

**SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL VARIATIONS IN FLORAL VISITORS OF A  
MANGROVE SPECIES - *AEGICERAS CORNICULATUM* (L.) BLANCO – IN THE  
MARINE NATIONAL PARK, GUJARAT, INDIA**

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**ABSTRACT**

The floral visitors of mangroves are remarkably diverse to circumvent the specialized pollination system. Therefore, mangrove species are expected to have spatial and temporal variations in term of their floral visitors. However, it has not yet examined for Indian mangrove populations. The present work aims at to examine the spatial and temporal variations in floral visitors of a mangrove species - *A. corniculatum*- in the Marina National Park, Gulf of Kachchh, Gujarat, India. Three populations of *A. corniculatum* i.e. Patthapir island, Pirotan island and Sanada island were examined during February – March 2008 for the major floral visitors. Based on the observed frequency of floral visitors, they were categorized into major and minor floral visitors. A total of nine groups of floral visitors were reported out of which seven were found as major floral visitors i.e. birds, honey bees, bumblebees, moths, ants, mosquitoes and butterflies in the study area which reflects the generalized pollination system of this species. In addition, the species has shown spatial and temporal variations in the occurrence of major floral visitors. Further, major diurnal and nocturnal floral visitors also differ among the population. Considering all the three populations, a total of 21 species of major floral visitors - of the seven groups - have been found in the study area. The conservation of these 21 species of floral visitors would be necessary for the long term conservation of *A. corniculatum* in the Marine National Park, Gujarat, India.

**KEYWORDS:** *A. corniculatum*, Mangrove Species, Marine National Park