

ORIGINAL RESEARCH ARTICLE

Biodiversity of medicinal plants in the dry deciduous (thorny scrub) forest of Karnataka, India

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Jasminum cuspidatum

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ABSTRACT

Tropical dry deciduous forests are noted for their numerous uses. They are rich repositories of medicinal plants used as raw materials in the industry and mostly harvested from the forests. The only way to preserve plant resources' core knowledge for future generations is to document medicinal plants. The present survey is designed to study the biodiversity of medicinal plants in the dry deciduous (thorny scrub) forest of Karnataka, India. This study resulted in the documentation of 64 ethnomedicinal plant species, which belong to 37 families and 59 genera. The documented families of medicinal plants in the study area are Asphodelaceae, Acanthaceae, Amaranthaceae, Annonaceae, Anacardiaceae, Apocynaceae, Aristolochiaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Asparagaceae, Asteraceae, Bixaceae, Colchicaceae, Combretaceae, Convolvulaceae, Fabaceae, Hypoxidaceae, Lamiaceae, Loganiaceae, Malvaceae, Martyniaceae, Meliaceae, Menispermaceae, Myrtaceae, Nyctaginaceae, Oleaceae, Oxalidaceae, Phyllanthaceae, Plumbaginaceae, Rhamnaceae, Rubiaceae, Rutaceae, Santalaceae, Sapindaceae, Solanaceae, Verbenaceae, Vitaceae, and Zygophyllaceae. The report shows that the Fabaceae family has high species richness, while Gardenia gummifera has shown high species evenness in a defined area. However, the documented plants include common, rare, endemic, and endangered categories of species.