

# Diversity of Genus Ficus in Nandgaon and Chandwad tehsils District Nasik (Maharashtra)

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Received: December 06, 2018

Accepted: January 08, 2019

**ABSTRACT:** The paper deals with the diversity of Genus Ficus from Nandgaon and Chandwad tehsils of Nasik District (Maharashtra State) based on detailed field studies. A total of species were recorded from the study area out of which *Ficus mollis* is recorded as a new record to the flora of Nasik district.

**Key Words:** Diversity, Ficus, Nasik District, New record

**Introduction** – Genus Ficus is an important genus, which plays an important role in the ecosystem as a Key stone species. Chandwad and Nandgaon tehsils are located approximately in the centre of the district .Constituting the drier parts of the district, traversed by the Satmala range an offshoot of Sahayadri. During the floristic studies undertaken in this area, it was found that the area is quite rich in diversity of Ficus species .Out of the nine species found six were recorded as new to the study area and Two *Ficus mollis* and *Ficus palmata* were recorded as a new record to Nasik district. Plants were photographed with Sony DSC-H 400 camera, new record for district were shot with vivo Mobile with goggle app for precise location and proof.

Enumeration –

***Ficus amplissima* J.E Sm** in Rees, Cyclop.14:n.1.1810; Corner in Gdn's Bull. Singapore 21: 11.1965 F.tsiela Roxb.ex Buch-Ham in Trans .Linn. Soc .London 15:149.1826; Hook.f.Fl.Brit.India 5:515.1888: Cooke, Fl Pres. Bombay 3: 150. 1958 (Repr.ed) Pimpri, Payer

Large spreading trees up to 25 meters high. Leaves simple alternate, ovate oblong or elliptical –oblong, subcoriaceous. Receptacles globose sub-sessile crowned towards tip of branch lets. Smooth ripens purple.

February –December Occasional – Tangdi, Kundane, Dheku

***Ficus arnottiana* (Miq) Miq** in Ann . Bot .Lugd. Bot. 3:287.1867; Hook.f.Fl.Brit.India 5:513.1888; Cooke.Fl.Pres .Bombay 3:149.1958 *Urostigma arnottiana* Miq. In Hook.London J.Bot 6:564.1847. Rock ficus , Kadak payer

Trees about 12 meter high .Leaves broadly ovate, sub-coriaceous with wavy margin .Leaf tips pointed acuminate but short .Receptacles about 1cm in diameter ,depressed , globose ripens purple with green spots

Common on Hill tops Indrai fort, Mahadev dongar

***Ficus benghalensis* L** Sp .Pl.1059.1753; Hook. f. Fl Brit .India 5:499.1888; Cooke, Fl.Pres.Bombay 3:145.1958 Wad

Large spreading evergreen tree, up to 15 meters high. Numerous aerial roots, thicken and become stilts. Bark of Stems grayish brown smooth. Receptacles in axillary pairs, sessile, scarlet red when ripe.

Sadeti rodga dongar, Ekharke Occasional

***Ficus drupacea* Thunb var *pubescens* (Roth) Corner** in Gdn's Bull. Singapore 17:381.1960. F.mysorensis var pubescence Roth in R&S.Syst.1 508. 1817. F mysorensis Heyne ex Roth ,Nov.Pl.sp.390.1821;Hook.f.Fl.Brit.India 5:500.1888;Cooke.Fl.Pres.Bombay 3:145 1958 , Mysore fig, Burali wad

Trees unto 25 m high, descending aerial roots arising from stout branches .Bark grey or brownish. Smooth Leaves simple, blade ovate elliptical with a round base .Leaves densely pilose or strigose early, later glabrous –coriaceous. Figs sessile, axillary paired ripening yellow to orange, ellipsoid –globose thick walled. Tepals free male flowers few ,pedicels about 4 mm long tepals 2-3 filaments bristly at base anthers wide .Female flowers sessile tepals 3-4 Gall flowers pedicellate

Receptacles –April – May Dheku Rare

***Ficus mollis* Vahl** Symb .Bot .1:82.1790: Corner in Dassan & Fosb.Rev.Handb.Fl Ceylon 3:249,F.12.1981.F tomentosa Roxb.ex Willd.Sp.Pl.4:1136.1806;King in Ann.Roy.Bot.Gard.Calcutta

1:22,t.18.1887& in Hook f.Fl.Brit.India 5:501.1888;Cooke,Fl .Pres. Bombay 3:1461958;Talb.For Fl. Bombay Pres.&Sind 2:509.1911 Soft fig

Deciduous trees growing up to 15 m tall, branchlets tomentose .Bark 5-6 mm thick .Leaves simple alternate spiral. Stipules lateral cauducous leaving a scar. Lamina 6-15 x 3-9 cm elliptical,oblong ,obovate ,elliptical-ovate,base round or cordate, apex obtuse, subacute or obtusely tomentose. Figs sessile in axillary pairs, globose tomentose about 1cm across, basal bracts 3Apical bracts 3,tepals 3-4 reddish free.Male flowers disperse pedicillate.Gall flowers sessile or pedicillate, female sessile.

Receptacles – January – September Few – Khadakoza, New record for Nashik district

***Ficus palmata Forssk.***Fl Aegypt-Arab.179.1755 ; King in Hook .f Fl Brit .India 5.530.1888

Shrubs or small trees,young branches tomentose –pubescent,later glabrous .Leaves orbicular-ovate ,cordate at base,with tomentosepetiole ,apex acute or apiculate ,toothed or serrate or obtusely 3-5 lobed .Receptacles 1.2-2.5 cm across .Solitary axillary , subglobose to pyriform.

Vadner bhairav, Pimpalnare ,Chandwad. Few

***Ficus racemosa L*** Sp.Pl.1060.1753;Corner in Dassan & Fosb . Rev. Handb. Fl .Ceylon 3:266,f 21.1981.F Glomerata Roxb.Pl Corom.2:13,t 1.1.23.1798;King in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard .Calcutta 2: 173,tt .2018, 2019.1888&in Hook.f.Fl.Brit.India 5:535.1888;Cooke,Fl.Pres.Bombay 3:154. 1958; Talb.For.Fl.Bombay Pres.&Sind 2:524 ,f.531.1911. Umbar

Trees up to 30 m high bark grayish white to pinkish .7-10 mm thick .Young shoots and figs finely hairy .Latex milky. Leaves ovate-oblong, Elliptical –lanceolate, base cuneate, apex sub acute or sub acuminate. Receptacles in large clusters on main branches and trunks, about 3cm across, subglobose to pyriform. Peduncles 0.3-1.2 cm long. Pale green to red to reddish on ripening. Male Flowers near ostiole in 2-3 rings sessile, stamens 2 exserted filaments 1 mm long tepals -4, female flowers sessile, gall flowers shortly stalked tepals 3-4

Receptacles –Feb –June Common

***Ficus religiosa L.***Sp.Pl.1059.1753; King in Ann.Roy.Bot.Gard.Calcatta 1:55,t.67.1887 & in hook .f.Fl.Brit.India. 5.513.1883; Cooke,Fl.Pres.Bombay 3 :149 .1958; Talb.For Fl.Bombay Pres.7 Sindh 2:514 .f. 523 ,1911;Cormenr in Dassan & Fosb.Rev Handb.Fl.Ceylon 3: 236.1981 'Pimpal'

Tress up to 25 meters high. Aerial roots absent .Bark grey smooth. Leaves simple alternate spiral. Coriaceous ovate-rotund, base truncate, apex caudate –acuminate with 1-5 cm long acumen .Margin entire, undulate, shining. Receptacles axillary, paired sessile pink, purple or black.

March to August Common

***Ficus virens W.T.Aiton*** Hort. Kew 3:451.1789; Corner in Gdn's Bull. Singapore 17:376.1959.F.Infectoria Roxb.Fl.Ind 3: 551.1832 non Willd 1806 ;Hook. f. FL .Brit .India 5:515.1888; Cooke Fl Pres Bombay 3:151.1958 Amba payer

Strangling fig, aerial roots wrapping around main stem .Leaves elliptic or ovate lanceolate, 8-9cm long and 3-6 cm wide with a whitish midrib. Figs in pairs, peduncles 1-7 cm long, globose greenish white to brown with spots.

Receptacles – October –August

Few - Chandreshwar –Chandwad fort. Occasional

## References –

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*Ficus amplissima J.E Sm*



*Ficus arnottianna (Miq) Miq*



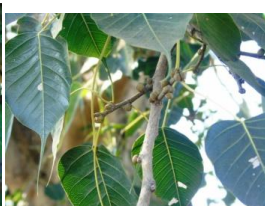
*Ficus benghalensis* L



*Ficus drupacea* Thunb var *pubescens* (Roth) Corner



*Ficus racemosa* L



*Ficus religiosa* L.



*Ficus palmata* Forssk



*Ficus mollis* Vahl



*Ficus virens* W.T.Aiton

