a. General Note:

urnool district derives its name from its chief town, urnool, the capital of the district and at present the headquarters of the district. It is also known as "back-way or awayalanala". etymologically,urnool is a corruption of wanenavolu, the telugu name by which it is referred to in the literature of the past.

b. Historical Note:

The old urnool district is one of four districts, viz., Anantnar, Sellary, Suddesh and urnool what were once known as the "coded districts" because they were transferred from the kingdom of mysore to the nizam after the war in 1800 and afterwards made over to the British government in lieu of money payment. (Hooker and Thomson, Flora India, p. 135, 1855).

The district at present consists of thirteen taluks, viz., Adoni, Allajadda, Alur, Ananthur, Sannajampalli, Phone, Rodunar, Raitkunta, urnool, Sadinoseur, Sanyal, Cattisonda, and Kelligerur. Adoni and Alur taluks were part of sellary district (now in Karnataka) before 1993 when
the State of Andhra was established these two taluks were transferred to the Kurnool district. In 1976 when Prakasam district was demarcated, Vempawar and Peddapur taluks were separated from Kurnool district and were included in Prakasam district.

Reasons for undertaking the present work and its importance:

From time immemorial plants and plant products have been used by human beings for their food, shelter, clothing, treatment and control of their diseases. Many medicinal plants occurring in India have yet to be subjected to rigorous chemical screening and pharmacological investigation.

An important prerequisite for proper utilization of raw materials of the country is the survey of its natural resources and the preparation of an inventory. The importance of survey of plant resources had been emphasized by Jain (1978, who says "After independence our planners realized that in an agricultural country like India where the flora is so varied and rich, a proper census of the flora of the country and its evaluation for economic exploitation is very important. While emphasizing the importance of floristic work Ramanchandran (1978) says "the importance of survey, exploration and exploitation of the floral wealth"
of the country needs to be reiterated because of its obvious significance in the country's overall socio-economic and cultural development. It is necessary that we should have full knowledge regarding the occurrence, frequency, distribution and phenology of various plants for their proper utilization.

Kurnool can be broadly divided into three areas, the Nallamalais, the Yerramalais and the plains. Although Nallamalais have been explored by Ellis, it is comparatively small in area. Major portion of the district, i.e., the Yerramalais and the plains have not been explored earlier either by botanical survey of India personnel or by earlier workers. District is a unit for all developmental activities and there is no comprehensive district flora and even the district as a whole has not been explored properly. The importance of district flora has been emphasized by a number of experts in various fields. Jain (1973) has pointed out that the district florae will be useful as local identification manuals and in several programmes of rural development and cottage industries.

Such a precise data for the district, Kurnool has so far not been worked out and with the present policy of conservation, protection and utilization of forest plant...
resources and subsequently development and a list of tribal and rural areas, such a detailed data at district level is all the more an urgent need.

Hence the present work has been undertaken to investigate the plants of Surnool district and to collect data on known and unknown uses of plants for proper utilization of plant resources of the district.