

NEW RECORD OF MISTLETOE AS A POTENTIAL EXOTIC WEED: SERIOUS THREAT TO SAPOTA CULTIVATION IN CHHATTISGARH

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Abstract : *Dendrophthoe falcata* (L.f) Ettingsh commonly called “Banda” is a serious and very common angiospermic parasitic plant in Chhattisgarh it is being reported for the first time from sapota, *Achras sapota*. Our findings report that it was observed with an average plant population of 2.18 plants/trees and more number of the parasitic plant were observed on North and West direction, 2.60 and 2.40, respectively. *D. falcata* is the serious serious threat to sapota cultivation in Chhattisgarh. Insect pest associated with *D. falcate* were also recoded viz., *Celypha woodiana* (Barrett), *Pseudaulacaspis cockerelli* (Cooley), *Aleurodicus disperses* (Russell), *Delias hyparete metarete* (Linnaeus), *Euthalia adonia pinwilli*, *Papilio cresphontes*, *Frankliniella* sp., Unidentified Chrysomelid along with natural enemies viz., *Oecophylla smaragdina* (Fabricius) *Cotesia flevipes*, *Oxyopes macilentus* (Linnaeus).

Keywords : Exotic weed, Cultivation, New record, Chhattisgarh

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