THE VEGETATION OF DANGS DISTRICT IN GUJERAT

S. K. JAIN

Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta

ABSTRACT

The Dangs district is situated between 20°30' and 21°5' N and 73°15' and 74° E. The whole district is mountainous.

The forests are generally dry deciduous, though, in protected and moister spots moist- and mixed-deciduous types also are found. Tectona-Terminalia is the dominant tree community. Their associated common tree species are Adina cordifolia Hook. f., Anogeissus latifolia Wall., Dalbergia latifolia Roxb., Garuga pinnata Roxb., Lagerstroemia species, Lannea coromandelica (Hout.) Merr. and Ougeinia oojeinensis (Roxb.) Hochr. Wrightia tinctoria Br. is abundant as an understorey tree. Bambusa arundinacea Retz. and Dendrocalamus strictus Nees are common.

The vegetation has been studied by quadrats at different forest sites, namely Bandripada, Billaya, Chikarda, Chikarmatibari, Dhavlidhar, Dholeambar, Ghadvi, Ghogli, Kotbha, Laochali, Mahal, Mulchond, Pimpri, Piplemar, Pipliamal, Raiwad, Shivbara, Susarda and Waghai. Relationship of vegetation with habitat features has been discussed. Reference has been made to species useful for timber, minor forest produce and medicinal value.

INTRODUCTION

The Dangs district in Gujerat state is situated approximately between 20°30′ and 21°5′N and 73°15′ and 74°E. The district headquarter is at Ahwa, a small town about 100 km east of Billimora station on Bombay-Ahmedahad railway line. A narrow-gauge branch-line also runs from Billimora to Waghai. Ahwa is 30 km from Waghai. Billimora-Ahwa-Subir is the only satisfactory motorable road in the district. Fair-weather roads connect Ahwa with several smaller towns in all directions.

Till a few years ago the district was a very backward and underdeveloped area. The population of the district is about 30,000 of which Ahwa alone has about 4000 people. Great water scarcity and consequent absence of industries are said to be the causes of such thin habitation. After independence, due to the efforts of the State government and local officers, multipurpose development programmes have been started.

The area of the district is about 1700 square km out of which over 1550 sq. km is under forests, that is, excepting the precipitous slopes and areas under habitation the entire district is under forest. The District Forest Officer used to be the Political Agent with all executive powers of a District Magistrate. This shows the dominant role which forests play in the administration of the district. The forest revenue is the back-bone of the district development programme. Dangs is classed as the second best teak area in western India, second only to Dandelli in North Kanara. The sawmill and timber depot at Waghai are an important asset to the revenue of the state. Dangs is inhabited by tribal people, whose main source of livelihood is from forest product of one description or other. Due to scarcity and irregularity in supply of water, agriculture is poor and only limmed.

The district is botanically very rich. A large num-

ber of medicinal plants grow here and many more can be grown profitably. Cottage industries and occupations based on forest products, such as basketry, beekeeping and systematic collection of minor forest products are now being popularized and organized in the district.

For better utilization of all forest products, proper botanical exploration and knowledge of the vegetation is essential and a closer study of the vegetation of this district was, therefore, considered useful.

PREVIOUS WORK

The district did not receive much attention from botanical explorers till about a decade age. Dalzell and Gibson (1861) were probably the earliest botanical explorers of this area and their collections are referred in a few instances by Hooker (1897) and Cooke (1908). Saxton and Sedgwick (1918) made collections in northern Gujerat. Santapau (1955) made botanical collections in the region Billimora to Waghai in 1953 and 1954, and published a list of 475 plants. The area dealt in this work lies chiefly west of Waghai.

The present study of the vegetation of this district was started in 1958.

TOPOGRAPHY

The whole of the Dangs district is hilly; the four rivers, Gira, Purnea, Khapri and Ambika, are almost perennial and their riverbeds are deep and rocky. Their tributaries are seasonal and generally dry up after the rains. The four main rivers and their tributaries cut the country into a number of deep more or less valleys irregularly in various directions. The slopes towards the eastern part of the district are more steep, with hills up to about 1000 m high, they gradually merge into the plains of Gujerat on the western coast, the altitude in western part being about 100 m only. Ahwa and Malegaon are about 500 m above sea-level.

GEOLOGY AND SOIL

The main rock system in the Dangs is the Deccan trap; it varies in texture at different places. The horizontal strata of the trap are conspicuous on precipitous slopes and on hill crests. In plain areas and in valleys the trap rocks form deep, red soils. Accumulation of leaf-debris of teak, bamboo and other deciduous plants renders the soil blackish or brownish and fertile—the 'Regurs'. The flat tops, plateaus and upper slopes have shallow soil. Shifting cultivation has caused denudation of soil in these areas.

The fertile 'Regur' soils dry up during winters and summers, and crack forming wide fissures; during the rains, however, they become very soft and adhesive.

CLIMATE

The rainfall occurs chiefly from June to September, the average annual rainfall being about 2100 mm.

The temperature touches minimum during January when it comes to approximately 7.2°C. The mercury stays high during April, May and June when it touches about 44.5°C (Santapau loc. cit.)

VEGETATION

Botanical collections were made in several parts of the district, representing various vegetation types; about a thousand plant specimens were collected in different seasons. Spot identification was done as far as possible. Ample field notes and photographs supplemented the collections. The plants were processed in the camp and finally identified at Poona Herbarium, and some with the help of the Central National Herbarium, Calcutta.

The vegetation was studied in quadrats (of 5 m radius), usually laid in straight transects. Actual number of trees, shrubs and climbers falling within the quadrats was noted. The percentage of quadrats in which different species were recorded is shown in Table. The numbers in brackets in the Table pertain to saplings of those species.

Most of the forest staff and local people know plants by their local names. Familiarity with local names of the area under study greatly helps in field work. Particularly, when plants are not in flower and fruit or even leaf and a botanist is at his wits end, the local staff can usually help with the vernacular name.

Appendix I gives a list of 133 forest species of Dangs along with their available local names.

The vegetation was studied at twenty-five different forest sites in the district. The data are summarised in Table. The general account of forest vegetation of Dangs as a whole is first given, followed by short account and specific features of vegetation at the different forest sites.

The chief vegetation type in Dangs is the dry-or

sometimes moist-deciduous type. At some moist spots in riverain areas and valleys evergreen species are also present giving these forests an appearance of mixed deciduous type.

The Forest Department has been raising species of Tectona, Terminalia, Adina, Dalbergia, etc. in several parts of the district for last over eighty years and today, Tectona grandis Linn. f.—Terminalia crenulata Roth community is the dominant community in Dangs. Its commonest associates are Adina cordifolia Hook. f., Dalbergia latifolia Roxb., Garuga pinnata Roxb., Lannea coromandelica Merr., Mitragyna parvifolia Korth., Ougeinia oojeinensis Hochr., and less frequently Acacia chundra Willd., Butea monosperma Taub., Diospyros melanoxylon Roxb., Erythrina suberosa Roxb., Grewia tilaefolia Vahl, Kydia calycina Roxb., Lagerstroemia lanceolata Wall., Schleichera oleosa (Lour.) Oken and Terminalia bellirica Roxb.; Wrightia tinctoria Br. is the most abundant tree in lower storey and is present in almost all forests studied.

In dense forests the trees form two or three storeys. The middle storey is formed in moist valleys only.

The top canopy is formed by trees of Acacia chundra Willd., Adina cordifolia Hook. f., Albizia lebbeck Benth., A. procera Benth., Bridelia squamosa (Lam.) Gehr., Dalbergia lanceolaria Linn. f., D. latifolia Roxb., Diospyros melanoxylon Roxb., Garuga pinnata Roxb., Lagerstroemia lanceolata Wall., L. parviflora Roxb., Lannea coromandelica Merr., Miliusa tomentosa J. Sinclair, Mitragyna parvifolia Korth., Ougeinia oojeinensis Hochr., Pterocarpus marsupium Roxb., Salmalia malabarica Schott. & Endl., Stereospermum personatum Chatt., Syzygium cumini Skeels, Tectona grandis Linn. f., Terminalia arjuna Wight & Arn. and T crenulata Roth.

The second storey, wherever present, and the low stature forests are formed by small medium-sized trees such as Aegle marmelos Corr., Bauhinia purpurea Linn., Boswellia serrata Roxb., Butea monosperma Taub., Careya arborea Roxb., Cassia fistula Linn., Elaeodendron glaucum Pers., Emblica officinalis Gaertn., Grewia tilaefolia Vahl, Heterophragma quadriloculare Schum., Holoptelea integrifolia Planch., Kydia calycina Roxb., Madhuca indica Gmel., Oroxylum indicum Vent., Schleichera oleosa Oken, and Spondias pinnata Kurz.

The understorey is formed of yet smaller trees such as Bauhinia racemosa Lam., Casearia elliptica Willd. (syn. C. tomentosa Roxb.), Gardenia resinifera Roth, Mallotus philippensis Muell.-Arg., Morinda tinctoria Roxb., Wrightia tinctoria R. Br., W. tomentosa Roem. & Schult., Zizyphus mauritiana Lam. and Z. glaberrima Santapau.

The commonest climbers and scandent shrubs are Abrus precatorius Linn., Acacia torta Craib. Butea parviflora Roxb., Cissus repanda Vahl, Coc-

culus hirsutus Diels, Combretum ovalifolium Roxb., Milletia racemosa Benth., Mucuna prurita Hook., Teramnus labialis Spr., Tinospora cordifolia Miers, Ventilago calyculata Tul. and Zizyphus rugosa Lam.

Three bamboo species are found in Dangs, namely, Bambusa arundinacea Retz., Dendrocalamus strictus Nees and Oxytenanthera monostigma Bedd. The bamboos are common in the moist valleys. Bambusa arundinacea Retz. forms the top canopy in moist localities with deep clayey, black soils.

The undergrowth is formed of shrubs like Caly-copteris floribunda Lam., Carissa congesta Wight, Carvia collosa Brem., Desmodium spp., Flacourtia indica Merr., Maytenus senegalensis (Lamk.) Exell. (syn. Gymnosporia spinosa Fiori), Helicteres isora Linn., Holarrhetta antidysenterica Wall., Leea indica Merr. and Woodfordia fruticosa Kurz. Sorghum halepense Pers. is present in dense clumps in some moister spots.

The herbaceous flora varies from season to season. After the rains, there is dense growth of herbs and ferns, which dries out by November-December

RELATIONSHIP WITH HABITAT FEATURES

Some tree species indicate preference for certain habitats, e.g. Albizia procera Benth., Lannea coromandelica Merr., Pongamia pinnata Pierre, Syzygium cumini Skeels and Terminalia crenulata Roth prefer moister localities, and in riverain areas Pongamia pinnata Pierre attains large height. These species are less frequent on shallow soils at tops of hills. Acacia ferruginea DC., Anogeissus latifolia Wall., Boswellia serrata Roxb., Ougeinia oojeinensis Hochr. and Sterculia urens Roxb. are more common on shallower soils at upper slopes and tops of hills.

Emblica officinalis Gaertn. is common on middle and upper slopes. Garuga pinnata Roxb. and Schleichera oleosa Oken are commoner on lower slopes of hills though they are also found on middle and upper slopes and on tops. Carvia callosa Brem., Helicteres isora Linn. and Wrightia tinctoria R. Br. are more common on middle and upper parts of slopes than on lower ones; whereas Casearia elliptica Willd. and Xeromphis species were observed more on lower slopes, plains and in valleys. An examination of the occurrence of various tree and shrub species on the different slopes and plain areas suggests that most of the species do not have any very distinct correlation with aspect of slope, yet, in few instances some species do seem to indicate preference for certain aspects. Acacia chundra Willd., Bambusa arundinacea Retzi, Butea monosperma Taub., Casearia elliptica Willd., Dalbergia sp., Lagerstroemia species and Pongamia pinnata Pierre are more common on level plain areas such as at Pipliamal, Raiwad and Waghai. Terminalia bellirica Roxb. too is

common on plain areas, particularly its regeneration was found more abundant on plain areas than on steeper slopes.

Erythrina suberosa Roxb. and Garuga pinnata Roxb. were observed to be more common on western and north-western aspects such as at Bandripada, Dholeambar, Ghogli, Laochali and Susarda.

Kydia calycina Roxb. and Ougeinia oojeinensis Hochr. were frequently found on eastern and north-eastern aspects such as at Billaya, Dhavlidhar, Mahal and Mulchond. Adina cordifolia Hook. f. was seen to be common on some northern and north-eastern aspects as at Chikarda and Mulchond.

Almost all forests in Dangs belong to the state and are, therefore, now subjected to limited biotic interference. Shifting cultivation, felling and lopping for fuel and browsing in past have, however, considerably retarded the development of many of these forests. Many forests are now protected forests, others are reserved giving restricted rights to inhabitants. Difference in degree of biotic interference brings about noticeable differences in vegetation.

In view of this relationship of vegetation with habitat features, the plant communities at the different habitat sites are not quite uniform, and though within the general scope of vegetation type described above, they show some distinct features. These features are briefly described below.

This forest is situated at about 3 km west of Ahwa. The Bandripada nala runs on the steep western slope making small falls. The soil is alluvial near base and gravelly, greyish brown above. A reserved forest on western slope was studied. The slope is rather steep. The vegetation was studied from base of the nala to the top of the plateau. Terminalia crenulata Roth, Trema orientalis Blume and Syzygium cumini Skeels were noticed only on foot of the hill in valley. Anogeissus latifolia Wall., Garuga pinnata Roxb. and Tectona grandis Linn. f. are common on middle and upper slopes. Dendrocalamus strictus Nees and Wrightia tinctoria R. Br. form the second storey on the slopes. Small clumps of Dendrocalamus are common all over. Trees of Dillenia pentagyna Roxb. are occasionally seen.

Billaya Hill: This is the highest peak, near Waghai, about 6 km north-east of Waghai town. Its altitude is about 370 m. This is a reserved forest area. The two slopes of the hill were studied. The eastern slope towards the river Khapri is rather gradual. Its soil is gravelly, coarse, reddish brown. The western slope is steep (leading down to the village Dungarda or Jharia) and has greyish or dark brown gravelly soil, usually shallow, deep at few places. The top of the hill has reddish brown, less decomposed shallow soil. Though it is a reserved forest, yet, access of cattle and human hand

is frequently seen, particularly on western slope which is nearer to cultivated fields and habitation of the village. The forest has many old and dead trees and bamboo clumps.

The vegetation on both slopes is rather sparse with very open canopy. Teak is abundant. Other common trees on the hill are Anogeissus latifolia Wall., Diospyros melanoxylon Roxb., Grewia tilaefolia Vahl, Lannea coromandelica Merr., Ougeinia oojeinensis Hochr. and Terminalia crenulata Roth. Dendrocalamus strictus Nees is common. Bambusa arundinacea Retz. clumps are present on lower slopes and near nala. Trees of Lannea coromandelica Merr. and Schleichera oleosa Oken were seen only on western slope. Wrightia tinctoria R. Br. is abundant on both slopes but more on the top and on the western slope. Commonest shrub is Helicteres isora Linn. Carvia callosa Brem. is present nearer the top.

Trees of Buchanania lanzan Spr., Cassia fistula Linn., Cordia dichotoma Forsk. f., Kydia calycina Roxb., Madhuca indica Gmel., Mitragyna parvifolia Korth., Salmalia malabarica Schott. & Endl. and Soymida febrifuga Juss. were observed on this hill but incidentally did not fall within any quadrat. Shrubs of Homonia riparia Lour. are present in the dry bed of Khapri river.

Chikarda: This is a reserved forest area near Waghai. The area is almost level ground slightly sloping north. The dominant community is the Tectona grandis-Terminalia crenulata Roth community. Trees of Adina cordifolia Hook. f. and Ougeinia oojeinensis Hochr. are commonly seen. The commonest shrubs are Casearia, Helicteres and Holarrhena.

Chikarmatibari: This forest is near Subir. The north-east-east aspect of the hill above the nala was studied. Terminalia is not very common in this Teak forest. Anogeissus latifolia Wall. and Garuga pinnata Roxb. are common all over the hill. The undergrowth is formed chiefly by Carvia callosa Brem., Helicteres isora Linn., Sorghum halepense Pers. and Wrightia tinctoria R. Br.

Dhavlidhar: It is a small hill about 12 km northeast of Ahwa. An eastern slope was studied. The soil is greyish and shallow; rock bolders are visible. The forest is open to various agencies of interference. Anogeissus latifolia Wall., Tectona grandis Linn. f., Terminalia crenulata Roth and Wrightia tinctoria R. Br. are the more conspicuous species. Lannea coromandelica Merr. and Ougeinia oojeinensis Hochr. occur in small numbers in upper parts of the hill slopes.

Dholeambar: These forests are situated about 6 km south-east of Subir. A western slope was studied. Trees of Garuga pinnata Roxb., Wrightia tinctoria R. Br. and Tectona grandis Linn. are most common. Terminalia is less frequent. The under-

growth is chiefly of Carvia callosa Brem. and Helicteres isora Linn.

Ghadvi: These are protected forests situated at about 16 km north of Ahwa. The vegetation was studied on a gentle south-west slope along the bank of Sukumal nala. The soil is gravelly but deep. Browsing and lopping are seen occasionally. The commonest plants here are Teak, Terminalia and Wrightia. Trees of Albizia sp., Anogeissus latifolia Wall., Bauhinia racemosa Lam., Diospyros melanoxylon Roxb., Emblica officinalis Gaertn., Erythrina variegata L. var. orientalis Merr., Ficus sp., Grewia tilaefolia Vahl, Mitragyna parvifolia Korth and Ougeina oojeinensis Hochr. were also observed here. Helicteres isora Linn. bushes were common in undergrowth.

The area is situated about 3 km Ghogli forest: west of Ahwa. It is a reserved forest and is of dry deciduous type. There is no clear demarcation into first and second storey tree growth here. Teak is the dominant tree species. Its commonest associates are Anogeissus latifolia Wall., Erythrina suberosa Roxb., Garuga pinnata Roxb., Lannea coromandelica Merr., Ougeinia oojeinensis Hochr. and Terminalia crenulata Roth. These trees are usually very robust here. Casearia elliptica Willd., Helicteres isora Linn., Xeromphis spinosa (Thunb.) Keay (syn. Randia brandisii Gamble), Wrightia tinctoria R. Br. and Zizyphus sp. are chief species in undergrowth. Milletia racemosa Benth. is a common climber. The ground is covered with saplings of bamboos, and a number of herbs and grasses. Apluda and Haplanthus are common in summers. Two slopes, one a gentle eastern and other a steep western slope, were studied. The soil on both is greyish brown and coarse. A comparison of the two slopes shows that there is no conspicuous difference in the percentage occurrence of the chief constituents of vegetation. Holarrhena antidysenterica Wall, and Mitragyna parvifolia Korth, were observed chiefly on western slope.

Kotha: These forests are situated at about 12 km north of Ahwa, and are protected forests. The area is almost plain and the soil is blackish and deep clayey. Wrightia is very common in the undergrowth of Tectona-Terminalia forest. Regeneration of Tectona, Terminalia bellirica Roxb., T. crenulata Roth, Lagerstroemia and Anogeissus is observed.

Laochali: It is situated 20 km north of Ahwa on the bank of river Purnea. The hill slope from the Rest House to the valley is protected area, it is the northern aspect. The soil is deep and dark brown. There is dense undergrowth and humus on the ground. Tectona and Wrightia are commonest species. After rainy season the climber Milletia and shrubs of Leea indica Merr., L. macrophylla Roxb., Helicteres isora Linn. and species of Ari-

saema, Curcuma and Desmodium make dense, almost impenetrable ground cover.

One western slope from river Purnea to the hill top was studied. The soil is greyish brown on slope, shallow and reddish near base. Vegetation is disturbed due to proximity of the river where men and their cattle come for bath, etc. The flat top, into which this slope leads, is under agriculture. Tectona, Anogeissus, Garuga and Terminalia are commonest tree species. Wrightia tinctoria R. Br. and Helicteres isora Linn. are abundant in lower storey, the former being more common near base of the slope and the latter towards upper parts of the slope. Among other tree species noticed here a few may be mentioned: Acacia chundra Willd., Butea monosperma Taub., Emblica officinalis Gaertn., Ougeinia vojcinensis Hochr. and Schrebera swietenioides Roxb.

Mahal: Mahal is situated about 30 km north of Ahwa. The forests are reserved and are said to be one of the best in Dangs. Large areas are covered with Bambusa arundinacea Retz. which usually occupies lower parts of slopes with deep, moist and rich alluvial soil. From distance the pale yellow clumps are a conspicuous sight. It was observed in profuse flowering in June 1958. The vegetation along the river Purnea is rich. Shrubs of Homonia riparia Lour., Securinega virosa Pax & Hoffm. and Syzygium cumini Skeels and trees of Ficus species and Pongamia pinnata Pierre are seen along the bank.

One transect was laid about 3 km from Mahal on Bandripada road from top of a hill going down on eastern slope into the valley and up on western slope to the top of another hill. The soil is blackish, coarse. The vegetation here comprises chiefly bamboos. Dendrocalamus strictus Nees occurs all over the hills. Unlike other hills, Teak and Terminalia are very abundant. Teak plantation has been undertaken on these hills. Mitragyna parvifolia Korth. is common on eastern slope, but not observed on the western slope here. Melletia racemosa Benth. climbs on a number of trees, bends them, strangulates them, and often finishes them.

Mulchond: This is a protected forest area near Ahwa on way to Pimpri; the forest is of dry deciduous type. A northern slope was studied. The soil is brown, gravelly with considerable humus. Adina cordifolia Hook. f., Ougeinia oojeinensis Hochr. and Terminalia crenulata Roth are commonest associates of teak. Helicteres isora Linn., Holarrhena antidysenterica Wall., Leea macrophylla Roxb. and Xeromphis sp. are common in undergrowth. Dioscoreas are frequently met.

Pimpri: This forest, on a western slope about 18 km west of Ahwa, is a protected forest and is densely wooded; the dominant community is

Tectona-Terminalia. Trees of Garuga pinnata Roxb. and Wrightia tinctoria R. Br. also are common. The undergrowth is same as at Mulchond.

Piplemar-Chankal: Chankal is a reserved forest about 10 km north-east of Ahwa. Vegetation on a northern slope was studied. The soil is blackish with lots of pebbles. Garuga pinnata Roxb. and Ougeinia oojeinensis Hochr. are commonest associates of teak here. Terminalia trees are fewer. Very tall trees of Garuga pinnata Roxb. occur near nala. The undergrowth is dense and plants of Casearia elliptica Willd., Helicteres 1sora Linn., Holarrhena antidysenterica Wall. and Milletia racemosa Benth. are very common. Adiantum is abundant in ground cover.

Pipliamal: This is a dense reserved forest area along Dhaudiya nala 15 km north-east of Ahwa; here the riverain vegetation was studied. The soil is washed away by the nala and is shallow with large bolders. The forest is of moist deciduous type. Acacia chundra Willd., Butea monosperma Taub. and Pongamia pinnata Pierre trees are common. Holarrhena antidysenterica Wall. and Celastrus paniculata Willd. occur in the undergrowth.

Raiwad: This is almost a plain level area about 4 km east of Waghai, along the bank of river Khapri. There are slightly raised mounds of earth within the area. The soil is deep reddish brown or chocolate coloured, alluvial and rich in humus. This is a reserved forest and its general appearance is of a mixed evergreen type. The first storey trees are tall forming a dense canopy. Climbers are frequent. Trees of Ficus species, Mangifera indica Linn. and Pongamia pinnata Pierre are present with Tectiona and Terminalia trees. Among other trees observed in this area mention may be made of Acacia chundra Willd., Dalbergia latifolia Roxb., Mitragyna parvifolia Korth., Miliusa tomentosa J. Sinclair and Supindus emarginatus Vahl. Wrightia tinctoria R. Br. is abundant in understorey. The clumps of Bambusa arundinacea Retz. are present all ower, chiefly along the nala and on foot hill. Butea sp., Combretum sp., Dalbergia sp. and Milletia racemosa Benth. are common climbers in the area.

There is abundant regeneration of tree species, and saplings of Aegle, Albizia, Butea, Diospyros, Lagerstroemia, Madhuca, Pongamia, Salmalia, Schleichera, Syzygium and Terminalia were observed.

Shivbara: These are dense forests situated 10 km southeast-east of Subir, about 20 km north-east of Ahwa. A gentle southern aspect was studied. The soil is brown, deep and with considerable amount of humus. Tectona grandis Linn. f. is the dominant tree species here too, with a number of associated species, such as Acacia ferruginea DC., Albaria procera Benth., Anogeissus latifolia Wall., Bauhinia recemosa Lam., Careya arborea Roxbi,

Casearia elliptica Willd., Cassia fistula Linn., Dalbergia latifolia Roxb., Erythrina sp., Gmelina arborea Roxb., Grewia tilaefolia Vahl, Kydia calycina Roxb., Lagerstroemia lanceolata Wall., Mitragyna parvifolia Korth., Ougeinia oojeinensis Hochr., Pterocarpus marsupium Roxb., Spondias pinnata Kurz., Stereospermum personatum Chatt., Terminalia bellirica Roxb. and Wrightia tinctoria R. Br. Sorghum halepense Pers. is abundant in undergrowth. Carvia callosa Brem. and Curcuma sp. are very common.

Snearda: It is a small hill situated about 16 km south-east of Waghai. The vegetation was studied on a north-eastern slope, which has brownish soil with bolders. There is typical Tectona-Terminalia community with Acacia chundra Willd., Anogeissus latifolia Wall., Dendrocalamus strictus Nees, Garuga pinnata Roxb., Lannea coromandelica Merr., Mitragyna parvifolia Korth. and Ougeinia oojeinensis Hochr.

Waghai: 4 km south-east of Waghai on Nasik road is a reserved forest on an almost plain level area. It is an experimental plot. The soil is brown, deep and gravelly. Bambusa arundinacea Retz. is the commonest species. Casearia elliptica Willd. is a very abundant shrub here. Saplings of Butea monosperma Taub., Diospyros melanoxylon Roxb., Mitragyna parvifolia Korth. and Ougeinia oojeinensis Hochr. are common on ground cover.

ECONOMIC PLANTS

Timber: Teak is by far the most important forest produce of the Dangs district and in quality it is ranked second only to the Dandelli teak. Other timber species are Acacia chundra Willd., A. ferruginea DC., Adina cordifolia Hook. f., Anogeissus latifolia Wall., Dalbergia latifolia Roxb., Mitragyna parvifolia Korth., Ougeinia oojeinensis Hochr., Pterocarpus marsupium Roxb. and Terminalia crenulata Roth.

Matchwood: Ailanthus excelsa Roxb., Garuga pinnata Roxb., Kydia calycina Roxb., Lannea coromandelica Merr., Salmalia malabarica Schott. & Endl., Spondias pinnata Kurz and Trewia nudiflora Linn. are the matchwood species growing in Dangs. These are exploited for this purpose.

Bamboos: Bamboos abound in several parts of Dangs. They are largely exploited. A number of domestic articles are locally made from bamboo; it is used in making houses, mats, fans, carts, agricultural implements and several smaller articles such as containers, carriers, etc.

Minor forest produce: Several tannin yielding plants occur in the district e.g. Acacia nilotica (Linn.) Del., Garuga pinnata Roxb., Terminalia crenulata Roth. Diospyros leaves are used for making Bidi wrappers. Leaves of Butea monosperma Taub. are used for making 'Thalis' or

'Pattals' for serving food in parties. Fruits of a large number of species are edible.

Medicinal Plants: A number of valuable medicinal plants grow wild in the district. Many of them can have good market. The State Forest Silviculturist has established a medicinal plant farm at Waghai for cultivation and expansion of medicinal plants.

Among the important medicinal plants growing wild in this district mention may be made of the following:

Adhatoda vasica Nees, Asparagus racemosus var. javanicus Baker, Barleria prionitis Linn., Boerhaavia diffusa Linn., Centelia asiatica Urban, Centratherum anthelminticum (Willd.) Kuntze, Datura sp., Eclipta prostrata (Linn.) Linn., Helicteres isora Linn., Hemidesmus indicus (L.) Schult., Holarrhena antidysenterica Wall., Operculina turpethum (Linn.), Silva Manso, Psoralea corylifolia Linn., Solanum sp., Sphaeranthus indicus Linn.

Several common tree and shrub species yield products of medicinal value e.g. Azadirachta indica Juss., Cassia fistula Linn., Oroxylum indicum Vent., Soymida febrifuga Juss., Vitex negundo Linn., etc.

The Dangs district is still incompletely explored botanically and ecologically. More intensive collections in different seasons of the year are required. Of particular interest shall be the exploration of valleys and riverain areas near Waghai, Mahal and Subir, though discovery of other better and more densely vegetated spots is also not excluded.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Rev. Fr. Dr. H. Santapau, Director, Botanical Survey of India and Regional Botanist, Western Circle, for granting me facilities for this study. Dr. H. Santapau has also kindly gone through the manuscript and made useful suggestions. Thanks are due to the Divisional Forest Officer, Dangs and his officers who greatly helped in field work.

LITERATURE CITED

COOKE, T. Flora of the Presidency of Bombay. 2 vols., 1901-1908. DALZELL, N. A. AND A. GIBSON. The Bombay Flora, Bombay, 1861

HOOKER, J. D. Flora of British India, 7 vols., 1872-1897.

SANTAPAU, H. Contribution to the botany of Dangs forest, Bombay state. J. Gujerat Res. Soc. 16. 285-320; 17: 1-59, 1954-55.

Saxton, W. T. and L. J. Sedgwick. Plants of Northern Gujerat. Rec. bot. Surv. India. 6: 207-323, 1918.

APPENDIX I

FOREST SPECIES IN DANGS AND THEIR LOCAL NAMES

Abrus precatorius Gunj, Chanoti Gunj.
Acacia nilotica Babul, Bawal.
(syn. A. arabica auct. non L.)
A. chundra Khair.
A. ferruginea Kanti, Kagar.

A. forruginea Kanti, Kagar. Adina cordifolia Haladwan, Hed, Haldarvo. Aegle marmelos Ailanthus excelsa Albizia lebbeck A. odoratissima A. procera Andropagon pumilus Anogeissus latifolia Azadirachta indica Bambusa arundinacea Bauhinia foveolata B. purpurea

B. racemosa

Boswellia serrata Bothriochloa pertusa Bridelia squamosa Buchanania lanzan Butea monosperma B. parviflora Caesalpinia sepiaria Calotropis gigantea Calycopteris floribunda Careya arborea Carissa congesta Carvia callosa Casearia elliptica Cassia auriculata G. fistula Celastrus paniculatus Chrysopogon fulvus Cissus repanda Combretum ovalifolium Cordia dichotoma Cymbopogon martini
Dactylootenium agyptium
Dalbergia lanceoteria
D. latifolia

D. paniculata D. volubilis Dendrocalamus strictus. Desmodium sp. Dichanthium annulatum Dillenia pentagyna Diospyros melanoxylon

Dolichandrone sp. Elaéodendron glaucum Embelia tsjeriamcottam Emblica officinalis Ensete superbum Erinocarpus nimmonii

Erythrina suberosa Eulaliopsis binata Euphorbia neriifolia Feronia limonia

Ficus asperrima F. bengalensis F. glomerata F. religiosa F. rumphii Flacourtia indica Gardenia turgida Garuga pinnata Glycosmis pentaphylla Gmelina arborea Grewia tilaefolia

Gymnosporia : see Maylenus.

Adusa, Maharukha. Saras, Shiras, Kalio Saras. Kala Saras. Kilai, Kinai. Gondawel.

Dhamoda. Nimbara, Limdo. Katas, Vans, Kalak, Bambu. Kanchanar.

Kanchanar, Champa Kathi. Shweta Kanchanar,

Apta, Rakta Kanchanar, Asundro, Ashitra. Dupalio, Gugal. Ganya Marvel. Asana Char, Achar. Khakhro, Palas. Phulsum.

Chillar. Moto Ankado, Rui. Ukshi. Kumbia, Kumbbi. Karwandi.

Karvi. Kirmira Munjhal Dholi, Un.

Tarwad. Bahawa.

Mal Kangnan, Kangwal, Kangni. Dongri Gavat.

Nandan, Gando Velo.

Madvel. Bhokar, Vad Gundo, Gundo.

Rosha. Makara Dandosi. Sissam. Sissam.
Pathad, Kalpasi.
Nilsoti, Patri, Alei.
Narvans, Manvel Wasa.
Chikti, Pandadiyo.
Manvel.

Karmal. Timbru, Tambari. Medsing.

Alan. Wawding. Avoli, Awala, Amala.

Chiwani.

Chera.

Pangara, Jugariyo, Khakhro.

Babar. Thor, Kantalo Thor. Kawath.

Karwat. Wad, Vadh. Umro, Umbar. Pipalo, Piparo. Payar. Galgugar. Pendri. Kakad. Kirmira.

Shiwani, Shiwan,

Dhaman.

Helicteres isora Hemidesmus indicus Heteropogon contortus H. triticeus

Heynea trijuga Holarrhena antidysenterica Holoptelea integrifolia Hymenodictyon excelsum Ischaemum pilosum Jasminum arborescens

Kydia calycina Lagerstroemia lanceolata

L. parviflora Lannea coromandelica Lantana camara var. aculeata

Leea macrophylla Macaranga peltata Madhuca indica Mallotus philippensis Mangifera indica Maytenus senegalensis Melia dubia

Meyna laxiflora Miliusa tomentosa Milletia racemosa Mimusops elengi Mitrag yna parvifolia Mnesithea laevis Morinda tinctoria Moringa oleifera Mucuna prurita Mussaenda frondosa Oroxylum indicum Ougeinia oojeinensis Oxytenanthera monostigma Pongamia pinnata

Pterocarpus marsupium Radermachera xylocarpa Randia: see Xeromphis Salmalia malabarica Sapindus emarginatus Schleichera oleosa Schrebera swietenioides

Sorghum halepense Soymida febrifuga Spondias pinnata Sterculia urens Stereospermum personatum Syzygium cumini Tamarindus indicus Tectona grandis Terminalia bellirica T. chebula T. crenulata

Thespesia populnea Tinospora cordifolia Trema orientalis Woodfordia fruticosa Wrightia tinctoria W. tomentosa Xeromphis spinosa Xylia xylocarpa Zizyphus mauritiana Z. rugosa Z. xylopyrus

Marada Shingi, Atai, Kewani. Upalsari, Sarsaparilla, Sariva.

Kusali. Bhale Kusal.

Nimbara. Kuda, Dudhkuda, Indra Jiv.

Papera, Vaval. Kadvai. Kunda. Jui, Kusari.

Moti Haravani, Warang Nana.

Bondara. Modal, Mavedi. Ghaneri. Jina. Chandola. Mahudo, Mahwa. Shendri, Kapilo. Amba, Ambo.

Picharum Limbara, Nimbara. Alu.

Humb, Velbivla. Bakul Kalam, Kadamb. Lawla. Alio, Al. Saragao. Kuhili, Kavach. Bhutakes. Tentu, Aralu. Tiwas, Tanach.

Chira.

Karanj. Bibla, Beo, Hiradkhan Biyo. Kharsing.

Shimlo, Samar. Ritha, Arithi. Kosumb, Koshim. Mokho.

Boru. Rohini. Ambada. Kandol, Kadayo. Padal, Patala. Jambu, Jambul. Chinch, Ambli.

Sag. Beheda. Hirada.

Sadasa, Ain, Sajad. Bhendi, Paras Piplo. Gulwel, Galo.

Goi.
Dahiti, Dhaiti, Dhavdi.
Kuda, Dudhi, Runchallo Dudhlo,
Bhurali Kuda..
Gela, Gal.

Jambha. Bor. Turan. Ghatbor.

TABLE	SHOWING	PERCENTAGE	S OF	QUADRATS,	IN	WHICH	VARIOUS	FOREST	SPECIES	WERE	RECORDE	D
	1			1 .	ı	. 1	- 1	. 1	_		1 .	1
	1 7	ghai,	gha	gd.		ad:)	hwa	ad.)	ROUT	ad.)	ad.)	

Forest Site	Bandripada, 3 km west of Ahwa (12.quad.) west slope.	Billaya hill, 6 km north-east of Waghai (25 quad.), east slope.	Billaya hill, 6 km north-east of Wagha (10 quad.), west slope.	Chikarda, near Waghai (10 quad.)	Chikarmatibari, near Subir (24 quad.) northeast-east slope.	Dhavlidhar, 12 km northeast of Ahw. (12 quad.), east slope.	Dholeambar, 6 km east of Subir, (11 quad.) west slope.	Ghadvi, 16 km north of Ahwa, near Sukuma (10 quad.), south-west slope	Ghogli, 3 km west of Ahwa (10 quad.) east slope.	Ghogli, 3 km west of Ahwa (10 quad.) west slope.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	•
TREES:											•
Acacia chundra (Roxb.) Willd.	 .	••••				8					
Adina cordifolia Hook. f. ex Brand.		4	-	50	20				20		
Albizia lebbeck (Linn.) Benth.	-	4	10								
A. procera Benth.										17	
Anogeissus latifolia Wall. ex Bedd.	51	8	20	10	24	51(8)	9	10	20	17	
Bambusa arundinacea Retz.	17	16				***		-			
Bauhinia racemosa Lam.	•		****						10		
· Bridelia squamosa (Lam.) Gehr.		12	- Annua								
Buchanania lanzan Spr.							*****				
Butea monosperma (Lamk.) Taub.		4	-	30	8						
Cassia fistula Linn.		4			****	,			(10)		
Dalbergia latifolia Roxb.	8	8	10	10	4	8	36				
Dendrocalamus strictus Nees	51	20	40	30					numeria	manada	
Diospyros melanoxylon Roxb.	*****	8(12)	. 20		-	(8)	9	10		8	
Emblica officinalis Gaertn.	8	4		10		17		20			
Erythrina suberosa Roxb.	25				-		27	10	30	17	
Ficus glomerata Roxb.	8		10	20	-		Martine		20		
Garuga pinnata Roxb.	42	8(4)	10(10)		32	8	63	20	40	25	
Gmelina arborea Roxb.	****	4			-	*****					
Grewia tilaefolia Vahl	8	8	20	10	8	8	9	10	20	-	
Hymenodictyon excelsum Wall.	-		~~~	10	فعين				-	*****	
Kydia calycina Roxb.		4			4		18	10		****	
Lagerstroemia lanceolata Wall.		8	10		4	8			-	******	
Lannea coromandelica (Hout.) Merr.		Marries,	50	10-	4	25	***************************************	(10)	20	17	
Miliusa tomentosa (Roxb.) J. Sinclair		4			12(4)	8	9				
Mitrag yna parvifolia (Roxb.) Korth.	-	marana.		20	4	25	9	10		42	
Contd											

Contd.

10	1	15	35(30)	İ	(10)		l	20	1	į	10	i	ı	10	ı	i	ı	15	(10)	ı	50(20)	ı	10	ı	20
١	1	١	١	1	١	10	١	\$ 0	1	1	20	(10)	10	10	١	20	1	10	ł	1	50(10)	1	i	10	20
ı	١	10	10	I	1	1	1	20(20)	1	1	10	l	1	I	10	l	I	1	I	l	I	ļ	10	10	ł
68	١	١	1	34	١	17	ł	١	1	١	1	1	100	17	17	17	١	1	1	1	I	17	1	(17)	l
(6)	6	١	6	6	ı	ઝ	ı	12	6	-	ļ	1	72	1	18(6)	12	I	1	6	ŀ	1	1	(6)	1	1
10	i	20	i	1	1	١	1	1	1	١	١	1	1	١	1	Ţ	1	20	١	I	١	1	1	50	l
1	ı	5	ļ	i	5	١	1	20	1	1	10	I	45	٠.	1	I	1	10	l	1	I	5	l	CI	1
10	5	ហ	نار نا	(15)	-	15	ı	30	1	I	បា	i	i	ı	ı	I	1	I	1	1	10(10)	10	l	Gi	1
ļ	l	20		1	1	I	i	10	١	ļ	ł	(15)	I	1	ļ	40	l	l	l	1	l	ĺ	10	I	50
17(8)	17	ı	(33)	١	1	1	1	١	١	١	1	(i8)	1	8	ł	1	8	8(8)	8	8(66)	l	l	(8)	&	17
24	1	l	6	ļ	12	6	1	6(6)	1	i	ı	I	i	12	I	6	6	6	ı	72	6	i	12	I	6
თ	١	5	30	5	1	5	5	20	1	10	1	1	١	20(5)	ა	l	l	ı	ა	l	10	Ç1	l	l	l
17	l	œ	17	25(8)	17	œ	i	25	89	I	œ	89	42	(17)	ł	I	ı	æ	ı	I	25	I	1	(42)	17
30	1	30	١	١	10	i	10	40(40)	1	30(10)	1	l	40	10	-	l	1	10		l	20	l	10	10	10
(30)	(10)	1	i	ı	40	10	10	10	I	I	10	(20)	ı	-	I	\$	10	1	ı	90	1	10	20	20	l

20

12	Kotbha, 12 km north of Ahwa (20 quad.), almost level.
13	Laochali, 20 km north-east of Ahwa (10 quad.), west slope.
14	Laochali, 20 km north-east of Ahwa (10 quad.), north slope.
15	Mahal, 30 km north-west of Ahwa (6 quad.), east slope.
16	Mahal, 30 km north-west of Ahwa (16 quad.), west slope.
17	Mulchond, 6 km west of Ahwa (10 quad.), north slope.
18	Pimpri, 18 km west of Ahwa (20 quad.), west slope.
19	Piplemar, 10 km north-east of Ahwa (20 quad.), north slope.
20	Pipliamal, 15 km north-cast of Ahwa (10 quad.), almost level.
21	Raiwad, 4 km east of Waghai (12 quad.), level.
22	Raiwad, 4 km east of Waghai (16 quad.), level.
23	Shivbara, 10 km east of Subir (20 quad.), south slope.
24	Susarda, 16 km south-east of Waghai (12 quad.), north-east slope.
25	Susarda, 16 km south-east of Waghai (10 quad.), north-west slope.
26	Waghai, 4 km from town (10 quad.), level.

•	~			

Table Contd.				· ·····						·
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Ougeinia ooj inensis (Roxb.) Hochr.	8	24	20	30	8	25	36	10	20	25
Pongamia pinnata (Linn.) Pierre.		4								
Pterocarpus marsupium Roxb.						17			-	
Salmalia malabarica (DC.) Schott. & Endl.		4				(8)	waster.			-
Schleichera oleosa (Lour.) Oken.	8		3 0(10)		12(4)	17	11		20	
Schrebera swietenioides Roxb.	8				~~~		9			-
Spondias pinnata (Linn. f.) Kurz.		(4)		10	12(4)				(10)	
Sterculia urens Roxb.		4	10				9			
Stereospermum personatum (Hassk.) Chatt.								****	-	
Tectona grandis Linn. f.	76	72(12)	50	70	60	66	72	40	70(10)	68
Terminalia bellirica Roxb.	8	-	10		8(4)			(20)		8
T. crenulata Roth.	25	4	30	60	28	34	9	30	30	42
Wrightia tinctoria R. Br.	59	32(44)	100	20	76(4)	68(8)	90	40(20)	80(10)	68
SHRUBS and CLIMBERS:										
Bauhinia sp.		4				8		20		_
Butea monosperma (Lamk.) Taub.	8	4							10	8
B. parviflora Roxb.	17					25		*****	****	
Caesalpinia sp.	_		-		12					-
Carvia callosa Brem.		4		-	92		45			
Casearia elliptica Willd.	17	8		40	16	8	9		40	51
Celastrus paniculata Willd.		4		*****	-	17				
Cissus repanda Vahl		4		_						8
Dalbergia sp.		12	10							
Dioscorea sp.				-		******		10		
Flacourtia indica (Burm. f.) Merr.										8
Helicteres isora Linn.	8	32	20	50	100	25	54	20	30	17
Holarrhena antidysenterica Wall.	8	12	******	30	8	-		20	wyeels	42
Leea indica (Burm.) Merr.			******	*****	8	*****				
L. macrophylla Roxb.	8					-		****		
Mejna laxistora Robyns.	8			10	4	25	9			napod.
Milletia racemosa Benth.	17				8		27		40	25
Securinega virosa (Roxb.) Pax & Hoffm.						8				
Sorghum halepense Pers.					80					
Xeromphis spinosa (Thunb.) Keay.	17			20		8	9		10	25
Zizyphus sp.		8		****	4	8		10		25

12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
20	20		17	18	40	5	30(5)				25	42(17)		(20)
			~~~		_	_		60	8(17)		-	-		
5	_			****			5				5	17		
						_		_	(25)	(12)	(5)			~
	(10)	20	_	(6)				10	(8)			~-	(20)	10(10)
	20	-	~			-								10
10							5				10		-	~
10	10	_	~	_	-	10	5	_			-	-		-
_		(20)		-	(10)	_				_	(5)	(8)		
50(20)	70	60(20)	34	72	70(20)	80	35	20	60	(12)	70	66	90	70(10)
5(25)		10	17		-	_	10(10)	_	(25)	_	20	(8)	10	40
20(25)	30	20	-	12	40(20)	35	10	40(10)	34	48	20	42	50	20
60(20)	50(10)	40	17	36		35	95	80	60		95	60	60	(20)
10		10		12			5						10	10
	10	10	34				_		33			34		30
	20	20	17				5		17					
		10	~~~	~~~			_				5			
	•		-		******	10					45		10	
20	10	5		50	<del></del>		50	30	50	30	10	8	10	80
_	10			Pines	20		5	********			*****			
30			-	****			-		-			8		
		_				5			33			_		20
				******	40								20	_
_			17						8					
55	60	60	85	84	50	20	30	10	33	30	25	66	50	10
20	10	30			80	15	20	40	42	24				
20	****	70			10	<b>3</b> 0	10	_		-	10			<del></del> ,
30	~~~	60		6	40	10	-		www.ma					
_		10					10	10	8	6		8		
	20	90		18			35			30	15	سيد	*****	
	_											17		
					_	-			_		95			
10	10				20		5	-			-			20
				_			5	_	33		5	8	10	10