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Department of Botany.

* Visit Report T.Y. Bsc *

KAAS PATHAR TOUR REPORT

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Patil
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Internal Examiner

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गणतंत्रिका

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As per university curriculum a study tour is compulsory for T.Y. Bsc. student to study plant diversity process. So our department organize visit to Gadchiroli Kas pathar (). During visit we get to study process of plant diversity as well as the variety of plants and flowers.

Introduction

Western Ghat

Western Ghat - India

Country \approx 1600 km N-S.

Length \approx 100 km - E-W.

Width \approx Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu.

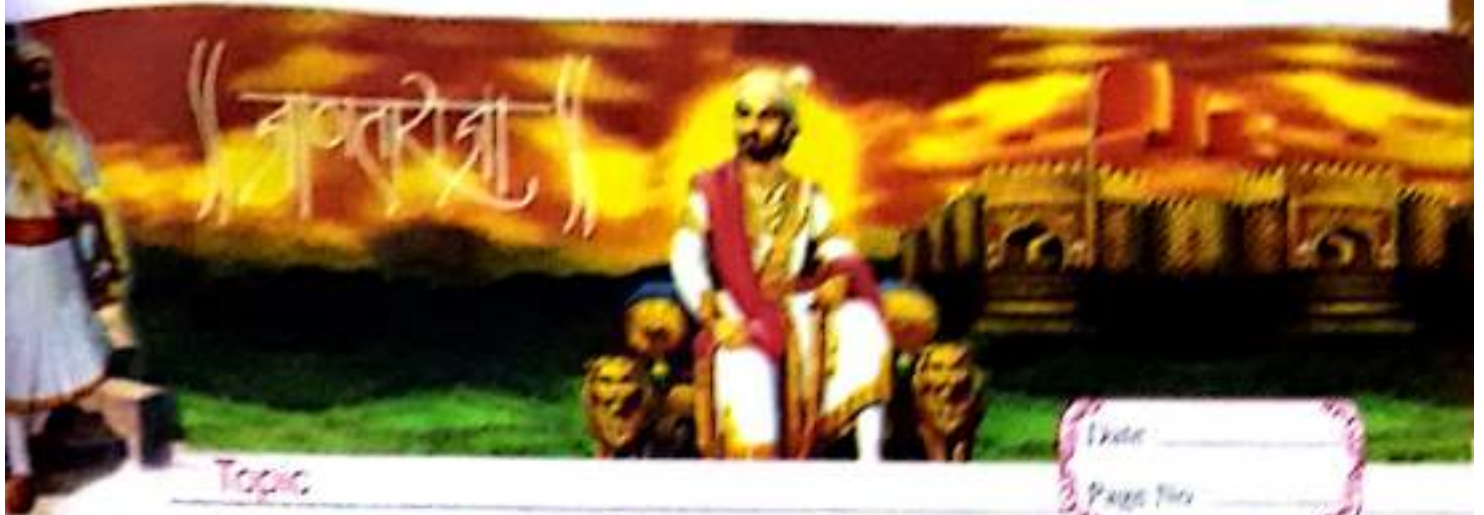
States \approx Basalt, Latesite

Geology \approx

The western Ghats are not true mountains, but are the faulted edge of the Deccan plateau. They are believed to have been formed during the break-up of the super continent Gondwana some 160 million years ago.

A huge eruption of some 65 million years ago is thought to have laid down the Deccan Traps, a vast belt of basalt lava that covers part of central India.

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Basalt is the predominant rock found in the hills reaching depth of 3km (2mi). The climate is humid & tropical in the lower reaches tempered by the proximity to the sea. Elevation of 1,500 m (4,921 ft) & above in the north & 2,000 m (6,562 ft) & above in south have a more temperate climate.

The heavy eastward-moving rain-bearing clouds are forced to rise & in the process it deposit most of their rain on the windward side.

The forest in the western ghats has been severely fragmented due to human activities, especially clear felling for tea, coffee & teak plantation during 1800 to 1950. The area is ecologically sensitive to the development and was declared an ecological hotspot in 1988 through the efforts of ecologist

Norman Myers. Though this area covers barely five percent of India land 27% of all species of higher plants in India found here.

The range is home to at least 84 amphibian species 16 third species, seven mammals and 1720 flowering plants which are Endemic, not found else where in the world.





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Soil Type of plateau

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Laterite Soil.

Laterite soil is formed by weathering of rocks like sandstone, clays, limestone, schists and igneous rocks like granites and basalt.

Laterite formation is due to repetition of dry and wet seasons.

Laterite soil is rich in aluminum & iron. The soil with abundant laterite is called bauxite.

Laterite soil is rich in aluminum & iron. The soil with abundant laterite is called bauxite.

Laterite soil is poor in lime hence it acidic.

Laterite soils are red due to presence of iron oxide.

Laterite soil found on high level plateaus & hilly areas which receives heavy rainfall.

Laterite rocks of high level are porous & least retentive of moisture.

The pH ranges from 5.5 to 6.5





Topic **KAAS PLATEAU.**

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The western Ghats is globally recognised as a region of immense global imp. for the conservation of biological diversity. In Maharashtra 70% plant species are found on plateau only. The Kaas plateau is one of the imp. plateau in Sahyadri ranges of western Ghats located in Satara district of Maharashtra.

The floristic pattern of Kaas plateau differs due to diff. factors like rainfall temp. humidity, type of soil, topography & microclimate.

Kaas plateau has a status of being the "plateau of flowers". It includes in the main range of Sahyadri. It is in full bloom during the monsoon season. It is interesting locatⁿ to watch herbaceous flora at post monsoon season. It includes herbs, shrubs, climber, bulbous, tuberous, saprophytic, parasitic epiphytic orchids. Kaas plateau is rich in biodiversity.

Total area is 1792 Ha & high degree of endemism. This area is included in the world Natural Heritage site. There are about 47 threatened species are found on plateau. The major portion of the plateau is of reserved forests. It contains the forest are a from village Kas, Akiv, Andhari, phalant, Atal, sawali.



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Geographical Information!

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Location = 25 km west to satara city.

Latitude = $17^{\circ} 42'$ to $17^{\circ} 45'$

Longitude = $73^{\circ} 47'$ to $73^{\circ} 56'$

Forest = Semi evergreen moist mixed deciduous

Area = 1792 hectares

Altitude = 1213 meters ASL

Soil type = Lateritic.

Temp = 10° to 30° Av.

Humidity = medium.

Rainfall = 3000 to 3500 mm Av.

Observed flowers of kaas Plateau.

- ① Aponogeton satwarensis वासुताकि-
- ② Paracoryopsis coelestina निरुपी
- ③ Peperomia densa
- ④ Murelannia simplex निरुपी
- ⑤ Habenaria rariflora
- ⑥ Vigna vexillata - हागुडी

Prism