

Expansive alien flora of Odisha, India

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Abstract: The present paper documents the expansive alien flora of Bhadrak district, Odisha, India based on data obtained from field exploration and literature consultations. Eighty seven expansive alien species of 64 genera and 40 families are documented. Of these, 52 species are being used for medicinal purposes as reported by local inhabitants. Asteraceae is found to be most dominant family contributing 12 species to the list. Most of the expansive alien flora of the district belongs to American continent (70.1%) and African continent (17.2%). Growth form analysis shows herbs share 64 species (forbs 58 species and grasses 6 species) followed by shrubs (10 species), trees (5 species) and climbers (8 species) respectively. Out of 87 expansive alien species 13 have been introduced purposely while rest accidentally during import of food grains. *Ageratum conyzoides* L., *Eichhornia crassipes* (C. Martius) Solms., *Lantana camara* L. and *Mikania micrantha* Kunth. are spreading and covering the habitat faster than native species, exerting severe pressure on functioning of ecosystems as well as species diversity. A better planning in the form of early identification, reporting and control of the expansive alien flora of Bhadrak district is warranted.

Keywords: Biological invasions; list of expansive alien plants; nativity; uses

Introduction

Expansive alien species are exotic organisms that have been introduced by human beings intentionally for social or personal gain or accidentally from one region of the world to another from time immemorial (Levine, 1989; Pysek *et al.*, 2004). Natural disaster such as flood and cyclone can also play the role to introduce alien species to a new habitat. The impact of expansive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystems could be a serious threat (Pearce, 2015; Painsi *et al.*, 2017; Ricciardi *et al.*, 2017) next to direct habitat destruction (Hobbs and Humphries, 1995; Preston and Williams, 2003). Several characteristics of the species help them to be expansive like faster

growth rate, their higher competitive ability, higher reproductive efficiency producing large quantity of seeds in prolific rate having dispersal ability through air and water, vegetative reproduction, production of allelochemicals and rapid establishment that help them to adapt new habitats (Callaway and Aschehoug, 2000; Drake *et al.*, 2003; Simberloff *et al.*, 2005; Sharma *et al.*, 2005; Huang *et al.*, 2009). Once the expansive alien species has become dominant, reestablishment of native species is rarely successful (Davies and Shelley, 2011). The mode of speedy resource acquisition and consumption of the expansive alien species may cause drastic alteration in soil structure, its profile, rate of decomposition, nutrient dynamics and moisture availability (Walck *et al.* 1999; Vila and Weiner, 2004). Consequently its impact on the biodiversity and ecosystems become a serious hindrance for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

At least 10% of the world's vascular floras (around 300,000) have the potential to invade other ecosystems and affect local biota in direct or indirect ways (Singh *et al.*, 2006). In the tens rule (Williamson and Fitter 1996) three stages of invasion are distinguished. Imported species are those brought into a country, while introduced are those found in the wild. Those forming self-sustaining populations are called established. The categories are nested: established are both introduced and imported, and introduced are also imported. Botanists have traditionally called species that are introduced, but not established, casuals; the established are called naturalized. The transition from imported to introduced, which can be called escaping, has a probability of around 10% in many cases, and the probability of establishing is also often about 10% (Williamson and Fitter, 1996). Recent studies have documented that expansive alien plant species may dislocate or harmfully affect indigenous species and wildlife habitats (Sax and Gaines 2000; Walther *et al.*, 2009; McGeoch *et al.*, 2010; Pysek *et al.*, 2011; Bellard *et al.*, 2016; Doherty *et al.*, 2016), negative impacts on ecosystem structure, function and hydrology (Sanders *et al.* 2003; Traveset and Richardson, 2006; Khanna, 2009; McGeoch *et al.*, 2010; Maguire *et al.*, 2011; Simberloff *et al.*, 2013; Foxcroft *et al.*, 2014), undesirable impact on animal health (Khanna, 2009; Sing and Peterson 2011), losses to economy (Pimentel *et al.*, 2001; Khanna, 2009) of the area they enter by force. The increase of international trade of ornamental and forage plants, human migration, climatic change, habitat destruction, industrialization and urbanization, fast economic development and population growth have only accelerated the invasive process (Meyerson and Mooney, 2007; Pysek *et al.*, 2008; Walther *et al.*, 2009; Bhatt *et al.*, 2012). Currently some investigations have centered on expansive alien species and their unconstructive role on ecosystem services in different countries of the world (Sax and Gaines 2000; Walther *et al.*, 2009; McGeoch *et al.*, 2010; Sing and Peterson, 2011). In this context, when the case of India is concerned about 18% of the flora of this country constitute aliens, of which 55% are

from American origin, 30% Asian as well as Malaysian and remaining 15% belongs to European and Central Asian countries (Nayar, 1977). But studies on this aspect are sporadic in India (Khanna, 2009; Bhatt *et al.*, 2012) and still lacking in Odisha. So the present study was planned and conducted for identification, documentation origin, diversity etc. of alien and expansive species of Bhadrak district, to focus on the threat and possible hazards they are creating on the native flora and fauna of this locality.

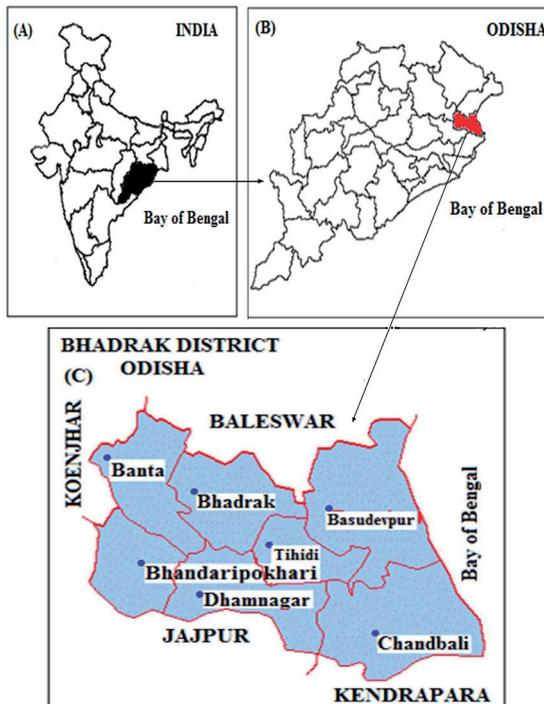


Fig. 1 - A) Location of Odisha state in the eastern region of India B) map of the Odisha state C) study area showing different blocks of the Bhadrak district

Materials and Methods

Study site

India has a characteristic geographic location at the junction of the three major biogeographic realms, namely the Indo-Malayan, the Eurasian and the Afro-tropical ($6^{\circ} 45'$ to $37^{\circ} 6'$ latitude and $68^{\circ} 7'$ to $97^{\circ} 25'$ E longitude) with a land frontier of about 15,200 km and a coastline of 7,516 km. It is the seventh largest country in the world and the second largest in Asia; with human population of more than 1 billion. The

country is administratively divided into 29 States and 7 Union Territories. Due to the geographical vastness and topographical heterogeneity, the country experiences a tropical to sub-tropical climate with three distinct seasons i.e. hot summer (late April-late June), rainy monsoon (late June-mid September), and mild winter (mid November- late March). The bio-climatic diversity ranges from sea level to the highest mountain ranges; hot-arid conditions in the West to tropical evergreen forests in North-east and Western Ghats; cold-arid conditions in the trans-Himalayas to mangroves of Sunderbans; and freshwater aquatic to marine ecosystems (Negi, 1986).

Odisha is the ninth largest state of India by area and the eleventh largest by population. It is located in the east coast of India (17.48° – 22.34° N and 81.24° – 87.29° E) with the Bay of Bengal forming its eastern and south eastern frontiers. With the eastern Ghat range of hills, almost passing through the heart of the state, high Similipala hills on its north and around 480 kms of coast line on its east, Odisha having varied ecosystems from marine to semi-arid on the west provides 'niches' for diverse animal and plant communities (Patnaik 1996). The entire territory lies in the tropical zone as a result of which high temperature is recorded particularly during April-May. However, the sea exercises a moderating influence over the climate of the coastal belt whereas the hill tracts experience an extreme climate. The vegetation found in this region is tropical moist deciduous forest type (Champion and Seth 1968).

Bhadrak district ($20^{\circ} 43'$ – $21^{\circ} 13'$ N and $86^{\circ} 6'$ – 87° E) is located in Northeast Odisha. It spreads over 2505 km² having 1.507 million inhabitants (2011 Census). Four other districts namely Balasore, Kendrapara, Jajpur and Koenjher surround Bhadrak district while a part is bounded by the Bay of Bengal (Fig. 1). The district covers about 1.61 % of the total land area of the state and contributes 3.59 % of the state's population. About 86.66 % of the inhabitants are villagers and the people are engaged in agricultural practices as their primary occupation. Being situated in close proximity to Bay of Bengal, the district is characterized by periodic earth tremors, thunder storms in the rains and dust storms in April and May. Some of the flora which grow in abundance in the region are: *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Delile., *Anacardium occidentale* L., *Annona squamosa* L., *Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam., *Averrhoa carambola* L. *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss., *Bambusa vulgaris* Schrad., *Bombax ceiba* L., *Borassus flabellifer* L., *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub., *Cassia fistula* L., *Calophyllum inophyllum* L., *Crataeva nurvata* (Buch.) Ham., *Ficus benghalensis* L., *Ficus religiosa* L., *Gmelina arborea* Roxb., *Kigelia africana* (Lam.) Benth., *Mangifera indica* L., *Mimusops elengi* L., *Morinda citrifolia* L., *Phoenix sylvestris* (L.) Roxb., *Polyalthia longifolia* (Sonn.)Thw., *Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre., *Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb., *Samanea saman* (Jacq.) Merr. J. Wash., *Spondias mangifera* Willd., *Streblus asper* Lour., *Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels., *Tamarindus indica* L. and *Terminalia arjuna* (Roxb.ex DC.) Wight & Arn.

Data collection

Extensive field surveys (June 2013- May 2015) were carried out to document and enlist the expansive alien floras in diverse habitats, i.e. cultivated fields, waste lands, river banks, roadsides, water bodies, marshes, pathways, parks, private gardens and other relevant localities of the district following established and standard procedures (Jain, 1987; Martin, 1995). The information on the expansive alien plants was obtained through a combination of tools and techniques of structured questionnaires, complemented by free interviews and informal conversations (Martin 1995; Huntington 2000). The information regarding the expansive alien plant species has been gathered mostly from local farmers, elderly and knowledgeable persons. Personal interviews and group discussions carried out in the local language revealed specific information about the plants, which were further compared and authenticated by crosschecking (Cunningham, 2001). During field study, some of the field characters like habit, habitat, mode of spread and nature of expansiveness of alien species were examined. The economic uses of these species if any were discussed with the local people. Samples of recorded herbs, twigs of shrubs, climbers and trees were identified using relevant vegetation (Haines, 1925; Saxena and Brahmam, 1996).

The plant species are enumerated and arranged as per Angiosperm Phylogeny Group III Classification (APG III, 2009). During the investigation, some of the plants were also photographed. The voucher specimens were deposited in the herbarium of the Department of Botany, Chandbali College, Chandbali. Previously collected literatures by other scholars concerning nativity of species (Negi and Hajra, 2007; Reddy, 2008; Khanna, 2009; Singh *et al.*, 2010; Khuroo *et al.*, 2012) were consulted. The invasive plants were represented alphabetically according to their scientific names, habit, local name if any, family, nativity and uses.

Results

In the present study 87 expansive alien plants from 35 families belonging to 64 genera are documented from the study region as per APG III classification. (Table 1; Fig. 2). Among the reported plants, 27.6% of the taxa are recorded from the superorder Malvids, 25.3% from superorder Lamids, 27.2% from superorder Fabids, 13.8% from Complanulids and 10.4% from superorder commelinids. Magnolids, Monocots and Eudicots account for about 5.7% of the species in the Bhadrak district. Asteraceae contributes the largest number of species (12 spp.) followed by Convolvulaceae, Fabaceae (6 sp. each), Amaranthaceae, Malvaceae, Poaceae, Solanaceae (5 sp. each), and Apocynaceae, Lamiaceae, Onagraceae (3 sp. each) (Fig. 3). Twenty families are represented by one species, contributing 57% of the total number families in the inventory. In terms of generic richness *Cassia*, *Ipomoea* and *Cleome* (4 sp. each)

ranked highest followed by, *Corchorus*, *Solanum* and *Ludwigia* (3 sp. each). With regard to the area of origin of expansive alien species, the contributions of different geographical regions are listed in figure 4 and Table 1. It is demonstrated that 70.1% of the expansive alien species of Bhadrak district were American followed by African (17.2%), Asian (3.5%), European (3.5%), Mediterranean (2.3%) and Australian (1.2%). Annuals comprise about 52.9% (46 sp.) and the remaining are perennials. Habit wise distribution analysis (Fig. 5) revealed that herbs were represented a higher proportion (64 species; forbs 58 species; 66.7% and grasses six species; 6.9%) followed by Shrubs (10 species; 11.5%), trees (five species; 5.7%) viz., *Annona reticulata* L., *Borassus flabellifer* L., *Kigelia africana* (Lam.) Benth., *Prosopis juliflora* (Sw.) DC. and *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam. and eight climbers (9.2%) (Table 1 and Fig. 5). The plant species were classified through Raunkiaer (1934) classification. The Therophtes was the most dominant class with 44 plant species (50.6%) followed by Phanerophytes with 19 species (21.8%), Chemaephytes with 9 species (10.3%), Hydrophytes with 7 species (8.1%), Hemicryptophytes with 5 species (5.8%), Cryptophytes with 2 species (2.3%) and helophytes having one species (1.1%) respectively. In terms of habitat, we found that wastelands ranked highest (66.3%), followed by agricultural lands (11.2%), road sides (9.2%), aquatic (7.2%) and others (6.1%). The use of expansive alien species for different purposes as indicated by local people is same as the literature reviewed. *Alternanthera sessilis* (L.) DC., *Chenopodium album* L., *Ludwigia adscendens* (L.) Hara, *Oxalis corniculata* L. and *Portulaca oleracea* L. for instance are edible while *Borassus flabellifer* L. is being used for hand-held fan. Of 87 species, fifty species are used for medicinal purposes by the indigenous people while the uses of 24 species are unknown to local people. Out of 87 species, only 11 species namely, *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Cassia alata*, *Chenopodium album*, *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Ipomoea quamoclit*, *Lantana camara*, *Mirabilis jalapa*, *Passiflora foetida*, *Portulaca oleracea*, *Prosopis juliflora* and *Solanum nigrum* are introduced deliberately purposely; the rest accidentally during trade exchange including grain import. Further, it has been observed that few species like *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Lantana camara*, *Mikania micrantha* and *Parthenium hysterophorus* are highly expansive and caused considerable ecological damages to indigenous floristic composition (Fig. 6). A questionnaire survey among the informants revealed that there were hardly any management programmes to control expansive alien plants such as *L. camara*, *Mikania micrantha*, *Ageratum conyzoides* and *Parthenium hysterophorus* and many of them mentioned that alien species were cleared to raise plantations or clear-off roadsides. The only method that they knew for control was to manually cut and burn.

Table 1 - Expansive alien plant species of Bhadrak district, Odisha, India

NAME OF THE SPECIES	FAMILY	ORIGIN AREA	LF	HABIT	LIFE SPAN	HABITAT	USES
<i>Acanthospermum hispidum</i> DC.	Asteraceae	Brazil	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> L.	Asteraceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i> (Mart.) Griseb.	Amaranthaceae	Central America	Hyd	Forb	Perennial	Aquatic	Fodder
<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> (L.) DC.	Amaranthaceae	Central America	Hyd	Forb	Perennial	Aquatic	Medicinal, Vegetable
<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Cultivated field, Wasteland	Medicinal, Fodder
<i>Annona reticulata</i> L.	Annonaceae	Central America	Ph	Tree	Perennial	Cultivated field, Wasteland	Medicinal, Fruit edible
<i>Antigonon leptopus</i> Hook. & Arn.	Polygonaceae	Central America	Th	Climber	Perennial	Along roadside	Medicinal
<i>Argemone mexicana</i> L.	Papaveraceae	South America	Th	Forb	Annual	Cultivated field, Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> L.	Nyctaginaceae	Tropical Africa	Th	Forb	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Blumea lacera</i> (Burm. F.) DC.	Asteraceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Borassus flabellifer</i> L.	Arecaceae	Tropical Africa	Ph	Tree	Perennial	Wasteland	Articrafts Medicinal
<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (L.) R. Br.	Apocynaceae	Tropical Africa	Ph	Shrub	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Ait.) R. Br.	Apocynaceae	Tropical Africa	Ph	Shrub	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Cannabis sativa</i> L.	Cannabaceae	Central Asia	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Cassia absus</i> L.	Fabaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Along roadside	Not Known
<i>Cassia alata</i> L.	Fabaceae	South America	Ph	Shrub	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> L.	Fabaceae	South America	Ph	Forb	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Cassia tora</i> L.	Fabaceae	South America	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> L.	Apocynaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal

<i>Chamaesyce hirta</i> (L.)Millsp.	Euphorbiaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Cissampelos pareira</i> L.	Manispermaceae	South America	Ch	Climber	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Chenopodium album</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Europe	Th	Forb	Annual	Cultivated field	Vegetable
<i>Chloris barbata</i> (L.) Sw.	Poaceae	Central America	He	Grass	Perennial	Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Cleome gynandra</i> L.	Cleomaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Cleome monophylla</i> L.	Cleomaceae	Tropical Africa	Th	Forb	Annual	Along roadside	Not Known
<i>Cleome rutidosperma</i> DC.	Cleomaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Along roadside	Medicinal
<i>Cleome viscosa</i> L.	Cleomaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Corchorus aestuans</i> L.	Malvaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Corchorus tridens</i> L.	Malvaceae	Tropical Africa	Th	Forb	Annual	Along roadside, Wasteland	Not known
<i>Corchorus trilocularis</i> L.	Malvaceae	Tropical Africa	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Croton sparsiflorus</i> Morong.	Euphorbiaceae	South America	Th	Forb	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i> Roxb.	Convolvulaceae	Mediterranean	He	Climber	Annual	Parasites	Medicinal
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers.	Poaceae	Tropical Africa	He	Grass	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.	Cyperaceae	Europe	He	Grass	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Datura metel</i> L.	Solanaceae	Central America	Ph	Shrub	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Datura stramonium</i> L.	Solanaceae	Central America	Ph	Forb	Annual	Along roadside, Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Echinochloa colona</i> (L.) Link.	Poaceae	South America	Th	Grass	Annual	Moist places	Edible
<i>Echinochloa crusgalli</i> (L.) P. Beauv.	Poaceae	South America	Th	Grass	Annual	Moist places	Edible
<i>Echinops echinatus</i> Roxb.	Asteraceae	Afghanistan	Ch	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Eclipta alba</i> (L.) Hassk.	Asteraceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Cultivated field	Medicinal

<i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> (C. Martius) Solms.	Pontederiaceae	Central America	Hyd	Forb	Perennial	Aquatic	Not Known
<i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Cultivated Field	Ornamental
<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Cultivated Field	Medicinal
<i>Evolvulus nummularius</i> (L.) L.	Convolvulaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Perennial	Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Gnaphalium polycaulon</i> Pers.	Asteraceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Gomphrena serrata</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> (L.) Poit.	Lamiaceae	Central America	Ph	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Ipomoea carnea</i> Jacq.	Convolvulaceae	Central America	Cr	Shrub	Perennial	Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Ipomoea obscura</i> (L.) Ker.-Gawal.	Convolvulaceae	Tropical Africa	Th	Climber	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Ipomoea pestigridis</i> L.	Convolvulaceae	Tropical East Africa	Th	Climber	Annual	Cultivated Field Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Ipomoea quamoclit</i> L.	Convolvulaceae	Central America	Th	Climber	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Kigelia africana</i> (Lam.) Benth.	Bignoniaceae	Rhodesia	Ph	Tree	Perennial	Garden	Medicinal
<i>Lantana camara</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Central America	Ph	Sub-shrub	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Leonotis nepetifolia</i> (L.) R. Br.	Lamiaceae	Tropical Africa	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Ludwigia adscendens</i> (L.) Hara	Onagraceae	Central America	Hyd	Forb	Annual	Aquatic	Vegetable
<i>Ludwigia octovalvis</i> (Jacq.) Raven	Onagraceae	Tropical Africa	Hyd	Forb	Annual	Aquatic	Medicinal
<i>Ludwigia perennis</i> L.	Onagraceae	Tropical Africa	Hyd	Forb	Annual	Aquatic	Not Known
<i>Malachra capitata</i> (L.) L.	Malvaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Perennial	Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Mecardonia procumbens</i> (Mill.) Small.	Plantaginaceae	North America	Ch	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Mikania micrantha</i> Kunth.	Asteraceae	Central America	Ph	Climber	Annual	Wasteland	Not known

<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L.	Fabaceae	Brazil	Th	Forb	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Mirabilis jalapa</i> L.	Nyctaginaceae	Peru	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Ornamental
<i>Ocimum canum</i> Sims.	Lamiaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Opuntia stricta</i> (Haw.) Haw.	Cactaceae	Central America	Ph	Shrub	Perennial	Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L.	Oxalidaceae	Europe	Cr	Forb	Perennial	Cultivated Field Wasteland	Vegetable Medicinal
<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> L.	Asteraceae	North America	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Not known
<i>Passiflora foetida</i> L.	Passifloraceae	South America	Ph	Climber	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Pedaliium murex</i> L.	Pedaliaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Peperomia pellucida</i> (L.) Kunth.	Piperaceae	South America	He	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i> L.	Araceae	Central America	Hyd	Forb	Perennial	Aquatic	Medicinal
<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> L.	Plumbaginaceae	Africa	Th	Forb	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> L.	Portulacaceae	South America	Ch	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Medicinal Vegetable
<i>Portulaca quadrifida</i> L.	Portulacaceae	Central America	Ch	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Vegetable
<i>Prosopis juliflora</i> (Sw.) DC.	Fabaceae	Central America	Ph	Tree	Perennial	Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Saccharum spontaneum</i> L.	Poaceae	Tropical West Asia	Hel	Grass	Perennial	Wastelan, River bed	Handicraft
<i>Scoparia dulcis</i> L.	Plantaginaceae	Central America	Ch	Forb	Perennial	Wasteland	Not Known
<i>Sida acuta</i> Burm.f.	Malvaceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Central America	Ph	Shrub	Annual	Cultivated Field, Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Solanum torvum</i> Sw.	Solanaceae	Central America	Ph	Shrub	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Solanum viarum</i> Dunal.	Solanaceae	Central America	Ph	Forb	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> L.	Asteraceae	Mediterranean	Th	Forb	Annual	River bed	Not Known
<i>Synedrella nodiflora</i> (L.) Gaertn.	Asteraceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Annual	Wasteland	Not Known

<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.	Zygophyllaceae	Central America	Ch	Forb	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Tridax procumbens</i> L.	Asteraceae	Central America	Th	Forb	Perennial	Wasteland Cultivated Field	Medicinal
<i>Typha angustata</i> Bory. &Choub.	Typhaceae	Central America	Ph	Forb	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal
<i>Xanthium indicum</i> Koenig.	Asteraceae	Central America	Ch	Shrub	Annual	Along roadside	Not Known
<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lam.	Rhamnaceae	Australia	Ch	Tree	Perennial	Wasteland	Medicinal, edible

Abbreviations: LF: Life form, Ch: Chamephyte, Cr: Cryptophyte, He: Hemicryptophyte, Ph: Phanerophyte, Tel: Helophytes, Hyd: Hydrophyte, Th: Therophyte.



Fig. 2 - a. *Ageratum conyzoides* L.
 b. *Antigonon leptopus* Hook. & Arn.
 c. *Argemone Mexicana* L.
 d. *Cassia alata* L.
 e. *Chamaesyce hirta* (L.) Millsp.
 f. *Cissampelos pareira* L.
 g. *Croton sparsiflorus* Morong.
 h. *Eclipta alba* (L.) Hassk.
 i. *Eichhornia crassipes* (C. Martius) Solms.
 j. *Evolvulus nummularius* (L.) L.
 k. *Gomphrena serrata* L.
 l. *Ipomoea carnea* Jacq.
 m. *Kigelia africana* (Lam.) Benth. n.
 n. *Lantana camara* L.
 o. *Mikania micrantha* Kunth.
 p. *Parthenium hysterophorus* L. q. *Pistia stratiotes* L.
 r. *Sida acuta* Burm.f.
 s. *Solanum viarum* Dunal.
 t. *Typha angustata* Bory. & Choub.

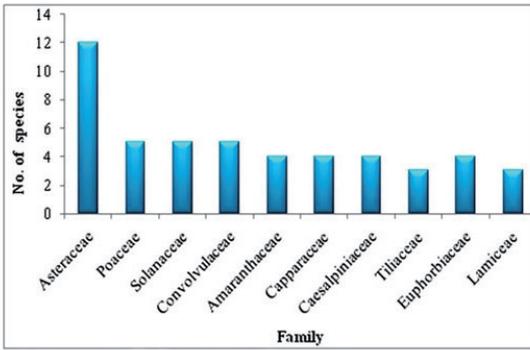


Fig. 3 - Ten dominant families of expansive alien species in Bhadrak district

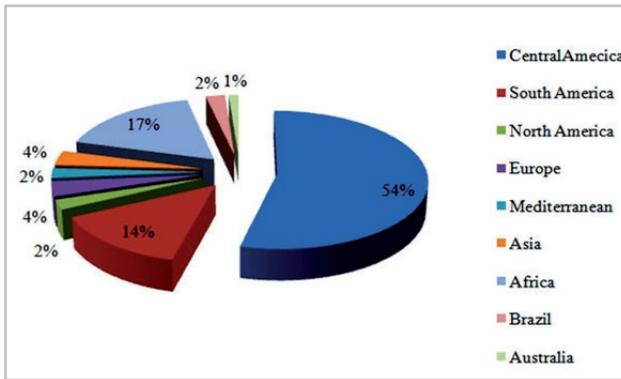


Fig. 4 - Contribution of different geographical areas to expansive alien species of Bhadrak district

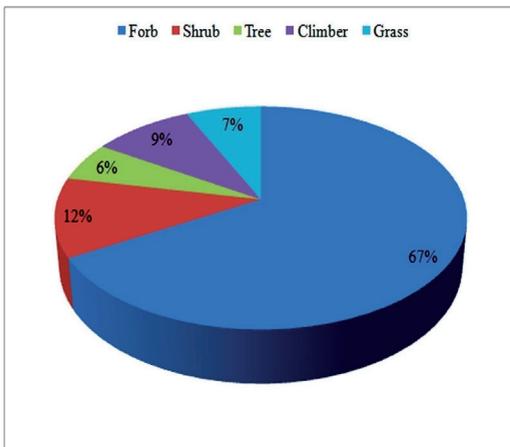


Fig. 5 - Habit wise distribution analysis



Fig. 6 - a) Invasion of *Ageratum conyzoides* L. in agricultural field b) *Eichhornia crassipes* (C. Martius) Solms. in a pond c) *Mikania micrantha* Kunth. in *Aegle marmelos* (L.) Corr. d) *Carica papaya* L.

Discussion

Lovers of biodiversity believe that biological invasions by alien species and recent species extinctions are closely linked process (Fritts and Rodda, 1998; Wilcove, 1998). The flourishing growth of these species is altering the terrestrial and aquatic communities worldwide (Gurevitch and Padilla, 2004). In this regard, India is worst affected, a country whose past history tells us about the introduction of expansive alien species from British, Portuguese, Spanish, French, from the Middle East and Central Asian countries (Pandey, 2000). The plants introduced during historical trade relationship include tropical American plants, a number of aggressive weeds and certain plants having economic value (Jenkins and Mooney, 2006). Many of the alien

species that are now known to be expansive in India have arrived in a variety of ways and for different purposes (Hiremath and Sundaram, 2013). Many such species were first introduced in to this country as garden ornamentals ((Hiremath and Sundaram 2013). They were also introduced purposely to fulfill the fuel-wood requirements, to prevent spreading of desert and some for commercial cultivation (Kohli *et al.* 2006; Muniappan *et al.*, 2009; Khuroo *et al.*, 2012; Kannan *et al.* ,2013). The history of expansive alien plants in Bhadrak district reveals that many species are introduced for economic purpose like timber, ornamental, and green coverage plantation of barren land and some were migrated to this region by transport of food grains from other regions. Climatic conditions of the region became suitable for them and they showed rapid proliferation to spread all over the district. All the species listed in this study are also reported as weeds in other countries and are included in the Global Compendium Weeds (Randall 2002). In fact, from the recorded 100 species of the world's worst expansive alien species (Lowe *et al.*, 2000), India harbours eleven plant species many of which are in Bhadrak district of Odisha. When the origin of expansive alien species is concerned, the contribution of American continent (70.1%) is noteworthy (Reddy 2008). The highest contributions of expansive alien species from American continent recorded in the present study are principally comparable with data from the studies of Kshirsagar (2005), Negi and Hajra (2007) and Khuroo *et al.* (2012). In fact, American continent has contributed majority of the noxious expansive alien plants found in Odisha and also in China (Kumar and Satpathy, 2015; Randall, 2002) and Taiwan (Wu *et al.* 2004). Of the reported species, the following species are common to China, Taiwan and Bhadrak district of Odisha, India: *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Echinochloa crusgalli*, *Eichhornia crassipes* and *Mikania micrantha*. The historical trade routes discovered by Europeans to India, tropical climate are the possible causes for higher proportion of American weeds in India.

Families wise Asteraceae, or Poaceae are species-rich and higher numbers of expansive alien species belonging to these families are expected. But the predominance of members belonging to Asteraceae in this region is remarkable (Rao and Murugan 2006; Reddy 2008). This confirms other results from Europe (Lambdon *et al.*, 2008), South Africa (Heywood, 1989) and China (Wu *et al.*, 2010). During the present investigation maximum expansive alien plants are reported from the wastelands followed by agricultural fields and such an observation draws support from the studies of Singh *et al.* (2010). Expansive alien plant species are used for a variety of purposes. For example, *Amaranthus spinosus*, *Argemone mexicana*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Cassia alata*, *Catharanthus roseus*, *Cissampelos pareira*, *Cynodon dactylon*, *Cyperus rotundus*, *Datura metel*, *Lantana camara* *Eclipta alba*, *Solanum nigrum* and *Tridax procumbens* is being used for medicinal purposes (Panda *et al.* 2012; Mishra *et al.* 2015 Panda *et al.* 2016). Similarly, *Alternanthera sessilis*, *Boerhavia diffusa*, *Annona reticulate*, *Ludwigia adscendens*, *Oxalis corniculata* and *Portulaca oleracea mauritiana* is being used for

both medicinal and edible purposes (Panda, 2014; Mishra *et al.*, 2016; Panda *et al.*, 2016) and *Borassus flabellifer* is used for writing, etching and making hand-held fans, (Panda *et al.*, 2015). Moreover, the herbaceous plants are recorded as the dominant expansive alien flora (73.6%). The dominance of herbaceous expansive alien plants is also reported (Khuroo *et al.* 2012). Higher number of annuals (46 species; 52.9%) of the expansive alien flora of Bhadrak district are comparable with the studies of Singh *et al.* (2010) and Adhikari *et al.* (2015), although perennials are more noxious (Huang *et al.* 2009; Xu and Qiang, 2004).

Individually, the invasion by *Ageratum conyzoides* L., *Eichhornia crassipes* (C. Martius) Solms., *Lantana camara* L., *Mikania micrantha* Kunth. and *Parthenium hysterophorus* L. are causing great concern in many parts of this district. *Ageratum conyzoides* L. is expanding at an alarming rate, especially in agricultural fields, road sides and even gardens. The weed is harmful to native species and has become a problem in agroecosystems (Negi and Hajra 2007). Freshwater species like *Eichhornia crassipes* (C. Martius) Solms., introduced from Brazil during AD 1914–1916, is of most nuisance as it causes hindrance by choking all possible water bodies and reducing their utility. Because of its rapid growth rate, water hyacinth is able to outcompete native aquatic plants by utilising the available nutrients in the water, and successfully competing for space and sunlight (Cilliers, 1991). Similarly *Lantana camara* L. as one of the most ubiquitous expansive alien land species, which was introduced to Calcutta Botanical Garden as an ornamental shrub during AD 1809–1810 (Thakur *et al.* 1992; Kannan *et al.* 2013), is spreading fast all over the district due to its better competitive ability and allelopathic effect (Gentle & Duggin 1997; Hiremath and Sundaram 2005; Sundaram and Hiremath 2012). Previously, studies of Iyengar (1933) on forest ranges in North Salem, southern India reported a range of spread at the rate of 600–1,280 ha per year. Hakimuddin (1930) reported a range of spread at the rate of more than 2 km/year between 1911 and 1930 in the Himalayan foothills. Similarly, Sharma *et al.* (2005) and Love *et al.* (2009) have drawn attention to the rapid spread of *Lantana* throughout India. Prasad (2012) noted the rapid spreading of *Lantana camara* in Bandipur Tiger Reserve in southern India and concluded that it suppressed grass cover and indigenous tree sapling density. Recently, Kannan *et al.* (2013a) stated that the Western Ghats and Eastern Himalayas are highly infested by at least one of these three expansive alien plants i.e. *Lantana camara*, *Mikania micrantha* and *Parthenium hysterophorus*, and their spread and negative impacts are increasing. The perennial *Mikania micrantha* Kunth. which is a fast growing species, is covering the habitats of the district and suppressing the growth of agricultural crops as well as natural vegetation through competition and allelopathic effects (Sankaran and Srinivasan 2001; Huang *et al.* 2009). An example of an accidentally introduced species that has become expansive is *Parthenium hysterophorus* L., a dominant weed of the study area, especially wastelands, roadsides, railway tracks and foot paths. This noxious weed

is an aggressive colonizer spreading rapidly suppressing native herbaceous flora. This weed is reported to be allergenic causing respiratory problems, dermatitis and asthma (Raghubanshi *et al.*, 2005). The method of control of expansive alien species in the present study is manual removal. This method is still practiced in developing countries (Julien *et al.*, 1999). Moreover, this method of control is effective only for small infestations, as it is labour-intensive and offers only a short-term solution because the long-lived seeds are able to germinate and hence reinflux occurs rapidly (Kannan *et al.*, 2013a).

Conclusion

As a final remark, it would suffice to say that from the earlier descriptions of negative impacts in other ecosystems, and the observation of the proliferation of expansive alien species within this district, it appears that these species may significantly alter the functioning of ecosystems here. These expansive alien species are spreading rapidly thereby exerting considerable pressure on local plant diversity. Since the expansive alien species have strong adaptability, they may replace the native species in the district. There is a major need to reconcile taxonomists, ecologists and environmental scientists for early and detailed detection as well as developing some effective control measures to eradicate the problems created by the expansive alien flora in the district.

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