



## MOSSES OF BHIMASHANKAR (SAHYADRIC REGION), INDIA

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In a first consolidated record of mosses of Bhimashankar Wild Life Sanctuary in the Sahyadric region, fourteen mosses have been collected. These are: *Hyophila involuta* (Hook.) Jaeg., *Anomobryum auratum* (Mitt.) Jaeg., *Bryum argenteum* Hedw., *B. capillare* L. ex. Hedw., *B. cellulare* Hook., *B. wightii* Mitt., *Levieralla fabroniacea* C. Muell., *Diaphanodon procumbens* C. Muell., *Entodon laetus* (Griff.) Jaeg., *Stereophyllum ligulatum* Jaeg., *Pterobryopsis accuminata* (Hook.) Fleisch., *Fissidens bryoides* Hedw., *F. xiphoides* Fleisch. and *F. schimidii* C. Muell.

**Key words :** Mosses, Bhimashankar, Sahyadric region.

Bhimashankar Wild Life Sanctuary is one of the highest places in the Sahyadric region and is about 128 kms away from Pune. It is situated in the main Sahyadric range and over 769m altitude. Bhimashankar region is gazetted as a reserved forest. The area is densely forested with majestic towering trees festooned with numerous perennial creepers (lianas) and is richer in fauna as compared to the rest of peninsular India. Evergreen forest comprising *Dimorphocalyx lawianus* Hook.f., *Mangifera indica* L., *Olea dioica* Roxb., *Syzygium cumini*(L.)Skeels., *Dimocarpus longon* Lour., *Holigarna grahammii* Hook.f. and *Turpinia martabanica* Wall., *Carrissa carandus* L. are present.

Due to high rainfall and humidity, Bhimashankar is the richest spot of angiospermic vegetation in general and bryophytes in particular. Trees and forest-floor are densely covered with moss vegetation. The authors have collected 14 species of mosses from various parts of Bhimashankar. Study of the available literature shows that there are no reports of mosses of Sahyadric region so far. (Chopra 1975, Gangulee 1980, Dabhade 1998)

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Mosses were collected from Bhimashankar Wild Life Sanctuary in the month of September, October 2003-2004. Identification was done with the help of available literature (Chopra 1975; Gangulee 1969-1980, 1985, Chaudhary and Deora, 1993, Dabhade, 1998). Specimens were placed in FAA and habit, habitat were noted. Specimens are deposited in the Herbarium Department of Botany, M.L. Sukhadia University, Udaipur.

### Results and Discussion

*Hyophila involuta* (Hook.) Jaeg.,

Herb. Acc. No-3006.

Plants grow on the moist soil and on walls.

**Distribution:** Cosmopolitan.

*Anomobryum auratum* (Mitt.) Jaeg.

Herb. Acc. No-3016.

Plants grow on tree -trunk and on moist soil.

**Distribution:** Kashmir, Mussoorie, Garhwal, Ranikhet, Sikkim, Darjeeling, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Mahabaleshwar, Tamil Nadu, Palni hills, Nilgiri, Pakistan, east Nepal Sri Lanka, Thailand, Korea, Japan, China, Phillipines, New Guinea, Tanzania, Kenya, Madagascar, North America, Australia.

*Bryum argenteum* Hedw.

Herb. Acc. No-3019.

Plants grow on moist soil.

**Distribution :** Kashmir, Uttranchal, Mussoorie,

Garhwal, Ranikhet, W.Bengal, Darjeeling, Sikkim, Rajasthan, South India, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Siberia, Korea, Japan, China, Phillipines, Java, North, Central and South America, Australia, New Zealand.

*Bryum capillare* L. ex Hedw.

Herb. Acc. No-3043.

Epiphytes.

**Distribution:** Kashmir, Uttranchal, Mussoorie, Garhwal, Ranikhet, W.Bengal, Darjeeling, Sikkim, Rajasthan, south India, China, Western Tibet, Thailand, North Vietnam, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, Central Asia, Europe, Caucasus Siberia, North and Central Africa, entire North and South America, Australia, New Zealand.

*Bryum cellulare* Hook.

Herb. Acc. No-3047.

Plants grow on moist rock.

**Distribution:**Western Himalaya, Rajasthan, Eastern China, Mynamar, Sumatra, Java, Bali, Phillipines, Taiwan, , Europe, North and Central Africa, Australia.

*Bryum wightii* Mitt.

Herb. Acc. No-3071.

Epiphytes.

**Distribution:**Maharashtra,Mahabaleshwar,Tamil Nadu, Nilgiri hills, Palni hills, Sri Lanka, Malaysia.

*Levirealla fabroniaceae* C. Muell.

Herb. Acc. No-3055.

Epiphytes.

**Distribution:** Western Himalaya, Uttranchal, Mussoorie, Ranikhet, Uttar Pradesh, Darjeeling, Rajasthan, east Madhya Pradesh, Western Ghats, east Nepal, Setschwan, Africa-Abyssinia, Transvaal.

*Diaphanodon procumbens* (C. Muell.) Ren. & Card.

Herb. Acc. No-3114.

Epiphytes.

**Distribution:** west Himalaya, eastern Himalaya,

Maharashtra, Mahabaleshwar, Khandala, Kasara ghat, Tamil Nadu,Ooty, and also in south-east Asian tropical countries.

*Entoden laetus* (Griff.) Jaeg.

Herb. Acc. No-3020.

Epiphytes.

**Distribution:** eastern Himalaya, W. Bengal, Darjeeling, Assam, Khasia hills, Maharashtra,Mahabaleshwar, Bhutan, east Nepal.

*Stereophyllum ligulatum* Jaeg.

Herb. Acc. No-3021.

Epiphytes.

**Distribution:**Endemic in Peninsular India, Chhota Nagpur(Border areas of south Bihar,M.P., Bengal and Orrisa), Western Ghat (Pune), Palni Hills.

*Pterobryopsis acuminata* (Hook.) Fleisch.

Herb. Acc. No-3102.

Epiphytes.

**Distribution:**Endemic in the Indo-Mynamar region, east Nepal, Sikkim, Assam,Khasia hills, Tamil Nadu, Nilgiri.

*Fissidens bryoides* Hedw.

Herb. Acc. No-3045.

Epiphytes, also on moist soil.

**Distribution:**Western Himalayas, Rajasthan, South India, Sri Lanka, Java, Phillipines, Japan, Taiwan, China, Europe, Caucasus, Siberia, North and Central Africa, North and South America.

*Fissidens xiphioides* Fleisch.

Herb. Acc. No-3046.

Plants grow on moist soil .

**Distribution:** Western Himalaya,Himmachal Predesh,Simla,Uttranchal,Nainital, Lower Bengal Plains South India , Andaman Island, east Nepal, Lower Mynamar, Java, Phillipines.

*Fissidens schmidii* C. Muell.

Herb. Acc. No-3054.

Plants grow on moist soil and rocks.

**Distribution:** western Himalaya, Assam, West Bengal, Darjeeling, Assam, ChhotaNagpur(Border areas of south Bihar, M.P., W.Bengal and Orrisa), Maharashtra,Khandala,South India (Nilgiri, Palni, Mangalore), east Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malay, Phillippines, Japan, Central Africa.

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