

Revitalisation and conservation of natural water bodies: A case of Ahmedabad city

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Ahmedabad is the largest city in Gujarat. It lies at 23° 1' North and 72° 37' East on the banks of the Sabarmati River. The city is in the region of North Gujarat, which is a plain, dry and sandy area, having maximum and minimum temperatures in the range between 44.3° to 46.6° and 4.8° to 8.4° C. The altitude of the city shows only marginal variations (46.6m to 50.9m). Except for the small hills of Thaltej-Jodhpur Tekra, the entire surroundings of the city are flat.

The population of the Ahmedabad Urban Area (UA) in 2001 was recorded as 4.5 million. Increasing industrialization and economic development has resulted in the steep rise in the population and consequently has also resulted into the degradation of environment. City is left with limited natural resources like open spaces, water bodies, and places for social gathering. Here, urban water bodies play multifunctional role.

Large number of Natural Water Bodies (NWBs), which were once the inherent part of the city life, lost in the wake of development. The unauthorized and unchecked water withdrawal has led to the severe problems of its fast depleting ground water resource.

Situation of NWBs in the city, in the recent past, has been very grim, with ever-decreasing number of water bodies/ talavs (ponds). In 1865 there were 218 NWBs, which fell to 132 in 1975 and further down to 62 in 2001.

Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (AUDA) realizing the situation has taken initiatives to revitalize and conserve NWBs and around 22 NWBs are included in the effort of rejuvenation of water bodies. The implementation started way back in 1999. Research would discuss all the aspects of this effort; what are enabling environment, institutional mechanism, funds generation, environmental and social and overall benefits, planning aspect, learning etc.

Biodiversity of mushrooms in and around Bangalore (Karnataka), India

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Bangalore (Bengaluru) is also called as a Garden city of India, positioned at 12° 58' and 12° 97' N lat and 77° 34' and 77° 56' E longitudes with a wide range of ecosystem. The floristic composition of this region has been studied earlier by several workers, but the fungus which forms an important component of the ecosystem has been largely neglected in a biodiversity studies. The present investigation is an attempt to give a broad picture of biodiversity of mushrooms belonging to the class Basidiomycetes in Bangalore. The survey were conducted from June 2005 to November 2010 in 8 different places which included scrub jungles and urban places in a around Bangalore. A total number of 90 species in 48 genera belonging to 19 families in 05 orders were recorded, 28 species were found to be recorded for the first time in India and a new variety of *Psathyrella candolleana* var. *indica* has been proposed. Out of 90 species 12 species were found to be edible and 19 species has medicinal value. Among the collected species *Coprinus disseminates* followed by *Coprinus fibrillosis* and *Schizophyllum commune* was found to be abundant in their occurrence. The Simpson and Sannon diversity biodiversity index was found to be 0.8 and 1.24 respectively.

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