

## Rare and Endemic Plants of the Sahyadri

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Vegetation of Western Ghats i.e. the Sahyadri mountain range in Maharashtra is originally very rich and diverse. The area is characterised with high degree of biodiversity in floristic composition, second only to the great Himalayan Mountain ranges in India.

The primary climax formation in general must have been the subtropical, mixed deciduous forest, with pockets of evergreen/semi-evergreen vegetation at higher altitudes on western leeward side. The western slopes in the Konkan area and the eastern higher slopes and valleys in the rainshadow region over the deccan plateau sustain moist deciduous forests. The post climax and secondary climax seral communities show various associations of *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Tectona grandis* (planted), *Lagerstroemia parviflora*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Heterophragma quadriloculare*, *Holoptelea integrifolia*, *Macaranga peltata* with others species.

The lower eastern slopes as well as west-east off-shoot ranges with decreasing degree of precipitation have dry deciduous forests as well as thorn forest and extensive secondary grasslands.

The entire area is highly degraded, even totally devastated at places due to human interference of

varied nature. The natural ecosystems conserved in the form of numerous Deva Rais (sacred groves) are also threatened, partly degraded or completely destroyed. The protected forests and sanctuaries/national parks do need better eco-friendly treatment, restoration programmes and habitat management activities.

The entire area is characterised by high degree of endemism. The rare endemic, threatened, vulnerable as well as endangered species of plants seem to be on the verge of extinction due to habitat destruction and/or over-exploitation. The best way to conserve them along with non-vascular cryptogams and animal species, seems to be total protection of ecosystems wherever possible. Restoration projects are urgently needed to be undertaken. Afforestation programme consisting of commercial plantation, energy plantation, eco-plantation, etc. should be useful to reduce the ever-increasing pressure on the remnant natural forest areas. Proper planning, efficient management and overall coordination in the activities will only be fruitful.

Important vascular plant species are enumerated in this article with their local names (wherever available), localities and ecological status.

**Vegetation of the Sahyadri : Enumeration of Rare, Endemic and Endangered Vascular Plants**

Sr. No.	Botanical Name	Habit	Local Name	Localities	Remarks/Status
1.	<i>Aponogeton satarensis</i> Sunar Raghavan	H		Mavashi Plateau, Dist. Satara	Very rare, endemic, endangered
2.	<i>Abutilon ranadei</i> Wood. et. Stapf.	S		Amba ghat, Dist. Ratnagiri	Very rare, endemic, endangered
3.	<i>Achyranthes coynei</i> Sant.	C		Khandala, Dist. Pune	Very rare, endangered
4.	<i>Asparagus jacquemonti</i> Baker	C		Between Pune and Karla	Indeterminate, endemic
5.	<i>Anotis lancifolia</i> Hook f.	H		Bhandardara, Malshej ghat, Amba ghat, Mahabaleshwar, Chandoli, Udgiri Devrai	Endemic to the Western ghats
6.	<i>Adenoon indicum</i> Dalz	S	Motha sonaki	Katraj ghat, Khandala bavada, Phonda ghat	Rare, endemic to the Western ghats
7.	<i>Ammania floribunda</i> C. B. Clarke	H		Mahabaleshwar, Kas, Koyana- nagar, Vishalgad, Masai plateu (Kolhapur)	Endemic to the Western ghats (plateau locali- ties)
8.	<i>Achyranthes malabarica</i> Muell	H		Pune, Kolhapur	Endemic to West side of the Peninsula
9.	<i>Aneilema pauciflorum</i> Wight	H		Matheran, Mahabaleshwar	Rare, endemic
10.	<i>Aleseodaphne semicarpifolia</i> Ness var. Rufa Hook f.	T	Phadgas	Matheran, Meroli, Koyana forest	Endemic to the Western ghats
11.	<i>Alysicarpus pubescens</i> Law. var. Vasavadae	H		Puné Dist.	Endemic to Puné Dist.
12.	<i>Arisaema caudatum</i>	H		Konkan	Very rare, endemic
13.	<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i> var. junnarensis	H		Junnar Taluka Dist. Puné	Rare, endemic
14.	<i>Arthraxon hispidus</i> var. santapau	H		Mawal area Dist. Puné	Rare, endemic
15.	<i>Arundinella spicata</i>	H		Mahabaleshwar, Pasarni ghat	Rare, apparently endemic
16.	<i>Aspidopteris roxburghiana</i> A. Juss.	C		Lohagad, Khandala, Bhoma hill (Lonavala)	Rare
17.	<i>Barleria gibsonioides</i> Blatter and McC.	S		Panchgani only	Very rare, endemic
18.	<i>Begonia phrixophylla</i> Blatter and McC.	H		Mahabaleshwar	Rare, endemic
19.	<i>Butea superba</i> Roxb.	CS	Palasvel	Shedani devarai, Mulshi Dist. Puné, Barhe Dist. Nashik	Rare, endemic
20.	<i>Begonia concanensis</i> A. DC.	H		Lonawala, Khandala	Rare, endemic to West side of the peninsula
21.	<i>Balanophora indica</i> Wall	H		Khandala, Mahabaleshwar, Dajipur, Palasamba, Gaganbawda	Rare, endemic

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22.	<i>Bombax insigne</i> Wall	T	Deva-savar	Mangav devarai, Panshet, Kalubai Devarai, Malshej ghat, Phonda ghat	Rare
23.	<i>Bauhinia foveolata</i> Dalz.	T	Chamoli	Neral to Matheran, Kalubai devarai	Rare, endemic
24.	<i>Bocagea dalzelli</i> Hook f.	H	Sageri	Matheran	Rare, endemic
25.	<i>Crinum eleonora</i> Blatt. and McC.	H		Lingmala, Mahabaleshwar	Rare, endemic
26.	<i>Cryptocoryne tortuosa</i> Blatt. and McC.	H		Mahabaleshwar	Very rare, endangered, endemic
27.	<i>Ceropegia attenuata</i> Hook.	C		Thane, Raigad and Puné Dists.	Rare, endemic to the Western ghats
28.	<i>Ceropegia evansii</i> Mc Cann.	C		Khandala, Sakarpathar-Ambavané range	Endemic to Maharashtra, vulnerable
29.	<i>Ceropegia huberi</i> Ansari	C		Amba ghat Dist. Ratnagiri	Endemic to the Western ghats
30.	<i>Ceropegia lawii</i> Hook f.	C		Harishchandragad, Konkan	Endangered, endemic
31.	<i>Ceropegia panchganensis</i> Blatter and McC	C		Panchgani and Mahabaleshwar	Endangered, endemic to Maharashtra
32.	<i>Ceropegia sahyadrica</i> Ansari and Kulkarni	C		Ambavané-Sakarpathar range Dist. Puné	Rare, endemic to Maharashtra
33.	<i>Ceropegia jainii</i> Ansari and Kulkarni	C		Amboli ghat only	Rare, endemic
34.	<i>Ceropegia maccannii</i> Ansari	C		Puné and Raigad Dists.	Rare, endemic
35.	<i>Ceropegia mahabalei</i> Hemadri et Ansari	C		Ralegaon hills and Bhivade Khurd Tal. Junnar Dist. Puné	Endangered, endemic
36.	<i>Ceropegia noorjahanensis</i> Ansari	C		Pasarni ghat Dist. Satara	Very rare, endemic
37.	<i>Ceropegia rollae</i> Hemadri	C		Harishchandragad and Durga hill, Junnar, Pune	Rare, endemic
38.	<i>Ceropegia vincaefolia</i> Hook. emend Ansari	C		Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Satara Dists.	Endemic to Maharashtra
39.	<i>Coelanchne minuta</i> Bor	C		Mahabaleshwar, Amboli	Rare, endemic to Maharashtra
40.	<i>Crotalaria filipes</i> Benth. var. <i>trichophora</i> Cooke	H		Khandala, Chaskaman, Dimbhé	Rare
41.	<i>Cyathocline lutea</i> Law ex Wt.	H		Puné and Thane Dists.	Endemic to the Western ghats
42.	<i>Carissa suavissima</i> Bedd. ex Hook	CS	Karva-ndvel	Ugwai near Dajipur, Kalubai forest Malshej ghat	Rare, endangered
43.	<i>Cynoglossum denticulatum</i> var. <i>zeylanica</i> C. B. Clarke	S		Puné, Pratapgad, Koyana valley, Panchgani, Mahabaleshwar	Rare, endemic to the Western ghats
44.	<i>Coleus spicatus</i> Benth	H		Nashik, Vani, Bhandardara	Rare, endemic

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45.	<i>Cleistanthus malabaricus</i> Muell. Arg. in DC.	T		Ugwai devrai, Dajipur Dist. Kolhapur	Rare, endemic
46.	<i>Croton gibsonianus</i> Nimmo.	H		Harishchandragad, Bhandardara	Rare, endemic to the Western ghats
47.	<i>Canarium strictum</i> Roxb.	T	Ral- dhoop	Hirdoshi near Varandha ghat, Koyana forest	Rare, endemic to the Western ghats
48.	<i>Canscora khandalensis</i>	H		Khandala	Rare, endemic
49.	<i>Cissus woodrowii</i> Dalz. Syn. <i>Vitis woodrowii</i> Stapt.	S	Girnul	Vetal hill, Puné, Katraj ghat, Khambatki ghat, Dimbhé, Chaskaman, Otur hills	Common in Pune Dist. Apparently endemic to the Western ghats
50.	<i>Chukrassia tabularis</i> Adr. Juss.	T	Dalmar	Roha, Matheran	Rare in Western ghats, not endemic
51.	<i>Clitoria biflora</i> Dalz.	H	Supli	Neral, Bhajé, Lohagad, Kalyan	Rare, endemic to Maharashtra
52.	<i>Crotalaria vestita</i> Baker in Hook f.	S		Khandala, Mahabaleshwar, Malshej	Rare, endemic to the Western ghats
53.	<i>Canscora khandalensis</i> Sant.	H		Khandala	Rare, endemic
54.	<i>Canavalia stocksii</i> Dalz.	H	Ran Abai	Lonawala, Khandala, Mahabaleshwar	Rare, endemic
55.	<i>Clematis smilacifolia</i> Wall.	C	Devjai	Phonda ghat, Sawardé Rai (Dist. Kolhapur)	Rare
56.	<i>Clematis wightiana</i> Wall.	C		Mahabaleshwar	Rare
57.	<i>Crinum woodrowii</i> Baker	H		Mahabaleshwar	Very rare
58.	<i>Dipcadi maharashtrensis</i> Deb et Dasgupta	S		Panchgani plateau	Very rare, endemic, endangered
59.	<i>Dicanthium armatum</i> (Hook f.) Blatter and McC.	H		Junnar, Bhimashankar, Khandala, Panchgani	Rare, endemic to Maharashtra
60.	<i>Dicanthium maccannii</i> Blat.	H		Panchgani, Devgiri	Vulnerable, endemic to Maharashtra
61.	<i>Dicanthium woodrowii</i> (Hook f.) Jain et Desh.	H		Paud, Dist. Puné (only)	Rare, endemic
62.	<i>Dimeria woodrowii</i> Stapf.	H		Ratnagiri	Rare, endemic to Maharashtra
63.	<i>Dicliptera ghatica</i> Sant.	H		Meroli, Khandala ghat only	Rare, indeterminate
64.	<i>Drimia razii</i> Ansari	H		Divé ghat, Dist. Puné only	Rare, endemic
65.	<i>Decaschistia trilobata</i> Wight.	S		Kumbharli ghat, Mawal Dist. Pune, Pavangad, Marleshwar, Udagiri Devrai	Rare, endemic to the Western ghats
66.	<i>Delphinium dasycaulon</i> Fres. Mus.	H		Junnar, Khadkala (Dist. Puné)	Very rare, not endemic
67.	<i>Dicliptera cuneata</i> Nees.	S		Mulshi, Ajiwali, Kolawade (All Dist. Puné)	Rare, endemic
68.	<i>Derris breviceps</i> Baker in Hook f.	CS		Kumbharli ghat, Palasamba (Dist. Kolhapur)	Rare, endemic

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69.	<i>Dimorphocalyx lawianus</i> Hook f.	S		Khandala, Matheran	Rare, endemic to the Western ghats
70.	<i>Eriocaulon humile</i> Moldenke	H		Khandala, Matheran	Vulnerable, endemic
71.	<i>Euphorbia katrajensis</i> Gage	H		Katraj ghat	Rare, endemic to Pune Dist.
72.	<i>Euphorbia panchganensis</i> Blatt and Mc Cann	H		Panchgani, Puné, Satara and Sindhudurg Dists.	Rare, endemic
73.	<i>Erinocarpus nimmonii</i> Graham	T	Cher	Khandala, Ambawané, Chandoli, Kolhapur	Indeterminate, endemic to the Western ghats
74.	<i>Eriolaena candollei</i> Wall	T	Hadang, Bothi	Seetecha Dara, Sinhagad	Rare, not endemic
75.	<i>Eriocaulon minutum</i> Hook f.	H		Konkan	Rare, endemic
76.	<i>Frerea indica</i> Dalz.	H		Junnar, Purandar, Sinhagad, Sajjangad	Endangered, endemic
77.	<i>Flemingea gracilis</i> (Mukerjee) Ali	S		Khandala, Lonawala, Matheran	Rare, endemic to Maharashtra
78.	<i>Flacourtia latifolia</i> T. Cooke	T	Tambat	Mahabaleshwar, Koyana forest, Chandoli	Rare, endemic
79.	<i>Fumaria parviflora</i> Lam.	H	Pit-papada	Shirur, Baramati, Phaltan	Rare
80.	<i>Gymnema khandalense</i> Sant.	C		Khandala, Roha	Rare, endemic
81.	<i>Griffithella hookeriana</i> Warming	H		Koyana riverbed, Kalubai Devrai, Dajipur, Gajapur, Amba ghat	Rare, endemic
82.	<i>Hypoestes lanata</i> Dalz.	H		Roha, Dapoli, Northern Western ghats	Rare, endemic
83.	<i>Habenaria panchganensis</i> Sant. and Kapad.	H		Panchgani, Sindhudurg Dist.	Rare, endemic to the Western ghats
84.	<i>Hitchenia caulina</i> Baker	H	Chavar	Mahabaleshwar (abundant), Khandala, Panchgani, Dajipur, Radhanagari	Endemic to the Western ghats
85.	<i>Homonoia retusa</i> Muell.	S	Choti Sherani	Puné, Khadaki	Rare, endemic
86.	<i>Heracleum sprengeianum</i> W. and A.	H		Lohagad, Khandala, Ajiwali (Mulshi)	Rare, endemic
87.	<i>Iphigenia magnifica</i> Ansari et Rolla Rao	H		Dhulé, Raigad and Puné Dists.	Vulnerable, endemic to the Western ghats
88.	<i>Iphigenia stellata</i> Blatter	H		Panchgani, Mahabaleshwar, Panhala, Dajipur	Vulnerable, endemic
89.	<i>Indigofera dalzellii</i> T. Cooke	H		Panchgani, Kas plateau, Thoséghar	Rare, endemic
90.	<i>Impatiens acaulis</i> Arn. in Hook	H	Pan terada	Malshej ghat, Matheran, Mahabaleshwar, Shivtharghal Amba ghat	Rare, restricted to peculiar habitat
91.	<i>Isachne lisboae</i> Hook f.	H		Panchgani, Mahabaleshwar	Rare, apparently endemic

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92.	<i>Jatropha nana</i> Dalz.	S		Hills around Puné, Bawdhan, Pashan	Rare, apparently endemic
93.	<i>Kalanchoe bhidei</i> T. Cooke	H		Wai to Wathar, Panhala	Rare, endemic
94.	<i>Litsea stocksii</i> Hook f.	T		Meroli, Matheran, Mahabaleshwar, Chandoli	Rare, endemic
95.	<i>Loranthus obtusus</i> Wall	S	Band-guli	Mahabaleshwar, Chandoli, Udgiri Devarai	Rare, endemic to the Western ghats
96.	<i>Lansium anamallayanum</i> Bedd.	S	Pandhara Telya	Bhimashankar	Rare, endemic to the Western ghats
97.	<i>Mallotus laurii</i> Muell	S		Meroli, Khandala, Matheran	Rare, endemic
98.	<i>Monsonia senegalensis</i> Guill and Perr.	H		Puné, Bawdhan, Shirur	Very rare, endemic
99.	<i>Memecylon umbellatum</i> Burm. var. <i>capitellata</i> C.B.Cl.	T		Kumbharli ghat	Rare, endemic
100.	<i>Nanothamnus sericeus</i> Thomas	S		Nashik and Pune Dists.	Rare, endemic to the Western ghats
101.	<i>Nogra dalzelli</i> (Baker) Merr.	S		Panchgani, Mahabaleshwar, Harishchandragad	Vulnerable, endemic
102.	<i>Neuracanthus sphaerostachys</i> Dalz.	S		Matheran, Khandala, Khadakwasla	Rare, endemic
103.	<i>Oxystelma esculentum</i> R.Br.	C	Dudhani	C.M.E. campus, Dapodi, Puné	Very rare, endemic
104.	<i>Oldenlandia aspera</i> DC.	H		Puné, Kolhapur	Rare, endemic to West side of the peninsula
105.	<i>Pimpinella katrajensis</i> Rao et Hemadri	H		Katraj ghats and Pandhgani plateau	Very rare, endemic
106.	<i>Premna coriaria</i> C. B. Clarke	C		Lonawala, Khandala, Malshej ghat, Dajipur	Rare, endemic
107.	<i>Pimpinella monoica</i> Dalz.	H		Kas, Panchgani, Ganganbawda, Mahabaleshwar	Endemic to the Western ghats
108.	<i>Peucedanum grande</i> C. B. Clarke	H	Baphali	Matheran, Khandala, Chandoli, Amba	Endemic to the Western ghats
109.	<i>Pavetta hispidula</i> W. and A.	S	Papati	Matheran (Monkey hill), Bhimashankar, Purandar fort	Rare, endemic
110.	<i>Pancratium parvum</i> Dalz.	H		Purandar fort	Rare, endemic
111.	<i>Polyalthia cerasoides</i> Hook and Benth.	T	Hum	Jawhar, Bhatsanagar, Malshej ghat	Rare, endemic
112.	<i>Pittosporum dasycanlon</i> Miquel.	T	Gap-sundi	Mahabaleshwar, Gaganbawda	Rare, endemic
113.	<i>Paracarym lambertianum</i> C. B. Clarke	H		Mahabaleshwar	Very rare, apparently endemic
114.	<i>Rourea santaloides</i> W. and Arn.	C	Tambada Telya	Miradongar (Pen), Bhimashankar	Rare, endemic
115.	<i>Pygeum gardneri</i> Hook f.	T	Daka	Mahabaleshwar, Khandala, Malshej, Gaganbawda	Rare, endemic

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116.	<i>Sarcostemma intermedium</i> Decaisne	S		Katraj ghat, Khambatki ghat	Very rare, endemic to the Western ghats
117.	<i>Swertia minor</i> T. Cooke	H		Khandala, Panchgani, Kas, Masai plateau	Rare, endemic
118.	<i>Solanum bigeminatum</i> Nees	S		Mahabaleshwar, Gaganbawda, Phonda ghat	Very rare, endemic to West side of the peninsula
119.	<i>Saccopetalum tomentosum</i> Hook f.	T		Jyotiba hill, Kolhapur, Radhanagari	Very rare, endemic
120.	<i>Smithia purpurea</i> Hook	H		Lonawala, Khandala, Mahabaleshwar, Bhimashankar	Rare, endemic
121.	<i>Striga sulphurea</i> Dalz and Gibs.	H		Shivneri fort, Harishchandragad	Rare, endemic
122.	<i>Thallictrum dalzellii</i> Hook	H		Malshej plateau, Purandar fort	Rare, endemic to the Western ghats
123.	<i>Unmona pannosa</i> Dalz.	T		Hatkhamba, Devrukh, Marleshwar	Very rare, endemic
124.	<i>Utricularia albo-coerulea</i> Dalz.	H		Mahabaleshwar, Koyananagar	Rare, endemic
125.	<i>Vigna khandalensis</i> (Sant.) Raghavan and Wadhwa	C		Ahmednagar, Pune and Satara Dists.	Rare, endemic
126.	<i>Vitis araneosa</i> Laws in Hook f.	C		Highest ghats west of Junnar, Dist. Pune	Very rare, endemic to West side of the peninsula
127.	<i>Wagatea spicata</i> Dalz.	CS	Wakeri	Khandala, Pratapgad, Koyana valley, Panhala, Radhanagar, Dajipur	Endemic to Western ghats

H = Herb, S = Shrub, C = Climber, CS = Climbing Shrub, T = Tree

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