

FLORA OF THE PERMANENT SANDY PATHWAYS IN ALWAR DISTRICT OF RAJASTHAN

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The permanent sandy pathways found in rural areas of Alwar district of Rajasthan support stable plant communities with more than 50 local plant species and a large number of weeds.

Keywords : Natural vegetation; Permanent sandy pathways.

In rural areas, there are long, permanent sandy pathways passing through agricultural fields. Both the sides of these pathways form the permanent hedge of the adjacent agricultural fields. These pathways support stable plant communities dominated by *Capparis-Achyranthes-Ziziphus* and *Capparis-Clerodendrum* plant associations. The flora of these habitats represent most of the species of the natural vegetation present in the adjacent fields before they were brought under cultivation. Increased irrigation facilities and mechanisation of agriculture have led to conversion of large areas of wilderness into crop fields, restricting the species of natural flora to pathways, road-sides and railway-tracks. Out of these habitats, the vegetation of permanent sandy pathways is less disturbed by man. Therefore, the study of the flora of pathways is very important in any investigation of the natural vegetation of a given region. However, so far no attempt has been made to study the flora of pathways in rural areas of Rajasthan. Hence, in the present investigation, the flora of three pathways was studied.

Three permanent sandy pathways were selected on Tijara road about 3 Km away from Alwar city, each with approximately 1 Km in length and 7 feet in width. The plants were collected and identified with the help of the local flora¹⁻². The plant specimens have been deposited in the herbarium of Raj Rishi College, Alwar. After an intensive survey

of these sites over a period of two year (1996-97) the following plant species have been identified :

A. Trees and Shrubs:

Capparis decidua (forsk.) Edgew., *C. spiaria* Linn., *Acacia leucopholea* (Roxb.) Willd., *Prosopis cineraria* (Linn.) Druce, *Mimosa hamata* Wild., *Ziziphus nummularia* (Brum. f.) W&A., *Anogeissus pendula* Edgew., *Clerodendrum multiflorum* (Brum.f.) O.Ktze, *Lycium barbarum* Linn., *Hibiscus micranthus* Linn. f., and *Abutilon indicum* (Linn.) Sweet.

B. Climbers and twinnners :

Cocculus hirsutus (Linn.) Diels, *Mukia maderaspatana* (Linn.) M. Roem., *Blastinia fimbristipula* (Fenzl.) Kotschy et Peyr, *Ipomoea erioarpa* R.Br., *I. Muricata* (Linn.) Jacq., *I. pes-tigridis* Linn., *I. indica* stapf, *Cardiospermum halicacabum* Linn., *Cayratia carnosia* (Lamk.) Gagneo., *Rhynchosia minima* (Linn.) DC.

C. Perennial herbs :

Sida veronicifolia Lamk., *S. Soinosa* Linn., *S. cordifolia* Linn., *Indigofera tinctoria* Linn., *Tephrosia purpurea* Baker., *Solanum surattense* Brum.f., *Withania sominifera* (Linn.) Dunal, *Achyranthes aspera* Linn., var. *porohyristachya* H.K.f., *A. aspera* Linn. var. *argentea* H.K.F., *Pupalia lappacea* (Linn.) Juss., *Boerhavia diffusa* Linn., *Trianthema portulacastrum* Linn., *Zaleya*

govindia (Buch-Ham ex G. Don.) N.C. Nair, *Cynodon dactylon* (Linn.) Pers., *Dichanthium annulatum* (Forsk.) Stapf.

D. Annual herbs :

Cassia pumila Lamk., *C. tora* Linn., *Indigofera linnaei* Ali., *Tephrosia pumila* Pers., *Vernonia cinerea* (Linn.) Less., *Tridax procumbens* Linn., *Eclipta alba* (Linn.) Hassk., *Corchorus olitorius* Linn., *Peristrophe bicalyculata*, (Retz.) Nees, *Al ternanthera pungens* H.B.&K., *A. sessilis* (Linn.) DC., *Phyllanthus asperulatus* Hutch., *Chenopodium album* Linn., *C. murale* Linn., *Polygonum plebeium* R.Br., *Euphorbia hirta* Linn., *E. parviflora* Linn., *Triumfetta rhomboidea* Jacq., *Borreria articularis* (Linn. f.) F.N. Will., *Blepharis repens* (Vahl.) Roth, *Tribulus terrestris* Linn., *Digera*

muriacata (Linn.) Mart., *Convolvulus microphyllous* Sieb ex. spr., *Evolvulus alsionoides* Linn., *Polygala chinensis* Linn., *Commelina benghalensis* Linn., *C. forskalaei* Vahl., *Cenchrus ciliaris* Linn. *C. setigerus* Vahl., *Dactyloctenium oegyptium* Wild., *Digitaria adscendens* Henr., *Brachiaria reptans* (Linn.) Gardener et hubb., *Chloris dolichostachya* Lagasca, *Cyperus compressus* Linn.

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