

Aarey Tree list and its significance

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Fri 9/6/2019 11:12 PM

To: zoru@hotmail.com <zoru@hotmail.com>

Thank you for your email and a tree list which was sent me.

In my opinion, the following species are indigenous and typical forest species, found only in forest areas.

1. Khair, *Acacia catechu*
2. Asana - *Bridelia retusa*
3. Apta - *Bauhinia racemosa*
4. Behda : *Terminallia bellerica*
5. Amba - *Mangifera indica* (State fruit of Maharashtra)
6. Bahava - *Cassia fistula*
7. Bartondi - *Morinda pubescence*
8. Bhokar - *Cordia myxa*
9. Bilva - *Agle marmalos*
10. Bivla - *Petrocarpus marsupium*
11. Dhaman - *Grewia tilifolia*
12. Shivan - *Gmelina arborea*
13. Neem - *Azadirachta indica*
14. Kamla / Kumkum - *Mellotus philippense*
15. Kanchan - *Bauhinia purpurea*
16. Karanj - *Pongamia pinnata*
17. Kate Savar - *Salmalia malabarica*
18. Karvat - *Ficus exasperata*
19. Kahandol / Khandol - *Sterculia urens*
20. Kharoti *Streblus asper*
21. Khumbh /Kumbhi / Kumbh/ Kumb - *Careya arborea*
22. Moha / Mahua - *Madhuca longifolia* var *latifolia*
23. Palas - *Butea monosperma*
24. Charoli / Paroli - *Buchanania lanzan*
25. Phanas - *Artocarpus heterophyllus*
26. Pilkhan - *Ficus infectoria*
27. Semat - *Lanea grandis*
28. Tambda Kuda - *Wrightia arborea*
29. Sisvi - *Dalbergia sissoo*
30. Teak - *Tectona grandis*
31. Tendu - *Diospyros melanoxylon*
32. Tetu - *Oroxylum indicum*
33. Subhbahul - *Leucena leucocephala*
34. Vad - *Ficus benghalensis*
35. Vaivarna - *Creteva tapia*
36. Vavla - *Holoptelea integrifolia*

The above tree species are 99% indigenous or found in Indian subcontinent. These are all typically forest species. And since they are forest species found in Aarey Metro Car Shed area, it proves that this designated area is a forest. If we check the 100 years old, satellite images, one can see that about 30-40 years prior, this area was a part of or continuation of SGNP. We don't need any other proof to prove this area is the forest.

Irrespective of whether the particular tree species is common / rare / threatened etc., one must consider each tree as an Ecosystem itself which caters to or harbors thousands of insects species, or many bird species, even some of them hosts epiphytes like Orchids, Lichens, Bryophytes, and Pteridophytes. So the value of each tree (in terms of ecosystem and even in terms of Cash), is immense. The oxygen they generate for the polluted city of Mumbai must be considered while calculating the value of the tree.

Some of the tree species are common and fruit yielding, eg. Peru. But these fruit yielding tree species are not only economically significant for human being but also for birds and insects. These species are probably planted by human settlements, which have encroached this forest areas.

Tree species like Subabhul, though a exotic species, is a fast growing tree and has been adopted by the forest department under the social forestry scheme. If forest dept has adopted this tree and has spread widely in Aarey area, why cant other consider this species as equally important as other tree species. This greenery is equally important for pure air. For that matter, every single species and individual plant, be it a tree, shrub, herb, climber or a grass is an important component of the system and plays vital role in the Ecosystem of Greater Mumbai and its suburbs. Not only it will be foolish to cut them but also suicidal for all of us. Please preserve the Aarey and adjacent forest area, if not for us, for the future generation.

Sincerely,

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