 20.03.22
10	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss. 06	Meliaceae	Neem	T, 20.03.22
11	<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i> L. AS-62	Fabaceae	Kanchan	T, 05.11.22
12	<i>Blumea lacera</i> (Burm.f.) DC .07	Asteraceae	Kakshima	H, 20.03.22
13	<i>Borassus flabellifer</i> L. AS-40	Arecaceae	Tal	T, 20.03.22
14	<i>Bougainvillea spectabilis</i> Willd. AS-41	Nyctaginaceae	Kagoj phool	L, 20.03.22
15	<i>Breynia retusa</i> (Dennst.)Alston 08	Phyllanthaceae	Kambhi	S, 20.03.22
16	<i>Bridelia micrantha</i> (Hochst.)Baill. 09	Phyllanthaceae	Mitseeri	T, 20.03.22
17	<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam.) Kuntze AS-42	Fabaceae	Palash	T, 20.03.22
18	<i>Cajanus scarabaeoides</i> (L.) Thouars AS-57	Fabaceae	Catjang	C, 05.11.22
19	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Aiton) W.T. Aiton AS-43	Apocynaceae	Akanda	S, 20.03.22
20	<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i> L. AS- 64	Sapindaceae	Balloon vine	C, 05.11.22

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21	<i>Carissa spinarum</i> L. 10	Apocynaceae	Kawromcha	S, 20.03.22
22	<i>Casearia sylvestris</i> Sw. 11	Salicaceae	Wild sage	T, 20.03.22
23	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> L. 12	Casuarinaceae	Jhau	T, 09.05.22
24	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i> L. 13	Rubiaceae	Botam Bush	T, 09.05.22
25	<i>Chromolaena odorata</i> (L.) R.M. King & H.Rob. 42	Asteraceae	Gundhury	H, 09.05.22
26	<i>Cleistanthus collinus</i> (Roxb.) Benth. ex Hook.f. 14	Phyllanthaceae	Kargalli	H, 09.05.22
27	<i>Clerodendrum infortunatum</i> L. 15	Lamiaceae	Ghetu	S, 09.05.22
28	<i>Clerodendrum trichotomum</i> Thunb. 16	Lamiaceae	Ghetu	H, 09.05.22
29	<i>Crotalaria pallida</i> Aiton. 17	Fabaceae	BoroJhunjhunia	H, 09.05.22
30	<i>Croton bonplandianus</i> Baill. 18	Euphorbiaceae	Bon Tulsi	H, 09.05.22
31	<i>Cyanthillium cinereum</i> (L.) H. Rob. 19	Asteraceae	Kukshima	H, 09.05.22
32	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> Roxb.ex DC. AS-18	Fabaceae	Sisso	T, 20.03.22
33	<i>Elephantopus elatus</i> Bertol. AS-66	Asteraceae	Elephant's foot	H, 05.11.22
34	<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i> L. 44	Asteraceae	Hairy Flebane	H, 09.05.22
35	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L. AS-44	Moraceae	Bat	T, 20.03.22
36	<i>Ficus hispida</i> L.f. AS-54	Moraceae	Dumur	S, 05.11.22
37	<i>Flacourtie indica</i> (Burm.f.) Merr. 21	Salicaceae	Boinchi	T, 09.05.22
38	<i>Gamochaeta purpurea</i> (L.) Cabrera 22	Asteraceae	Begunichiran tan	H, 09.05.22
39	<i>Glycosmis pentaphylla</i> (Retz.) DC. AS-65	Rutaceae	Ashhoura	S, 05.11.22
40	<i>Gomphrena serrata</i> L. 23	Amaranthaceae	Todo	H, 09.05.22
41	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i> L. AS-55	Malvaceae	Tula	H, 05.11.22
42	<i>Grewia multiflora</i> Juss. AS-56	Malvaceae	Panisara	T, 05.11.22
43	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> (L.)R. Br. 25	Apocynaceae	Anantamul	C, 09.05.22
44	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> L. AS-45	Malvaceae	Jaba	T, 20.03.22
45	<i>Holarrhena pubescens</i> Wall. ex G. Don 26	Apocynaceae	Kurchi	T, 09.05.22
46	<i>Hygrophila auriculata</i> (Schumach.) Heine AS-26	Acanthaceae	Kulekhara	H, 20.03.22
47	<i>Ipomoea carnea</i> Jacq. AS-46	Convolvulaceae	Berakolmi	S, 20.03.22
48	<i>Jatropha gossypiifolia</i> L. 27	Euphorbiaceae	Lal verenda	S, 09.05.22
49	<i>Lantana camara</i> L. 28	Verbenaceae	Kutus	S, 09.05.22
50	<i>Mallotus repandus</i> (Rottler) Mull. Arg. AS-53	Euphorbiaceae	Donkar	S, 05.11.22
51	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L. AS-47	Anacardiaceae	Aam	T, 20.03.22
52	<i>Mecardonia procumbens</i> (Mill.)Small 29	Plantaginaceae	Mikardon	H, 09.05.22
53	<i>Melothria pendula</i> L. AS-68	Cucurbitaceae	Creeping cucumber	C, 05.11.22
54	<i>Mikania micrantha</i> Kunth AS-67	Asteraceae	Bitter vine	C, 05.11.22
55	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L. 30	Fabaceae	Lojjaboti	H, 09.05.22
56	<i>Monooon longifolium</i> (Sonn.)B. Xue & R. M. K. Saunders AS-48	Annonaceae	Debdaru	T, 20.03.22
57	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L. 31	Lamiaceae	Tulshi	H, 09.05.22
58	<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i> L. 32.	Lamiaceae	Tulshi	H, 09.05.22

59	<i>Opuntia dillenii</i> (KerGawl.) Haw. AS49	Cactaceae	Foni Mansa	H, 20.03.22
60	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> L. 33	Asteraceae	Gajor Ghass Phool	H, 09.05.22
61	<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i> (L.) Roxb. AS-50	Arecaceae	Khejur	T, 20.03.22
62	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.) Pierre 34	Fabaceae	Karanj	T, 09.05.22
63	<i>Rumex dentatus</i> L. 35	Polygonaceae	Jangalichuka	H, 09.05.22
64	<i>Saponaria officinalis</i> L. AS-61	Caryophyllaceae	Soapwort	H, 05.11.22
65	<i>Scoparia dulcis</i> L. 36	Plantaginaceae	Bon dhone	H, 09.05.22
66	<i>Senegalnia brevispica</i> (Harms) Seigler & Ebinger 37	Fabaceae	Kalokanta	S, 09.05.22
67	<i>Senna occidentalis</i> (L.) Link 38	Fabaceae	Kolkesunda ful	H, 09.05.22
68	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i> L. 39	Rubiaceae	Field madder	H, 09.05.22
69	<i>Sida acuta</i> Burm.f. AS-51	Malvaceae	Bon methi	H, 20.03.22
70	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i> L. 40	Malvaceae	Shetberela	H, 09.05.22
71	<i>Simarouba glauca</i> DC. 41	Simaroubaceae	Shinwi	T, 09.05.22
72	<i>Solanum sisymbriifolium</i> Lam. 42	Solanaceae	Kanta begun, Kantikari	H, 09.05.22
73	<i>Streblus asper</i> Lour. 43	Moraceae	Sheora	S, 09.05.22
74	<i>Strobilanthes hirta</i> (Vahl) Blume 44	Acanthaceae	Ban-pan	H, 09.05.22
75	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i> (Roxb.ex DC.) Wight&Arn. 45	Combretaceae	Arjun	T, 09.05.22
76	<i>Trema orientale</i> (L.) Blume AS-63	Cannabaceae	Chikun	T, 05.11.22
77	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> L. AS-12	Asteraceae	Toraful	H, 20.03.22
78	<i>Triumfetta rhomboidea</i> Jacq. AS-58	Malvaceae	Bon okra	H, 05.11.22
79	<i>Urena lobata</i> L. AS-01	Malvaceae	Jonglighagra	H, 20.03.22
80	<i>Vachellia nilotica</i> (L.) P.J.H. Hurter & Mabb. 46	Fabaceae	Babla	T, 09.05.22
81	<i>Vallesia glabra</i> (Cav.) Link 47	Apocynaceae	Cuncuno	S, 09.05.22
82	<i>Ventilago denticulata</i> Willd. 48	Rhamnaceae	Pittiraidhani	L, 09.05.22
83	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L. 49	Lamiaceae	Nishinda	S, 09.05.22
84	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> (L.) Kurz 50	Lythraceae	Dhai Ful	T, 09.05.22
85	<i>Ziziphus jujuba</i> Mill. AS-60	Rhamnaceae	Siyakul	S, 05.11.22

H-Herb, S-Shrub, T-Tree, L-Lianas, C-Climber.

Table 2. Conservation status of some collected plant species from Biharinath hill, Bankura district.

Sl. No	Scientific names of the species	Family	Latitude	Longitude	Conservation status
1	<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i> A. Cunn. ex Benth.	Fabaceae	23.54° N	86.94° E	LC
2	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Correa	Rutaceae	23.55° N	86.95° E	NE

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3	<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> Roxb.	Simaroubaceae	23.56° N	86.94° E	NE
4	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i> (L.)R. Br.	Apocynaceae	23.55° N 23.57° N	86.95° E 86.95° E	LC
5	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> (L.) R. Br.ex DC.	Amaranthaceae	23.58° N 23.56° N	86.95° E 86.94° E	LC
6	<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	Annonaceae	23.54° N	86.94° E	LC
7	<i>Argemone mexicana</i> L.	Papaveraceae	23.59° N	86.93° E	NE
8	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Meliaceae	23.55° N 23.58° N	86.95° E 86.94° E	LC
9	<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i> L.	Fabaceae	23.58° N	86.95° E	LC
10	<i>Breynia retusa</i> (Dennst.)Alston	Phyllanthaceae	23.55° N	86.95° E	LC
11	<i>Bridelia micrantha</i> (Hochst.) Baill.	Phyllanthaceae	23.55° N	86.94° E	LC
12	<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam.) Kuntze	Fabaceae	23.55° N	86.95° E	LC
13	<i>Cajanus scarabaeoides</i> (L.) Thouars	Fabaceae	23.55° N	86.94° E	LC
14	<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i> L.	Sapindaceae	23.58° N	86.95° E	LC
15	<i>Carissa spinarum</i> L.	Apocynaceae	23.55° N 23.57° N	86.95° E 86.94° E	LC
16	<i>Casearia sylvestris</i> Sw.	Salicaceae	23.55° N	86.94° E	LC
17	<i>Casuarina equisetifolia</i> L.	Casuarinaceae	23.58° N	86.94° E	LC
18	<i>Cephaelanthus occidentalis</i> L.	Rubiaceae	23.55° N	86.95° E	LC
19	<i>Cleistanthus collinus</i> (Roxb.) Benth. ex Hook.f.	Phyllanthaceae	23.55° N	86.95° E	V
20	<i>Clerodendrum trichotomum</i> Thunb.	Lamiaceae	23.58° N	86.95° E	LC
21	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> Roxb.ex DC.	Fabaceae	23.58° N	86.94° E	LC
22	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L.	Moraceae	23.58° N	86.94° E	NE
23	<i>Ficus hispida</i> L.f.	Moraceae	23.54° N	86.94° E	LC
24	<i>Flacourtie indica</i> (Burm.f.) Merr.	Salicaceae	23.54° N	86.94° E	LC
25	<i>Glycosmis pentaphylla</i> (Retz.) DC.	Rutaceae	23.57° N	86.95° E	LC
26	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i> L.	Malvaceae	23.57° N	86.95° E	V
27	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> L.	Malvaceae	23.58° N	86.94° E	NE
28	<i>Holarrhena pubescens</i> Wall.ex G. Don	Apocynaceae	23.54° N	86.94° E	LC
29	<i>Hygrophila auriculata</i> (Schu mach.)Heine	Acanthaceae	23.58° N 23.55° N	86.93° E 86.95° E	LC
30	<i>Jatropha gossypiifolia</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	23.55° N	86.95° E	LC
31	<i>Mallotus repandus</i> (Rottler) Mull.Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	23.58° N	86.95° E	LC
32	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	Anacardiaceae	23.58° N	86.94° E	DD
33	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L.	Fabaceae	23.58° N	86.95° E	LC
34	<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i> (L.)Roxb.	Arecaceae	23.55° N	86.95° E	NE
35	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.)Pierre	Fabaceae	23.58° N	86.94° E	LC
36	<i>Senegalia brevispica</i> (Harms) Seigler & Ebinger	Fabaceae	23.55° N	86.95° E	LC

37	<i>Senna occidentalis</i> (L.) Link	Fabaceae	23.54° N 23.57° N	86.94° E 86.95° E	LC
38	<i>Sida acuta</i> Burm. f.	Malvaceae	23.54° N	86.93° E	NE
39	<i>Sida rhombifolia</i> L.	Malvaceae	23.55° N	86.95° E	NE
40	<i>Simarouba glauca</i> DC.	Simaroubaceae	23.55° N	86.91° E	LC
41	<i>Streblus asper</i> Lour.	Moraceae	23.54° N 23.56° N	86.94° E 86.94° E	LC
42	<i>Trema orientale</i> (L.) Blume	Cannabaceae	23.54° N	86.94° E	LC
43	<i>Urena lobata</i> L.	Malvaceae	23.54° N	86.94° E	LC
44	<i>Vachellia nilotica</i> (L.) P.J.H. Hurter & Mabb.	Fabaceae	23.54° N	86.93° E	LC
45	<i>Vallesia glabra</i> (Cav.) Link	Apocynaceae	23.54° N	86.94° E	LC
46	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.	Lamiaceae	23.58° N 23.54° N	86.94° E 86.93° E	LC
47	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> (L.) Kurz	Lythraceae	23.55° N	86.95° E	LC
48	<i>Ziziphus jujuba</i> Mill.	Rhamnaceae	23.54° N	86.94° E	LC

LC-Least Concern, NE-Not Evaluated, V-Vulnerable, DD-Data Deficient.

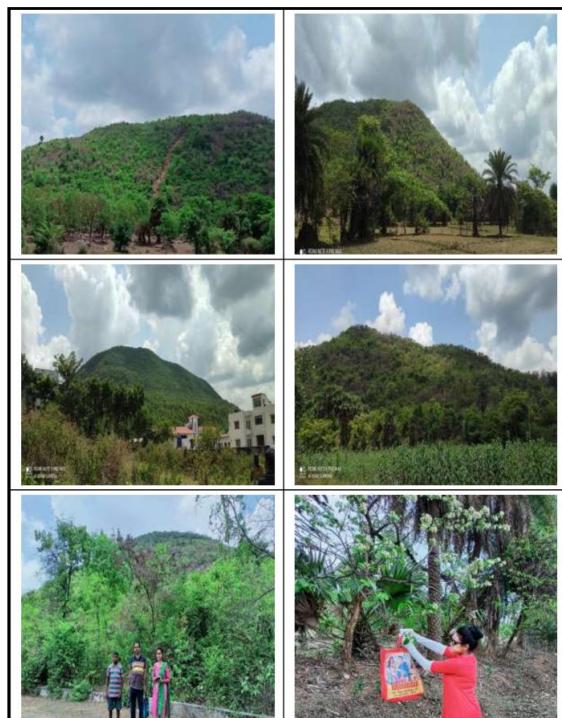


Fig.1. A few moments of Biharinath hill, Bankura district.

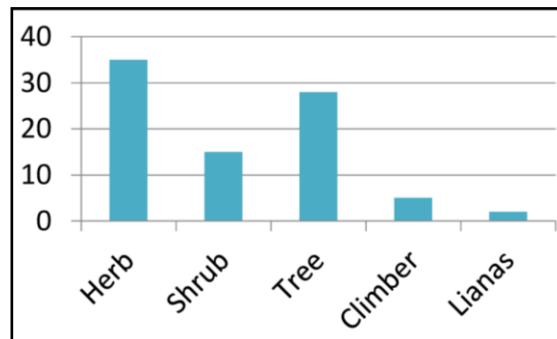


Fig.2. Habits of collected plant species from Biharinath hill.

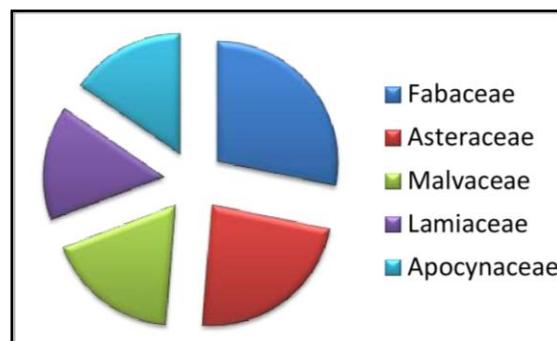


Fig.3. Dominant families of Biharinath hill.

Diversity of angiosperms and their conservation status in Biharinath Hill, Bankura, West Bengal, India:

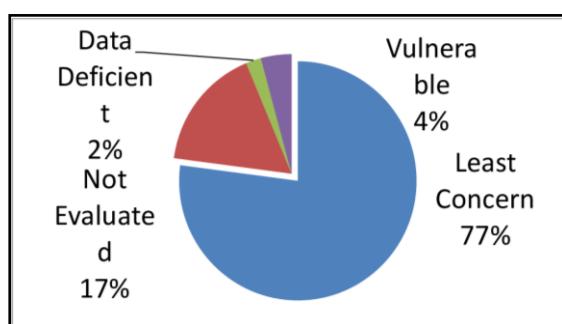


Fig.4. Conservation status of collected plant species.

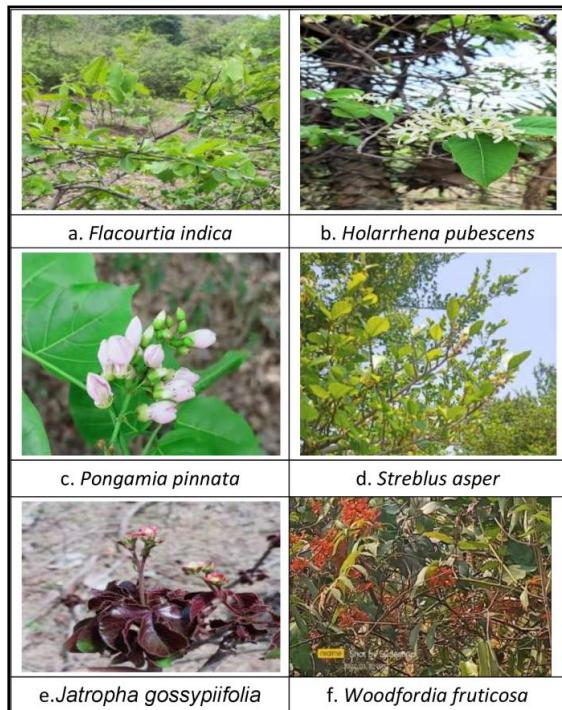


Fig.5a. A photo plate showing few (a-f) floras of Biharinath hill.



Fig.5b. A photo plate showing few (g-l) floras of Biharinath hill.