Botanical Excursion to Pachmarhi (M.P.) 2017

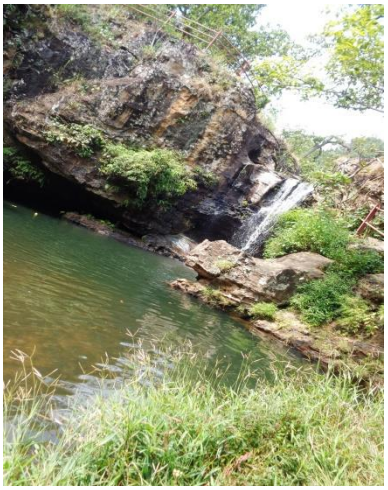
The staff and M Sc Botany Sem III students of the department went to **Pachmarhi (M.P.)** and Satpura forest range area for a **Botanical Excursion** during from 05th – 11th October, 2017.Botanical excursion is highly essential for studying vegetation and its pattern in natural condition .. It gives knowledge about forest vegetation pattern and distribution of habits in different habitat .Prof. Dr. Bharat Maitreya and Dr. Nainesh R. Modi accompanied the students.

Satpura forest range

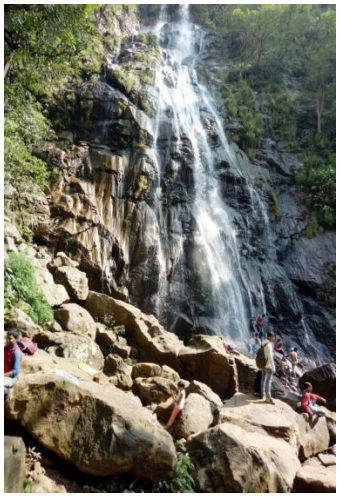
Forest area visit

View from Pandav caves

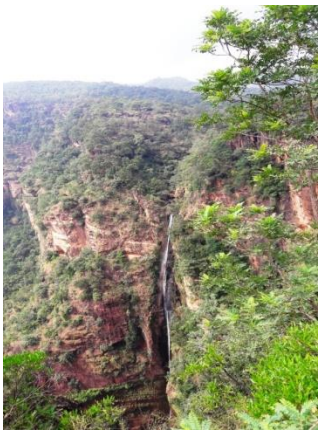
Pachmarhi is a hill station in Madhya Pradesh state , situated at a height of 1067 metre and known as Satpura ki Rani.The town is not very large and most of its area is under Cantonment Board. It is a popular tourist retreat. Pachmarhi and surrounding forest areas have rich and rare flora- fauna. It is a biosphere reserve. There are some beautiful waterfalls which support a rich diversity of cryptogams and phanerogames. Pachmarhi is connected through rail –nearest railway station being Pipariya and road.



Little fall



Duchess Fall



Rajat Prapat

Pachmarhi and surrounding satpura forest range area is known for its Natural water falls namely Rajat prapat, Bee fall, Duchess fall, Apsara vihar falls,down falls and little falls. It is also known for religious places like, Chhota mahadev, Bada mahadev, Jatashankar, Chauragadh, Gupt mahadev, Dhoot akhilesh , Pandav caves. In addition there are many natural picturesque places like Dhoopgadh, Reechhgadh, green valley, Handikho, Badi zeel ,lovers point etc.

Botanical study tour was arranged for the study of vegetation in forest area of Pachmarhi and surrounding satpura forest range. The students had a comfortable journey and accommodation. The students visited the various forest area with official permission. The help of local plant identifiers and forest guide was very timely and much needed. All the students spent a lot of time at various waterfalls and forest area studying the lower plants in their natural habitat. Due to Forest department restrictions the collection of plant material from the forest is banned, so the rich diversity of plants was only studies on the spot and photography was done.

Pachmarhi forest area has rich diversity of Bryophytes, Pteridopytes and Angiosperms. The observed species of bryophytes are: ***Targionia, Riccardia,***

Notothylus, Plagiochasm, Fimbriaria, Polytricum etc. in their natural condition nearby waterfalls and water bodies.



Field excursion in forest area

The observed species of pteridophytes : ***Psilotom nudum , Lycopodium , Selaginella sp. Isoetes panchanani, Ophioglossum nudicaule, Botrychium daucifolium, Angiopteris evecta, Osmunda regalis, Lygodium flaxuosum , Dicranopteris linearis, Cyathea gigantea, Alsophila glabra , Nephrolepis acuta , Leucosteriga pulchera, Goniopteris prolifera, Dryopteris cochleata, Polybotrea appendiculata ,Actinopteris dichotoma, Adiantum capillus, Cheilanthes tenuifolia, Pteris erecta, Gymnopteris contaminans , Thamnopteris , Polypodium gracilis, Tectaria sp. etc.,***




Psilotum nudum ***Dryopteris sp.*** ***Drosera sp.*** ***Floscopa scandens***

There are many plant species of Angiosperms growing in wild and some cultivated. Vegetation found was very diverse in habit. The observed plant species of angiosperms in Tropical dry deciduous forest: ***Tectona grandis, Anogeissus latifolia, Terminalia alata, Pterocarpus marsupium, Shorea robusta, Diospyros melanoxylon, Adina cordifolia, Sterculia urens, Buchnania lanzan, Flacourtia indica, Saccopetalum tomentosum, Chloroxylon swietenia, Hardwickia binata, Boswellia serrata, Soymida febrifuga, Mallotus philippenseis etc., Strobilanthes, , Aampelocissus, Clematis sp., Phragmites karka Woodfordia fruiticosa, Wrightia tinctoria , Abutilon persicum, Corchorus aestuens, Eulaliopsis binata, Helicteres isora, Hibiscus subdariffa, Soymida febrifuga, Triumfetta rhomboidea,Urena lobata ,Casearia elliptica, Gardenia turgida, Xeromphis spinoisa, Milletia extensa , Cymbopogon martini,,Argemone mexicana, Casearia graveolens, Celastrus paniculata, Putranjiva roxburghii, Schleichera oleosa, Semicarpus anacardium, Eucalyptus sp., Kydia calcina, Cymbopogon martini,Vetiveria zizynoides , Dioscorea bulbifera, Cyperus spp., Gymnema sylvestris, Eulopia herbacea,Securinega leucopyrus , Thysanolaena maxima, Litsea glutinosa, Semicarpus nacardium, its found that Lantana camara, Parthenium hysterophorus, Ageratum conyzoides, Elephantopus scaber etc. have encroached upon many localities of the forest and eradicated other local species. Eulophia herbacea , Berberis asiatica , Drosera indica , Drosera burmanii , Begonia malabarica , Utricularia exoleta and Nervillia aragoan .***