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Research Article

A CHECKLIST OF ROAD SIDE TREES OF NORTHERN PART OF UPPER ASSAM, INDIA

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ABSTRACT
Assam is a state of North East India covering an area of 30,285 square miles which is also known as gateway of North East India. It shares the border with Bhutan, Burma and Bangladesh. A detailed survey of the road side tree in the Northern side of Upper Assam consisting three district viz. Tezpur, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji was conducted during the year 2013 to 2014 including all wild, naturalized and planted species. The paper highlights a total number of 57 road side tree species under 50 genera and 27 families recorded during the field studies in the Northern part of Upper Assam.

Keywords: *A Checklist, Road Side, Tree, Northern Part, Upper Assam, India*

INTRODUCTION
Assam is a state of North East India covering an area of 30,285 square miles which is also known as gate way of North East India. It's share the border with Bhutan, Burma and Bangladesh. The state of Assam contains three of six physiographic division of India i.e. the Northern Himalayas, The Northern Plains and Deccan plateau.
The state experience the "Tropical Monsoon Rainforest climate". The climate is characterised by heavy monsoon downpours reducing summer temperature. The state is considered as one of the richest biodiversity region in the world consisting tropical rainforest, deciduous forest, riverine grass land, bamboo etc. The world heritage sites like Kaziranga national park and Manas wild life sanctuary are located in this state. The state is a multi ethnic society having total number of 45 languages speaking by various communities of Assam.
Out of 27 districts of Assam, the 3 district Tezpur, Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts constitute the Northern part of Upper Assam covering an area of 5, 324 sq. Km, 2, 277 sq. Km and 3, 237 sq. Km respectively. The National Highway 52 (NH 52) is running through the three district start at the intersection of NH 31 North of Guwahati covering a distance of about 300 km within the three districts. It is found that the Government has encouraged the farmers or the local people to grow trees along road side. The climatic conditions of the region favour the growing of semi evergreen tree species. To make an inventory of the species diversity on the road side, a taxonomic survey has been conducted during 2013 to 2014. And, that has resulted in the compilation of road side common tree flora of the Northern part of Upper Assam.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
A detailed survey of the road side tree in the Northern side of Upper Assam was conducted during the year 2013 to 2014 and that has covered all wild, naturalized and planted species. The collected specimens were processed into mounted herbarium sheets following standard herbarium technique (Jain & Rao, 1977). The identities of specimens were confirmed by the standard taxonomic procedure through taxonomic literature. The recorded families have been arranged according to Bentham & Hooker (1862-83) system of plant classification with slight modification. The genera and species under each family are arranged in alphabetical order.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
A total number of 57 road side tree species under 50 genera and 27 families recorded during the field studies in the Northern part of Upper Assam. As per the number of species under each family the highest

number of species (13) has been recorded under Fabaceae family followed by Moraceae (5) and Arecaceae (4). Only single family of monocot (Arecaceae) representing 4 species has been recorded.

Table 1: A Checklist of Plant Growing Along the Road Side in Northern Part of Upper Assam

Sl. No	Scientific Name	Family
1	*Dillenia indica* L.	Dilleniaceae
2	*Michelia champaca* L.	Magnoliaceae
3	*Annona reticulata* L.	Annonaceae
4	*Bixa orellana* L.	Bixaceae
5	*Mesua ferrea* L.	Clusiaceae
6	*Hibiscus tiliaceus* L.	Malvaceae
7	*Bombax ceiba* L.	Bombacaceae
8	*Aegle marmelos* (L.) Correa.	Rutaceae
9	*Murraya koenigii* Spreng.	
10	*Azadirachta indica* L.	Meliaceae
11	*Melia azaderach* L.	
12	*Toona ciliata* Roera.	
13	*Zizyphus mauritiana* Lam.	Rhamanaceae
14	*Mangifera indica* L.	Anacardiaceae
15	*Spondias pinnata* (L.) Kurz.	
16	*Acacia auriculiformis* Cum ex Benth.	Fabaceae
17	*Albizia procera* (Roxb.) Benth.	
18	*A.julibrissin* Duraz.	
19	*A.lucida* Benth.	
20	*Bauhinia variegata* L.	
21	*B. purpurea* L.	
22	*Casia fistula* L.	
23	*Dalbergia sissoo* L.	
24	*Delonix regia* Raf.	
25	*Erythrina stricta* Roxb.	
26	*Peltophorum pterocar-pum* Backer.	
27	*Pongamia pinnata* L.	
28	*Temarindus indica* L.	
29	*Terminalia bellirica* (Gaertn.) Roxb.	Combretaceae
30	*T. chebula* Retz.	
31	*T. arjuna* (Roxb.) Wight & Arn.	
32	*Eucalyptus linearis* Dehn.	Myrtaceae
33	*Psidium guajava* L.	
34	*Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels.	
35	*Duabanga grandiflora* Walf.	Lythraceae
36	*Lagerstroemia speciosa* Pers.	
37	*Tetrameles nudiflora* RBr.	Datiscaceae
38	*Neolamarckia cadamba* (Roxb.) Bosser.	Rubiaceae
39	*Mimusops elengi* L.	Sapotaceae
40	*Alistonia scholaris* RBr.	Apocynaceae
41	*Tecoma stans* (L.) Juss.ex Kunth.	Bignoniaceae
42	*Spathodea campanulata* Beauv.	
43	*Gmelina arborea* L.	Verbanaceae
44	*Nyctanthes arbour-tristis* L.	Nyctaginaceae
45	*Grevillea robusta* Cunn.ex RBr.	Proteaceae

46	*Mallotus albus* Muell.-Arg.	Euphorbiaceae
47	*Phyllanthus emblica* L.	
48	*Artocarpus cham* Buch.-Ham.	Moraceae
49	*A.heterophyllus* Lamk.	
50	*Ficus bengalensis* L.	
51	*F. religiosa* L.	
52	*Morus alba* L.	
53	*Casuarina equisetifolia* Forst.	Casuarinaceae
MONOCOT		
54	*Areca catechu* L.	Arecaceae
55	*Cocos nucifera* L.	
56	*Phoenix sylvestris* Roxb.	
57	*Roystonea regia* Cook.	

Conclusion

It may be noted that the road sites represent species diversity with various scientifically, culturally and economically important species. A part from beautification, these species are supportive to local people and other fauna like birds, insects, and microbes etc in various ways and play a vital in ecology. As the world facing unprecedented loss of biological diversity, conservation of plant diversity in any locality assumes great importance. In this connection the road may play a significant role in conservation of biodiversity.

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