

Preface

The plants may well be considered as the wealth of environment and nature's banks. Plants (flora) is a peculiar organism of unlimited kindness and benevolence. Since time immemorial plants have played significant role in shaping the environmental quality and maintaining ecological balance to sustain life. They also determine the site productivity, nutrient cycling and energy potential. In this way plants exert multifarious influence on mode of life on earth.

The relationship between mankind and plants has a complex and ambivalent history. They not only determine the natural conditions of the man, but also provide nourishment and protective substance for good health of human being. God was kind enough to bestow the mankind with diversified resources of flora, of course he has left the task of recognizing their curative values to man. Thus, this calls for investigating the potentiality of applied values of plant resources in the region.

Forest in India as elsewhere in the world are significant to great extent both from the ecological and development points of view. In Central India, forest ecology is one of the dominating features of regional personality. The rich forest covers of Satpuras with distinct flora provide potential fields to the biogeographers for investigation. But it is unfortunate that the biogeographers have so far shown little

interest in the studies of forest resources of the Central India. It is a sorry state of affairs that in spite of all this no serious and systematic work regarding the forests of Satpura has been carried out either from ecological or geographical point of view.

The present study will include environment and spatial distribution of valuable plant species and is a humble attempt to analyze the environmental condition of plants of applied values and to suggest conservative measures of such plant species. This study will also focus on the forest ecology of the Satpura forest and enrich the knowledge in the domain of plant geography, a subfield of the Biogeography. It is hoped that this book will encourage future researchers, common readers and planners who are engaged in such studies of plant resources.

My deep felt thanks are to the conservator of forest, Betul and his staff members for helping me in the field survey, without whose help it would have been a tough task. I have profusely benefited from the discussions with several herbalists, botanists, vaidyas and villagers. I would like to express my thanks to all of them. This book would not have been possible without the love and perseverance of my wife Jaya Pagare, parents and family members, my indebtedness to them is beyond words.

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