

**RESULTS,
DISCUSSIONS AND
CONCLUSION**

The present work on the floristic wealth of Sagareshwar wildlife sanctuary for a period of 3 years has resulted in about 300 field numbers and over 500 flowering plant specimens. During this period by extensive and intensive field trips most of the flowering plant species have been collected, studied and documented. The present study records 274 species belonging to 235 genera of 70 families of flowering plants for the Sagareshwar wildlife Sanctuary. Of these 274 species 212 are dicotyledons belonging to 187 genera of 63 families and 62 species are monocotyledons belonging to 48 genera of 07 families.

The Sagareshwar wildlife sanctuary has considerably high diversity of grasses. Family Poaceae have the largest number of species (49) followed by Asteraceae, Fabaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Verbenaceae, Lamiaceae, Caesalpiniaceae, Amaranthaceae, Euphorbiaceae and Rubiaceae. During present study 37 genera belongs to family Poaceae have been reported for the sanctuary. It is followed by Asteraceae (21), Fabaceae (13), Asclepiadaceae (08), Lamiaceae (06), Verbenaceae (08), Caesalpiniaceae (07), Amaranthaceae (06), Euphorbiaceae (05) and Rubiaceae (05). Genus *Cassia* is represented by 06 species followed by *Dichanthium* (04), *Eragrostis* (04), *Euphorbia* (04) and *Crotolaria* (03)

Acacia chundra, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Buchanania cochinchinensis*, *Cassia auriculata*, *Cassia siamea*, *Cocculus hirsutus*, *Canthium coromandelicum*, *Carissa carandus*, *Combretum albidium*, *Dalbergia sisoo*, *Dichrostachys cinerea*, *Emblica officinalis*, *Gliricidia sepium*, *Gymnema sylvestre*, *Maytenus senegalensis*, *Rhus sinuata*, *Semecarpus anacardium*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Tectona grandis* and *Ziziphus mauritiana* are the common flowering plants occur in Sanctuary.

The sanctuary also has economically important plants which include *Abrus precatorius*, *Andrographis paniculata*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Bauhinia racemosa*, *Buchanania cochinchinensis*, *Cardiospermum helicacabum*, *Celastrus paniculata*, *Clerodendrum serratum*, *Gloriosa superba*, *Gymenma syvelstre*, *Hemidesmus indicus*, *Morinda pubescens*, *Plumbago zeylanica*, *Rhus sinuata*, *Semecarpus anacardium* and *Tectona grandis*.

The present work reveals that the sanctuary is rich in floristic wealth and has characteristic floristic composition. It is very much essential to document the biodiversity of the sanctuary. It is an important repository of floral and faunal diversity and needs to be managed efficiently. Documentation of floral diversity of Sanctuary will be of significance in conservation planning, protection of wildlife, restoration of habitat and sustainable utilization of bioresources.

Mapping of the economically important plants and quantification of floristic diversity will help in conservation and management planning of the sanctuary. Development of research and monitoring facilities, adequate education facilities in the sanctuary will be beneficial in scientific understanding of wildlife populations, to create awareness about importance of biodiversity and to promote ecotourism.