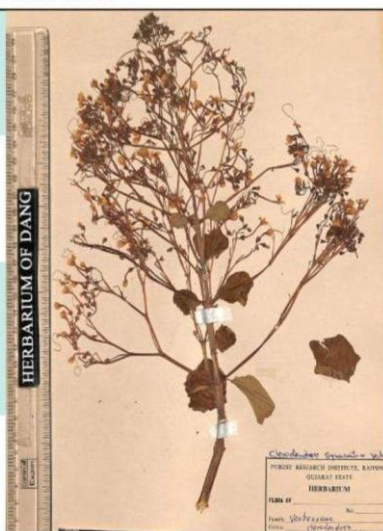


## Floral diversity captured in e-herbarium

23 June 2020

### WHAT'S IN E-HERBARIA?

- Plant specimens are arranged in alphabetical order based on family, taxonomic identification
- It contains every plant's names in botanical, English, and local besides subspecies and variety
- Herbarium images can be enlarged to observe minute morphological details of specimens
- Plants site details include location, collection site, and collector's name



Surat: If you are keen about western ghat, more specifically South Gujarat's floral diversity, satiate yourself with detailed knowledge at the e-herbarium.

The South Dang Division of state forest department in association with the Department of Botany, M S University (Vadodara) has taken up a project to digitize plant specimens and upload it on the Waghai Botanical Garden (WBG) website.

Spread across 24 hectares, the Waghai Garden in Dang district was established by the Forest department in 1966 and is the largest garden in the state. According to forest officers, it has 3,644 plant specimens belonging to 3,245 dicot, 399 monocot and 2 pteridophytes. Its unique herbaria has a collection of eminent taxonomists of the state.

"We are updating the e-herbarium database on our website and will give open access to students, researchers, scholars and others interested in state's flora. On an average, over 4 lakh people visit this botanical garden every year," said Dinesh Rabari, deputy conservator of forests, south Dang division.

Talking to TOI, PS Nager, associate professor, department of Botany, MS University, Vadodara, said, "We are authenticating plants, preserving and digitizing the plant specimens on the website. In some cases, if the specimens are not in good condition, these are collected again from the wild for preservation. WBG not only has a very good plant collection but also collections of prominent taxonomists like Dr R I Patel, Dr BG Vashi, Dr JR Parmar among others."

WBG comprises more than 1,200 plant species including 300 trees, 95 shrubs, over 450 herbs, 80 climbers, 25 palms, over 85 cactus and succulents, 24 types of bamboos and more. Study is still going on and we assume that the garden has more than 1,400 plant species," said Roshan Kumar, a researcher, who is involved in the plant digitization project.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/surat/floral-diversity-captured-in-e-herbarium/articleshow/76518315.cms>