

CHAPTER IX

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The knowledge on the flora of Yavatmal district is little or next to nil. A floristic account worth the name for the area is yet to appear. Hence an attempt has been made to compile a flora for the district. As already noted a total of 577 species, 1 subspecies and 1 variety comprising 365 genera and 98 families have been collected.

It is expected that with the help of such information meaningful efforts can be made to exploit the natural resources to the betterment and upliftment of the rural population, the majority of which is languishing in poverty for want of employment. It is fervently hoped and desired that the public at large will be benefitted by getting to know about the vast potential of economic and medicinal plants which are still available in our vast depleting forest areas.

From the fundamental scientific point of view the flora of 'Vidarbha' of which Yavatmal district is one of the components - is also not known fully. So the floristic account of Yavatmal district will help to understand the floristics of 'Vidarbha' as a whole and consequently will help in compilation of the Maharashtra State Flora too.

It need not be overemphasised that no meaningful efforts can be made to fully utilise the plant resources without possessing data on their availability in any particular area. Hence, an up-to-date flora of Yavatmal district assumes importance.

It is sincerely hoped that the effort will be fruitful if such gaining of knowledge may awaken the people as well as Government and prevent them from wantonly destroying and vandalising the small areas under already shrinking natural forests with a short sighted view for a few gains which will prove counter-productive, highly expensive and fatal in the long run. We owe to the posterity to leave at least a small portion of virgin forests which is a legacy we have inherited from our ancestors.