

Original Research Article

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Diversity of Invasive Alien Plants in Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary (SSBS), Keetham, Agra, India

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Abstract

Present study provides the comprehensive list of invasive alien plants of Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Keetham, Agra. In study area total of 76 species under 67 genera and 35 families have been found as invasive alien plant. Of total only 09 species have been found introduced intentionally, while the other species introduced unintentionally. In terms of nativity the majority of invasive plants reported from American continent (61%). The life form category shows that 56 species are herbs, 11 species of shrubs, 4 species of climbers, 4 species of trees and only one liana species. The invasive alien species possess serious threat to local biodiversity, effects crop production and human health. Therefore systematic study about the invasive plant species is required.

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Introduction

Alien species are non-native or exotic organisms that occur outside their natural adapted ranges and dispersal potential (McGeoch et al., 2010). These invasive species are widely distributed in all kinds of ecosystems throughout the world and include all categories of living organisms. Nevertheless, plants, mammals, and insects comprise the most common types of invasive alien species in terrestrial environments (Raghubanshi et al., 2005). An important requirement for successful colonization of invaders is open habitat with reduced competition. Generally, the microsites created by grazing may be occupied by invader species (Singh, 1976; Sinha, 1976; Sawarker, 1984).

Invasive alien plant caused an impact worldwide (Mooney and Hobbs, 2000), there are still many regions such as Asia and Neighbouring region in the world where basic information on naturalized plant taxa and plant invasions is lacking (Corlett, 1988; Enmoto, 1999; Meyer, 2000). Database establishment of naturalized species is the first step in the development of invasion biology, and will also serve as a stepping stone for further detailed studies on the biology and impact of individual species (Wu et al., 2004). Naturalization has been recognized as the first phase of biological invasions. A naturalized species is the species that can consistently reproduce and sustain populations over many generations without direct intervention by humans (Richardson et al., 2000; Pyšek et al., 2002). Many invasive plant species cause economic and/or environmental damage, and referred to as alien pests or weeds (Richardson et al., 2000).

In India Invasive alien plants became a issue of great concern that affects the local biodiversity of the country. These species were introduced in India accidentally or deliberately mostly for fodder and ornamental purpose. Due to its growing concern and harmful effects on the biodiversity several studies has been carried out in different regions of India out of that some important are,

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impact of *Lantana camara* on the biodiversity of Melghat Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra by Sawarker (1984), Pandey and Parmar (1994) worked on the exotic flora of Rahasthan. Kshirsagar (2005) made a very interesting study on the origin, present status and distribution of exotic plants of South Gujarat, Alien flora of Doon valley has been done by Negi and Hajra (2007), Sekar (2012) made a comprehensive study on the invasive alien plants of Indian Himalayan region, Das and Durah (2013) worked on invasive alien plant of Johrat, Assam, Srivastava et al. (2014) and Wagh and Jain (2015) made study on the North Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Western Madhya Pradesh of India respectively.

From thorough literature survey it was found that the only study on floristic diversity and ethnomedicinal uses of plant of Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary was done by Rani et al. (2009). So far no comprehensive study on the diversity of invasive alien plants is conducted on this region. The present study would be helpful for the academician, botanist and ecologist as basic information for future research towards conservation and management of the invasive alien plants of this region.

Materials and methods

Study site

A Keetham lake also known as Soor Sarovar National Bird Sanctuary which has been declared in 1991 Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary potential as a natural wonder has been recognised by the Uttar Pradesh forest department. Recently has been declared as National wetland in November 2007 by central forest and Ministry of environment (Gautam and Gautam, 2008). Keetham lake a place that ignited by passions of lord Krishna and Radha and inspired the famous poet Surdas to compose the Bhakti Kavya.

Soor Sarovar lake is located at a distance of 20 km from Agra city in Uttar Pradesh and a distance 180 Km from Delhi (Fig. 1). Keetham initially covering an area of 4.03 sq. kms has been expanded to an impressive area of 7.83 sq. kms. This pentagonal shaped lake's depth varies from 5m to 8m. Soor Sarovar "Keetham Lake" from the riverine belt of the Yamuna River. Keetham also has wild life conservation in form of bear rescue facility and python point as well. Further this lake is surrounded by different kinds of wild vegetations. During the field survey it was observed that the natural wild

vegetation is depleting day by day and in place *Prosopis juliflora* and *Lantana camara* are growing gregariously that posing a severe threat to the natural vegetation of Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary.



Fig. 1: Map of Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary.

Field survey and data collection

Extensive and intensive survey was undertaken for the collection of invasive alien plants in Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary during 2015. The collected specimens was processed for herbarium preparation by standard methods (Lawrence, 1951) and identified with the help of local floras and published literature (Hooker, 1822 -1883; Cooke, 1901-1908; Duthie, 1903-1929; Gamble and Fisher, 1915-1936; Maheshwari, 1963; Verma et al., 1993, Khanna and Kumar, 2000, Khanna et al., 2001). The herbarium specimen was deposited in the herbarium of CSIR- National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow. Information regarding nativity was collected from (Raghubanshi et al., 2005; Sujay et al., 2010; Singh, 1976; Sinha, 1976). The species are enumerated family wise alphabetically followed by botanical name, common name, life form, habitat, nativity, mode of introduction and categories.

Results and discussion

A total 76 species distributed in 67 genera and 35 families recorded as invasive alien in Soor Sarovar Birad Sanctuary, Keetham. The family Asteraceae is the most dominant family with 12 species followed by Euphorbiaceae (7 species) Convolvulaceae (6 species), Solanaceae (5 species), Amaranthaceae (4 species) and Malvaceae, Mimosaceae and Poaceae (3 species each) (Fig. 2). These dominant families contributed 41% of the alien invasive flora of the Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Keetham. The genera with the highest number of alien species are Ipomoea (4 species), Alternanthera, Cassia, Chenopodium, Datura, Euphorbia and Jatropha (2) species each) (Table 1). These top genera contributed 21% taxa of alien flora of SSBS. Life form category shows that 56 species of herbs, 11 species of shrubs, 4 species of climbers, 4 species of trees and only one species in liana category (Fig. 3).

A total 11 different geographic region in terms of nativity are recorded in the present study. Among these (89%) are contributed by the four major geographic region i.e., continent of America, Africa, Brazil and Europe. The American continent contributed majority (69%) while Africa (10%), Brazil and Europe (4% each). Of the total alien plant species in SSBS 45 species are judged as naturalized, 21 interfering and 10 noxious (Fig.4). The most alarming condition is the number of noxious species that are harmful to the natural species. Further some of these species are known to be highly allergic and causing diseases in human being (Saxena, 1991 and Tripathi, 1999). Only 9 species namely Prosopis juliflora, Portulaca oleracea, Leucaena leucophloea, Lantana camara, Eichhornia crassipes, Duranta repens, Ageratum conyzoides, Chenopodium album and Celosia argentea have been introduced deliberately and rest of them unintentionally through trade exchange including grain import.

	Table	1.	List of	f Ir	ivasive	plant s	pecies	found	in	Soor	Sarovar	Bird	Sanctuary	y,	Keetham,	Agra,	India.
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Family	Botanical name	Common name	Collection number	Life form	Habitat	Nativity	Mode of introduction	Categories
Acanthaceae	Peristrophe paniculata (Forssk.) Brummitt	Panicled fold wing	258122	Herb	W	Tropical America	Ui	Interfering
	Ruellia tuberosa L.	Minnie root	258120	Herb	AR	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
Amaranthaceae	Alternanthera sessilis (L.) R Br. ex DC	Joy weed	258101	Herb	RB	Tropical	Ui	Naturalized
	Alternanthera philoxeroides (Mart.) Griseb.	Alligator weed	258077	Herb	W	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
	Celosia argentea L.	Silver cock's comb	258104	Herb	CF	Tropical Africa	Fd	Naturalized
	Gomphrena celosioides Mart.	Bachelor's button	258125	Herb	CF	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
Apocynaceae	Calotropis procera (Aiton) R. Br.	Rubber bush	258092	Shrub	W	Tropical Africa	Ui	Interfering
Araceae)	Pistia stratiotes L.	Water cabbage	258123	Herb		Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
Arecaceae	Borassus flabellifer L.	Sugar palm	258130	Tree	W	Tropical Africa	Ui	Naturalized
Asclepiadaceae	Cryptostegia grandiflora R.Br.	Rubber vine	258134	Liana	CF	Madagascar	Ui	Interfering
Asteraceae	Acanthospermum hispidum DC.	Bristly starbur	258114	Herb	W	Brazil	Ui	Naturalized
	Ageratum conyzoides L.	Chick weed	258090	Herb	W	Tropical America	0	Noxious
	Blumea obliqua (L.) Druc	Clustered blumea	258118	Herb	W	Tropical America	Ui	Interfering
	Echinops echinatus Roxb.	Indian globe thistle	258103	Herb	W	Afghanistan	Ui	Naturalized
	Eclipta prostrata (L.) L.	False daisy	258140	Herb	AR	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
	Lagascea mollis Cav.	American softhead	258124	Herb	AR, CF	Tropical Cent. America	Ui	Noxious
	Parthenium hysterophorus L.	Congress weed	258106	Herb	W	Tropical North America	Ui	Noxious
	Sonchus oleraceus L.	Sow thistle	258152	Herb	RB	Mediterranean	Ui	Interfering
	<i>Synedrella nodiflora</i> (L.) Gaertn.	Node weed	258144	Herb	W, AR	West Indies	Ui	Naturalized

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	Tridax procumbens L.	Coat button	258116	Herb	CF	Tropical Cent. America	Ui	Naturalized
	Xanthium strumarium L.	Common cocklebur	258143	Herb	AR	Tropical America	Ui	Noxious
	Gnaphalium polycaulon Pers.	Many stemmed	258105	Herb	W	Tropical America	Ui	Interfering
Cactaceae	Opuntia elatior Mill.	Prickly pear	258157	Shrub	AR, W	Tropical America	Ui	Noxious
Caesalpiniaceae	Cassia occidentalis L.	Coffee weed	258132	Shrub	W	Tropical South	Ui	Naturalized
	Cassia tora L.	Sickle senna	258154	Herb	W	Tropical South	Ui	Noxious
Capparidaceae	Cleome viscosa L.	Asian spidar flower	258159	Herb	W	Tropical	Ui	Naturalized
Chenopodiaceae	Chenopodium album L.	Goose foot	258100	Herb	CF	Europe	Fd	Interfering
	Chenopodium murale L.	Australian spinach	258086	Herb	CF, W	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
Convolvulaceae	Convolvulus arvensis L.	Field bind weed	258163	Herb	F, W	Europe	Ui	Naturalized
	Evolvulus nummularius (L.) L.	Round leaf bind weed	258156	Herb	W	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
	Ipomoea carnea Jacq.	Bush morning	258160	Shrub	W	Tropical America	Ui	Interfering
	Ipomoea hederifolia L.	Scarlet	258131	Climber	F	Tropical	Ui	Interfering
	Ipomoea nil (L.) Roth	Ivy morning alory	258098	Climber	FE, W	North America	Ui	Interfering
	Ipomoea pestigridis L.	Tiger foot morning glory	258128	Climber	W	Tropical East Africa	Ui	Interfering
Cuscutaceae	Cuscuta reflexa Roxb.	Beggar weed	258062	Climber	Р	Mediterranean	Ui	Interfering
Euphorbiaceae	Ricinus communis L.	Castor bean	258079	Tree	W, CF	Africa	Ui	Interfering
	Croton bonpalndianus Baill.	Rushfoil	258150	Herb	W	Temperate	Ui	Naturalized
	Euphorbia heterophylla L.	Fire plant	258161	Herb	CF	Tropical	Ui	Naturalized
	Euphorbia hirta L.	Garden spruge	258102	Herb	CF	Tropical	Ui	Naturalized
	Jatropha curcas L.	Bardados nut	258136	Shrub	AR, CF	Tropical	Ui	Naturalized
	Jatropha gossypifolia L.	Black physicnut	258158	Shrub	AR	Brazil	Ui	Naturalized
	Chrozophora rottleri (Geiseler) A.Juss. ex Spreng	Rottler's chrozophora	258119	Herb	W	Tropical		Interfering
Fabaceae	Indigofera linifolia (L. f.) Retz.	Narrowleaf	258126	Herb	AR	Tropical South America	Ui	Naturalized
Lamiaceae	Hyptis suaveolens (L.) Poit.	Chinese mint	258117	Herb	AR	Tropical America	Ui	Interfering
	Ocimum americanum L.	Common basil	258082	Herb	W	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
Liliaceae	Asphodelus tenuifolius Cav.	Onion weed	258127	Herb	А	Trop. America	Ui	Interfering
Malvaceae	Malvastrum coromandelianum (L.)	Broom weed	258094	Herb	W	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
	Sida acuta Burm. f.	Common wire	258091	Herb	W	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
	Urena lobata L.	Caesar weed	258149	Shrub	W	Tropical Africa	Ui	Interfering
Martyniaceae	Martynia annua L.	Devil's claw	258107	Herb	W	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
Mimosacceae	Prosopis juliflora (Swartz) DC.	Mesquite	258108	Tree	W	Mexico	Af	Naturalized
	Leucaena leucocephala (Lamk.) de Wit	White popinac	258109	Tree	W	Tropical America	Fo	Noxious
	Mimosa pudica L.	Touch-me-not	258155	Herb	F	Brazil	Ui	Naturalized

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Onagraceae	<i>Ludwigia octovalvis</i> (Jacq.) Raven	Mexican primrose willow	258148	Herb	RB	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
Oxalidaceae	Oxalis corniculata L.	Indian sorrel	258095	Herb	CF	Europe	Ui	Naturalized
Papaveraceae	Argemone mexicana L.	Mexican poppy	258099	Herb	W	Tropical South America	Ui	Noxious
Piperaceae	Peperomia pellucida (L.) Kunth	State pencil plant	258139	Herb	AR	Tropical South America	Ui	Naturalized
Poaceae	Chloris barbata Sw.	Swollen mind mill grass	258080	Herb	W	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
	Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.	Bermuda grass	258151	Herb	W	Africa	Ui	Naturalized
	Saccharum spontaneum L.	Kans grass	258147	Herb	RB	Tropical West Asia	Ui	Interfering
Pontederiaceae	Eichhornia crassipes (Mart.) Solms	Water hyacinth	258111	Herb	А	Tropical America	0	Naturalized
Portulacaceae	Portulaca oleracea L.	Purslane	258137	Herb	W	Tropical S. America	Fd	Naturalized
Primulaceae	Anagalis arvensis L.	Red thick weed	258097	Herb	CF	Europe	Ui	Naturalized
Rubiaceae	Spermacoce hispida L.	Jointed button weed	258145	Herb	AR	Tropical America	Ui	Interfering
Solanaceae	Datura innoxia Mill.	Thorn apple	258138	Shrub	W	Tropical America	Ui	Noxious
	Datura metel L.	Devil's trumpet	258112	Shrub	W	Tropical America	Ui	Interfering
	Nicotiana plumbaginifolia Viv.	Tex-mex tobacco	258133	Herb	W	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
	Physalis minima L.	Ground cherry	258129	Herb	W	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
	Solanum nigrum L.	Black nightshade	258113	Herb	CF	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
Sterculiaceae	Waltheria indica L.	Sleepy morning	258115	Herb	F	Tropical America	Ui	Interfering
Tiliaceae	Corchorus tridens L.	Fodder jute	258146	Herb	AR, W	Tropical Africa	Ui	Naturalized
	Triumfetta rhomboidea Jacq.	Burr bush	258142	Herb	W	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
Typhaceae	Typha angustifolia Bory & Chaub.	Lesser Indian reed mace	258135	Herb	RB	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized
Verbenaceae	Duranta repens L.	Gold dew drop	258110	Shrub	CF	America	Af	Naturalized
	Lantana camara L	Wild sage	258121	Shrub	F	Tropical America	0	Noxious
Zygophyllaceae	Tribulus terrestris L.	Puncture vine	258141	Herb	W	Tropical America	Ui	Naturalized

Habitat: W—Wastelands; CF-Cultivated fields; F-Forests; AR-Along roadside; A-Aquatic; P-Parasites; RB-River beds. Mode of introduction: Af-Agroforestry; Fd-Food; Fo-Fodder; O-Ornamental; Ui-Unintentional.



Fig. 2: Dominant families of Invasive alien plant species in SSBS.

Lantana camara and Prosopis juliflora are the most dominant species that acquired a large geographic area of the Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary. Lantana camara was first introduced in 1809 in Calcutta Botanical Garden for ornamental purpose (Thakur et al., 1992; Kannan et al., 2013). Now days it occurs all over the India ranging from tropical, subtropical and temperate region of the country (Kannan et al., 2013). There are several factors responsible for the successful invasion of the species like uncontrolled growth, absence of herbivores and pathogen (Keane and Crawley, 2002). Lantana camara is very efficient at nutrient uptake (Bhat et al., 1994) because of this potential it grow luxuriantly even in nutrient poor soil.

Prosopis juliflora was first introduced in between 1857 and 1878 in Thar desert of Northwest India used as a

fuel. *Prosopis juliflora* has shown to be tolerant to draught and salinity (Pasiecznik et al., 2001) and also shows low palatability. *Prosopis juliflora* invasion speed is very high, due to this there is a reduction in fodder plants for wild as well as rearing cattle such as goat. They feed on the fruit of *Prosopis juliflora* in absence of the fodder plant that leads into the dispersal of the seed in surrounding areas. These are the factors are responsible for the successful invasion of the species and that affect the local biodiversity.



Fig. 3: Life form of invasive alien plant species in SSBS.





The present study reports the dominant life form category is herbaceous species and it represent (73%) of the total invasive alien plants. The factor greater viability and withstand in adverse condition helps herbaceous species in invasion though out the SSBS. Invasive species of Asteraceae exhibited a much higher reproductive capacity than those of other families. This high reproductive potential is achieved by partitioning of reproductive capital into a large number of propagules that are minute, light, and wind dispersed (Saxena and Ramakrishnan, 1982) similar result was observed by other workers in different parts of India such as (Rao and Murugan, 2006) found that the Asteraceae is dominating family in alien flora of India, in Uttar Pradesh

(Singh et al., 2010), in Indian Himalayan region (Sekar, 2012), in Johrat, Assam (Das and Duarah, 2013), in North eastern Uttar Pradesh (Srivastava et al., 2014) and in Western Madhya Pradesh (Wagh and Jain, 2015). Biological invasions of alien plants present one of the most serious threats to the indigenous biological diversity. Invasive alien plants have caused extensive economic and ecological damage throughout the world. India Ageratum convzoides, Parthenium In camara and Eupatorium hysterophorus, Lantana adenophorum are major invaders and causing huge loss to indigenous species diversity in this part of the world (Dogra et al., 2009). Likewise invasive plant species like Ageratum convzoides, Lantana camara, Prosopis juliflora, Parthenium hysterophorus, etc. are poses a major threat to indigenous biological diversity of Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary too.

Conclusion

The vegetation of Uttar Pradesh is known for its great diversity. Uttar Pradesh is one of the richest biodiversity zones of India. Therefore study on the impact of alien invasive plants on native phytodiversity of this region and their management is a need of hour. The invasive alien species possess serious threat to local biodiversity, affects crop production and human health. Therefore systematic study about the invasive plant species is required to provide adequate knowledge of the ecological and environmental consequences caused by invasive alien species and how to address it.

Conflict of interest statement

Authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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