

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

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Present piece of work was carried out to access bryoflora from Kas plateau and its adjoining area. Bryophytes are important members of cryptogams and play key role in ecology of the area.

Kas and adjoining area were frequently visited in the month of June to September 2008-2009 to access bryoflora of that area at their various stages of life cycle. Kas is a part of Western Ghats and shows richness in Bryoflora.

Kas is located western part of Satara District between $73^{\circ} 45' 3''$ to $73^{\circ} 49' 40''$ East longitude and $17^{\circ} 42' 20''$ to $17^{\circ} 44' 30''$ North latitude it receives 2000-2500 mm rain fall annually mm rainfall during rainy season, 24°C to 30°C temperature throughout the year and good amount of humidity which supports the growth and development of wide range of varieties of bryophytes starting from simple thalloid liverworts to the leafy mosses.

Bryophytes showed variety of habitats like soil, rocks, mud near water bodies. Some bryophytes grow as epiphytes on the barks of trees. According to their habitat they were categorized as terricolous (bryophytes residing near water bodies and road sides), rupicolous (bryophytes growing on rocks), corticolous (bryophytes growing as epiphytes on tree bark).

Table No. I: Following table shows species and their habitat:

| Sr. No. | Name of the species | Habitat |
|---------|---|-------------|
| 1 | <i>Riccia billarderi</i> Mount et. N. | Terricolous |
| 2 | <i>Riccia discolor</i> L. et L. | Terricolous |
| 3 | <i>Targionia hypophylla</i> (Mich) L. | Rupicolous |
| 4 | <i>Cyathodium tuberosum</i> Kash. | Terricolous |
| 5 | <i>Plagiochasma appendiculatum</i> L. et L. | Rupicolous |
| 6 | <i>Plagiochasma intermedium</i> L. et G. | Rupicolous |
| 7 | <i>Plagiochasma simlensis</i> Kash. | Rupicolous |
| 8 | <i>Asterella angusta</i> St. | Rupicolous |
| 9 | <i>Asterella reticulata</i> Kash. | Rupicolous |
| 10 | <i>Cryptometrium himalayense</i> Kash | Terricolous |
| 11 | <i>Fossombronia himalayensis</i> Kash. | Rupicolous |
| 12 | <i>Solenostoma fossombronioides</i> Sch. | Terricolous |
| 13 | <i>Harpalejeunea indica</i> St. | Corticolous |
| 14 | <i>Anthoceros erectus</i> Kash. | Terricolous |
| 15 | <i>Notothylas levieri</i> Schiff (Ms) | Rupicolous |
| 16 | <i>Porella platyphylla</i> L. | Corticolous |

Total list of bryophytes collected from the study area during the work is as follows:

Family: Ricciaceae

Riccia billarderi Mount et. N.

Riccia discolor L. et L.

Family: Targioniaceae

Targionia hypophylla (Mich) L.

Cyathodium tuberosum Kash.

Family: Marchantiaceae

Plagiochasma appendiculatum L. et L.

Plagiochasma intermedium L. et L.

Plagiochasma simlensis Kash.

Asterella angusta St.

Asterella reticulata Kash.

Cryptometrium himalayense Kash.

Family: Fossombroniaceae

Fossombronia himalayensis Kash.

Family: Lophoziaceae

Solenostoma fossombronioides Sch.

Family: Lejuneaceae

Harpalejeunea indica St.

Family: Anthocerotaceae

Anthoceros erectus Kash.

Notothylas levieri Schiff (Ms)

Family: Porellaceae (Madothecaceae)

Porella platyphylla L.

Total 16 species of bryophytes were collected from the study area belonging to 7 families and 11 genera. Amongst them was *Plagiochasma* dominant with 3 species and *Riccia* dominant with 2 species followed by, *Astrella* with 2 species and others viz., *Fossombronia*, *Cryptometrium*, *Targionia*, *Cyathodium*, *Solenostoma*, *Harpalejeunea*, *Anthoceros*, *Notothylas* and *Porella* with single species each.

Present study indicates that Kas plateau is rich in Bryoflora. Currently habitat of bryophytes is under threat due to anthropogenic activities on Kas plateau and adjoining area. Change in microhabitat may seriously affect the species composition. There is great need of enumeration and conservation of these important cryptogams also from other part of Western Ghat.