

Research Article

SELECTED FLORA OF DMG HALLI, MYSORE

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ABSTRACT

Twenty one plants belonging to different angiospermous families have been identified from DMG Halli, Mysore and specimen flora maintained in the JNV Herbarium. The important families to which the plants belong are Acanthaceae, Asteraceae, Fabaceae, Cyperaceae, Zygophyllaceae, Tiliaceae, Commelinaceae, Verbenaceae, Convolvulaceae, Bignoniaceae, Malvaceae, Apocynaceae and Amaranthaceae.

Key Words: *Herbarium, DMG Halli, Angiospermous*

INTRODUCTION

DMG Halli is a rural area enroute Geddige about 15 kilometers away from suburban Mysore. The fifteen kilometers to DMG is studded with farms and agricultural lands. The most common crops are tapioca, cotton and mango. Agriculture is the backbone of the economy of this area as it is with the rest of India. Though the agriculture is highly dependent on the rainfall, the rivers Kaveri and Kabini provide the irrigation needs required for agriculture. Some of the important crops grown here are cotton, grams, groundnut, Jowar, maize, ragi, rice, sugarcane, sunflower and tur.

DMG Halli is in Mysore District of Karnataka State. The soil is reddish and fertile. A lot of weed plants and uncultivated plants grow profusely unseen by the scientific eye. Also ornamentals give aesthetic appeal, shade and shelter along the roadside.

A venture to the interiors of this rural area was an inspiration to gather more information about the local unseen flora of this place. The attempt was to reveal any flora that is endemic and indigenous to this area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Methodology

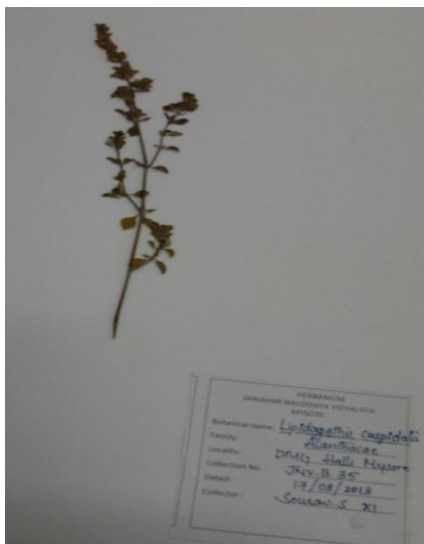
A tour was made of the areas close to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya of DMG Halli in order to inspect the flora and the outcome was interesting in that a lot of plants were common to those growing in the interior of Mysore proper. Students of XI Standard of JNV toured the areas inside and outside the precincts of JNV and collected about 30-40 plants growing in this area. The plants were collected in the early morning hours and tagged and put in plastic bags.

The details of the plants were noted down in a field book for future reference and for the purpose of identification. The process of drying and preservation was through newspapers and blotters over a period of 10-15 days.

Care was taken to preserve the colours of the leaves and flowers. After drying, the plants were stuck on Herbarium sheets of a dimension of approximately 24"X40" and sprayed with HgCl₂ to prevent spoilage. The plants were identified using the Flora of Madras (Gamble, 1847-1925) and with the help of experts in the field of taxonomy.

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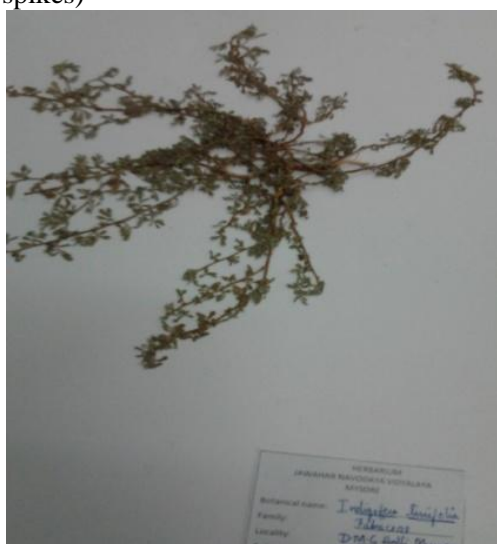
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



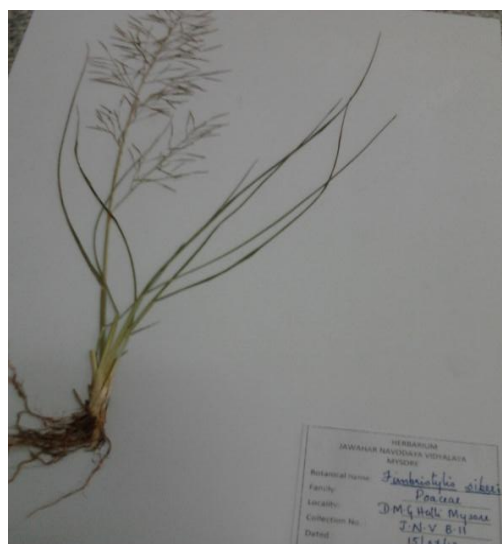
1. *Lepidagathis cuspidata* Wall.ex Nees, Acanthaceae Small herbaceous branched species with tiny elliptic ovate opposite dimorphic leaves and racemose inflorescences (white flowers in spikes)



2. *Wedelia chinensis* (Osbeck) Merrill, Asteraceae. A small erect herb with simple leaves arranged in opposite decussate fashion, small yellow capitate or head inflorescence.

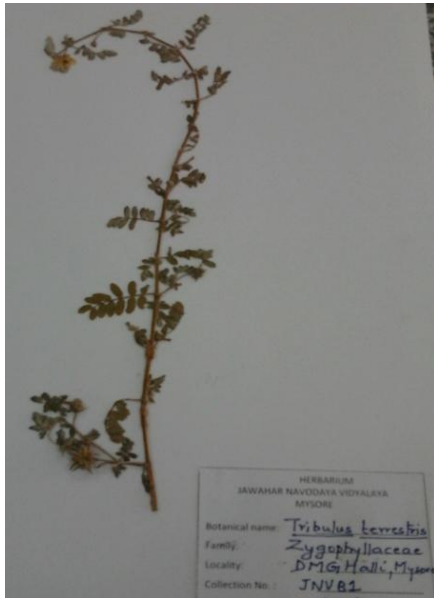


3. *Indigofera linifolia* (L.f.) Retz.Fabaceae. A stouter prostrate, creeping form of the common *Indigofera enneophylla* found matting playgrounds and fields. The branches spread out from a common axis in this herb. Leaves are simple, linear lanceolate, inflorescence racemose with dark pink into red flowers and pods are globose.



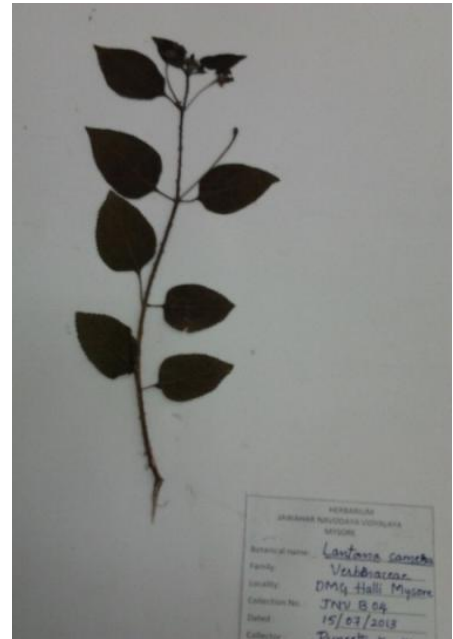
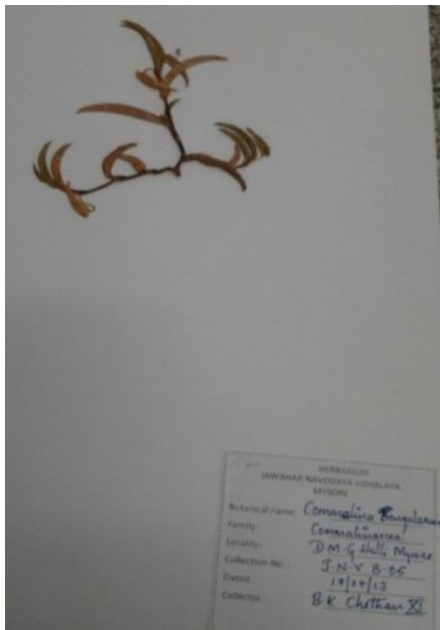
4. *Fimbristylis sieberiana* Kunth., Cyperaceae. These are typical sedges in appearance, with stiff, ridged stems and cone-shaped terminal panicles of spikelets. A small grassy herb with bulbous root and whorled arrangement of thin, long, aciculate, grass like linear ligulate leaves and a centrally located racemose inflorescence with flowers in spikes.

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5. *Tribulus terrestris* Linn., Zygophyllaceae. A herbaceous weed with pinnately compound leaves, oblong leaflets and yellow coloured solitary, axillary flowers.

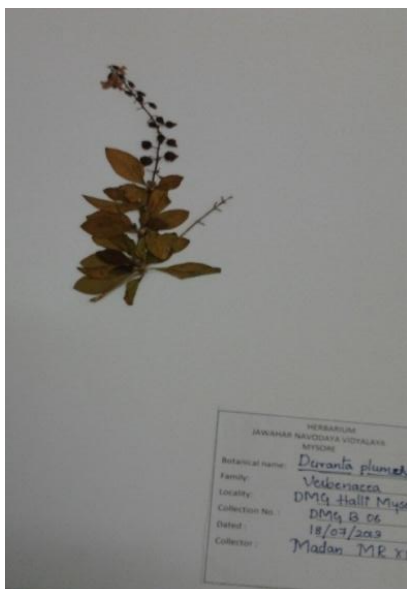
6. *Muntingia calabura* L., Tiliaceae. A medium sized tree with long lanceolate leaves with serrate margins and extra-axillary, solitary white flowers.



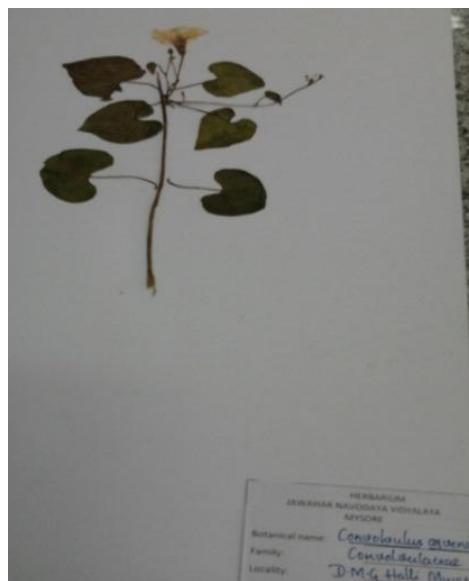
7. *Commelina benghalensis* Linn., Commelinaceae. A prostrate herb with spreading branches, ovate leaves with acute tips and unequal bases. Flowers in three-flowered cymes, enclosed in spathe and blue in colour.

8. *Lantana camara* L., Verbenaceae. A common weed growing profusely along the roadsides. Plant shrubby, with ovate leaves with acuminate tips and flowers in umbels.

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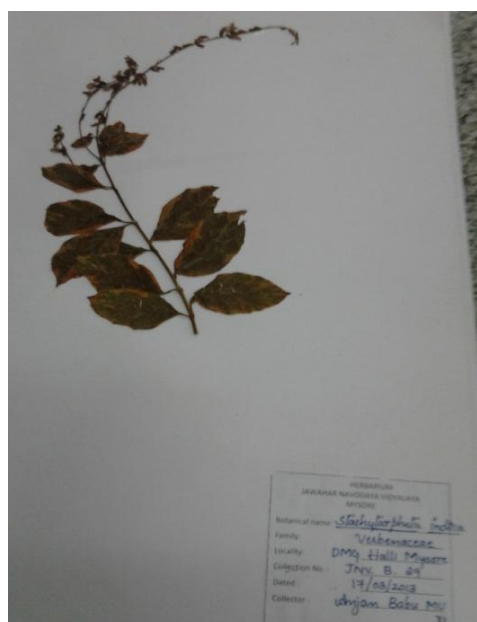
9. *Duranta plumieri* Jacq., Verbenaceae. A shrub with simple, ovate, opposite leaves and flowers in terminal racemes.



10. *Convolvulus arvensis* L., Convolvulaceae. A creeping perennial herb with spirally arranged leaves and pale white trumpet shaped flowers with radial stripes.

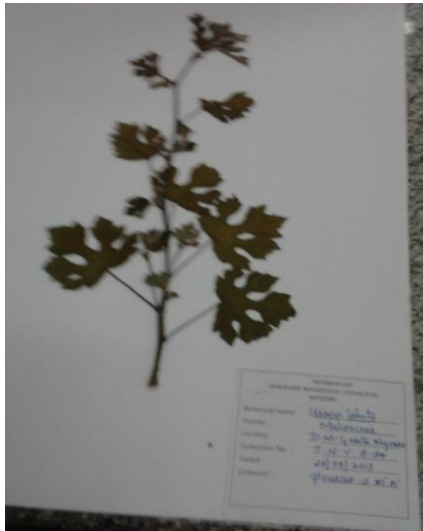


11. *Tecoma stans*(L) Juss. ex Kunth, Bignoniaceae. A shrub with lanceolate leaves and bright yellow trumpet shaped flowers.



12. *Stachytarpheta indica* Vahl, Verbenaceae A small annual shrub with ovate elliptic leaves and blue flowers with a white throat in terminal spike.

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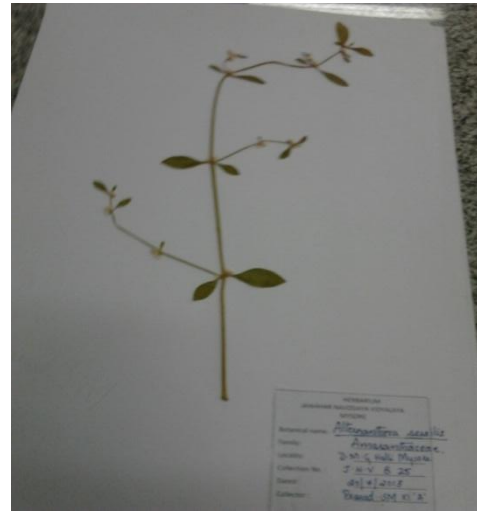
13. *Urena lobata* Linn. Malvaceae. An undershrub with alternate pubescent leaves with lobed margins and solitary axillary flowers.



14. *Tridax procumbens* Linn., Asteraceae. A small herb growing singly or in clusters with elliptic lanceolate leaves and a single capitate inflorescence.



15. *Nerium oleander* Linn., Apocynaceae A tall shrub with lanceolate leaves, smooth margins and pinkish white flowers in clusters.



16. *Alternanthera sessilis* (L.) R.Br. ex DC, Amaranthaceae. A perennial herb with prostrate stems, leaves obovate with white flowers in sessile spikes.

Results

The following plants were collected and identified in the area of DMG Halli close to Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mysore.

Conclusion

These comprised herbs, trees and shrubs. Most of them abound in urban Mysore as well except for some lesser known herbs like *Fimbristylis sieberiana*, *Ocimum ramocissimum*, *Indigofera linifolia*, *Wedelia chinensis*, and *Lepidagathis cuspidate* to be discussed in detail at a later stage.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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