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FAMILY ASTERACEAE: A DOMINANT DELAPIDATED (WALL) FLORA OF MUKHED TALUKA IN NANDED DISTRICT (M.S.)

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INTRODUCTION:

The Nanded District is in the south-eastern part of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State. It has 16 Talukas out of which Mukhed is one of the major taluka of the district. Mukhed taluka is spread in the direction of south-west side of the district. It has seen the smaller rangers are known as 'Balaghat' ranges. It's total area is about 95057 hect/95R; having 152 villages including *Wadis*and *Tandas.*

Most of the peoples are poor suffered by economic conditions, the standard of living is low as compared to urban area and their houses are built by using mud and cow-dung with roasted mud roofs. The area is hilly, on the slopes of the hills occurs many plants of the *Neem*, Teak and much more variation in vegetation is found. There are numerous old and dilapidated houses in villages of the taluka. Moreover, most of the houses are roofed with Tins and country tiles and these are fixed from all sides by elevating mud parafets and plastering them by cow-dung with mud. In mud and cow-dung there are seeds of weeds and crops are mixed already and few seeds of weeds are dispersed by wind and by birds through their fetal matter. Such seeds are deposited on the walls up to the first shower of the monsoon. On such wet walls a large number of seeds propagating annuals and perennials on the walls and in the crevices of the rock-walls.

From June-July onwards the number of plant species increases gradually and attains highest peak in October where the monsoon ends. From Oct-Nov is noticeable and affects the life cycle of species quite few. From November onwards such plant species on the walls become dried up to the end of Feb to March due to hot temperature and gusty winds, the evaporation is rapid, killing of large number of herbs during summer. Light and minute seeds of these species are disperse and get deposited on the roofs and walls of houses, temples, forts even in the crevices of the rocky walls and again when they get favorable atmosphere from June onwards they starts their lifecycle.

MATERIALS & METHODS:

The present paper shown the study of total number of plant species found on walls, they are 137, belongs to 43 different families, out of which only 'Asteraceae' family is one of the dominant family having 20 genera and 04 species were found.

For the collection of the plants, exploration tours were conducted during favorable season. While the plants were collected, required field data such as local names of the plant, location, their uses, height of plants, they associated species, the details regarding habit, color of young shoots and leaves, color, smell of fruit and flowers, whether latex are present or absent, photographs of the habit have been taken, etc have been noticed. For the collection of plants assorted size of polyethylene bags were used. Each collection usually in 6 specimens of plant in flowering and fruiting conditions were collected and they were given local name, field name, numbers and tied together with threads. It has dried, pressed by using blotting papers and preserved, stored in local news papers for preparing herbarium sheets. Herbarium sheets were prepared in 5 numbers and identified from approved herbarium with certified.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

At the time of exploring the dilapidated flora of Mukhed taluka, 152 villages along with *wadi& tandas* explored and found 137 plant species common on the old walls of houses, walls of fort, temples. Out of 137 genera from 43 different families of *Monocotyledons* and *Dicotyledons.* The plant species belongs to *Dicotylendons* are dominant than the *Monocotyledons*. Among the Dicotylendons the family 'Asteraceae' is dominant with 20 genera which are enlisted below. Family- Asteraceae (Dumort. nom. alt. Compositae, Juss. nom. cons.)

1. *Acanthospermum hispidium*
2. *Ageratum Conyzoides, lim*
3. *Blainvillea acmella*
4. *Blumea eriantha*
5. *Blumea lacera*
6. *Blumia obliqua (L)*
7. *Echinops echinatus (Roxb)*
8. *Flaveria trinervia*
9. *Lagasca mollis*
10. *Glossocordia bosvallea*
11. *Gnaphalium polycaulon*
12. *Goniofaulon indicum*

13. *Parthenium hysterophorus*
14. *Sonchus asper*
15. *Sonchus oleraceus*
16. *Tagetus patula*
17. *Tridax procumbense*
18. *Vernonia cinerea*
19. *Vicoa indica*
20. *Xantaium strumium*

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