Quantitative Analysis Of Seasonal Variation In Undisturbed Areas Of Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP)

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ABSTRACT

The Sanjay Gandhi National Park; a 103 sq. km. protected area is present in the suburban region of Mumbai. The aim of this study was to determine the diversity of the undisturbed habitat in the park across seasonal variations. Through the analysis of the Quadrat studies it has been discerned that species alter with seasonal variations and hence the study of diversity during different seasons play a crucial role in determining the diversity and also the changing dominance of species. Also, with the study encompassing comparison between undisturbed habitat, inference can be drawn from data analyzed that the diversity has immensely changed from the monsoon season to the winter season, marking the fact that seasonal and climatic conditions have a profound effect on the diversity of the area which was determined and ministered by the diversity indices. The protection of the undisturbed areas becomes an inherent and imperative aspect to owing to the exclusive species present in these areas which have already been included in various categories of the IUCN Red Data List. Species encountered during the study in the park were Ceropegiavincifolia, Dipcadisaxorum and Chlorophytum borivilianum that have been classified as endemic and endangered in the Red Data List. The monsoon season, albeit being the most suitable season for the growth and propagation of many species including some exclusive floral species that have been considered Endemic, Rare, Threatened or Vulnerable, the pliant nature of other species allowed them to thrive in the harsh winter periods.

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