DIVERSITY AND GUILD STRUCTURE OF SPIDER FAUNA AT SAWANGA-VITHOBA LAKE (MALKHED PROJECT) AREA IN POHARA FOREST DIST AMRAVATI, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The order Aranae deserves a special place in the study of ecology as it acts as a biological indicator. The objectives of the present study were to explore the diversity and characteristics of spider families. The study was conducted at Sawanga-Vithoba lake (Malkhed Project) district Amravati, Maharashtra India. In this study, by observing the diversity of Spiders (Class Arachnida, phylum Arthropoda), efforts were made to evaluate the status of ecosystem of Sawanga-Vithoba Lake (Malkhed Project) district Amravati, Maharashtra. In total 42 species of spiders belonging to 14 families were observed. Araneidae was the most represented family with 15 species. Area surrounding Sawanga-Vithoba lake (Malkhed Project) Dist Amravati, Maharashtra, India represents 23.72 % of the total families recorded in India. The high species diversity of spiders in Sawanga-Vithoba lake region can be attributed to the high diversity of plants and insects. In totality, five different guilds of spiders were observed. 54% of spiders were orb web builders, 24% were foliage runner. Ground runner and Ambusers were 8%, while scattered line weaver were 6%. Sawanga-Vithoba lake region could be an important centre of speciation in Pohara forest of tahsil chandur railway dist Amravati. This is the first report of the spider fauna from Sawanga-Vithoba lake region.

KEYWORDS: Aranae, Sawanga-Vithoba Lake, spider diversity, Malkhed Project, Araneidae