

Chapter II

ABOUT THE STUDY AREA

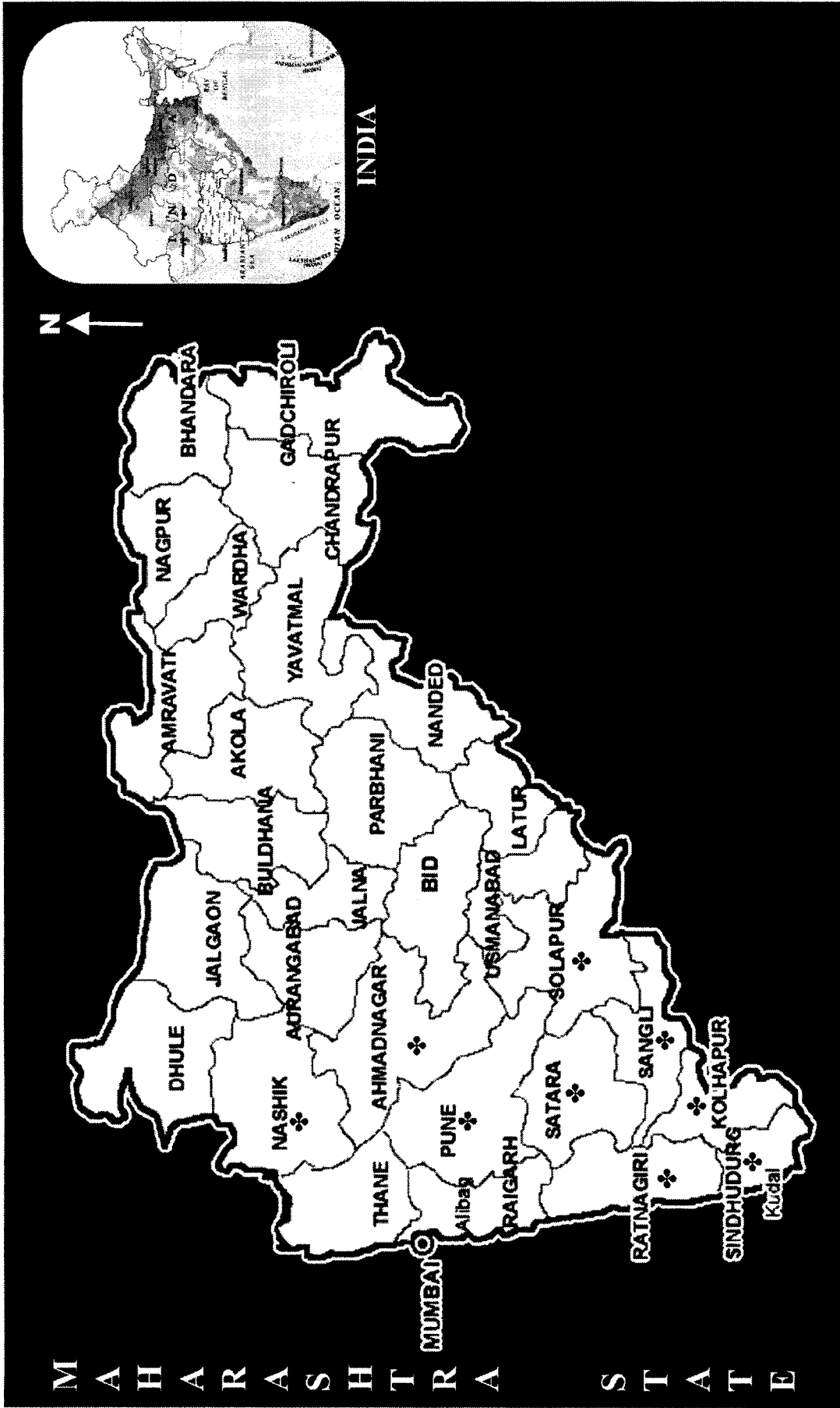
About the study area:

Maharashtra State consists of 35 districts, which further divided in to 5 divisions physiographically viz. Konkan, Desh or Deccan, Khandesh, Marathwada and Vidharbha. Maharashtra state was included in Bombay presidency, which was separated as Maharashtra, state on 1st May 1960. Area of political boundaries of Maharashtra is 3, 07, 690 sq. km. and is about 800 km east-west and north-south, lying between 22^o1' to 16^o4' north and 72^o6' to 80^o9' east longitude.

Konkan is coastal area about 27 to 48 km in breadth and about 800 km in length. It starts from Goa to Tapi basin. It consists of 5 districts namely Mumbai, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg and Thane. The region is with rich mangrove ecosystem, having lateritic rocks, backwaters and estuaries. The region also includes open scrub forest, moist deciduous forest and herbs mostly from plateaus in rainy season. Approximate length of Deccan is 565 km in length lying east of Sahyadris consisting 7 districts namely Nasik, Pune, Ahmednagar, Solapur, Satara, Sangli and Kolhapur. It consists of moist and dry deciduous forest, semi-evergreen forest. Khandesh is situated between parallel ranges of Satpudas consisting of 3 districts namely Dhule, Jalgaon and Nandurbar. The vegetation is dry deciduous forest and thorny forest. Marathwada region consists of 8 districts namely Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed, Parbhani, Latur, Osmanabad, Nanded and Hingoli. The vegetation is tropical dry deciduous forest, open scrub forest and grasslands. Vidharbha is eastern part of Maharashtra consists of 11 districts namely Akola, Amaravati, Buldhana, Yavatmal, Wasim, Wardha, Nagpur, Chandrapur, Bhandara, Gadchiroli and Gondia. The vegetation is tropical moist deciduous forest and dry tropical forest. The region is rich with black cotton soil, which is derived from the basalt.

There are summer, rainy and winter seasons in cyclic manner. There is lush greenery in monsoon, which persists up to winter middle of and followed by golden color after drying of herbs mostly grasses. The average rainfall of Maharashtra is 381-508 mm and average temperature is 26^oC. Western Ghats and costal area receives heaviest rains exceeding 2000 mm rainfall per annum. Deccan receives about 600 to 635 mm rainfall except some regions. Average rainfall in Marathwada is 900 mm and average temperature ranges from 27^oC to 38^oC. The western par of Vidarbha is little hotter, receives about 900-1400 mm rainfall per annum and average temperature more than 40^oC. The eastern part of Vidarbha is with lower temperature and rainfall is

Map-1



Map Showing Study Area and Localities of Collection.