

## A Note on Faunal Diversity as Noted on the Tree of *Moringa oleifera* in a House Garden at Bikaner, Rajasthan (India)

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**Received:** June 03, 2019; **Published:** June 21, 2019

*Moringa oleifera* Lam. commonly known as horse-radish or drumstick tree belongs to family Moringaceae. It is a deciduous tree and is one of the 14 species of genus *Moringa*, which is native to India, Africa, Arabia, Southeast Asia, the Pacific and Caribbean islands, and South America. The flowers and the fruits appear twice each year. Almost all the parts of *M. oleifera* are used for various ailments in the indigenous medicine of South Asia, including the treatment of diabetes, hypertension, inflammation and infectious diseases. Its leaves, pods and flowers are generally consumed for nourishment.

The present observations were taken in a house garden situated in the city of Bikaner (28°N latitude and 73°18'E longitudes), Rajasthan, India. These were noted during the month of February for one week.

One single tree of *Moringa* was found to be visited by twenty seven different faunal species as presented in Table 1. It seems that this tree has many properties which attract the faunal species to such an extent. Insects were attracted towards the flowers. The sunbird was noted to feed on flower nectar. Some of the birds like the parakeets were found to feed on the flowers as reported earlier by the author (Srivastava, 2019), while the squirrels were seen nibbling the fruits and seeds.

Sr. No.	Faunal Species
	<b>Insects</b>
1.	<i>Danaus chrysipus</i>
2.	<i>Pappilio</i> sp.
3.	<i>Vanessa</i> sp.
4.	Pierid butterfly
5.	<i>Xyllocopa</i> sp.
6.	<i>Vespa</i> sp.
7.	<i>Apis</i> sp.
8.	Ants
9.	Hemipteran bugs
10.	Mosquitoes
11.	Houseflies
	<b>Reptiles</b>
12.	Chameleon
	<b>Birds</b>
13.	Parakeets
14.	Sparrows

15.	Pigeons
16.	Doves
17.	House Crows
18.	Red vented bulbul
19.	White cheeked bulbul
20.	Sunbird
21.	Green Bee eater
22.	White breasted King fisher
23.	Long Tailed Pie
24.	Babblers
25.	Brown Rock chat
26.	Robin
	<b>Mammals</b>
27.	Squirrels

**Table 1:** Faunal species observed on the tree of *Moringa*.

Phytochemical analysis of extract has shown the presence of major classes of phytochemicals such as tannins, alkaloids, flavonoids, cardiac glycosides *etc.* The anti-inflammatory activity of plant extract was significant and comparable with the standard drug diclofenac sodium (Alhakmani et al. 2013). It could therefore be suggested that this tree of *M. oleifera* possesses some potent activity and also might be a good source of natural antioxidants, and therefore the flowers, fruits and seeds are consumed by various animal species. Long term studies are further required in this regard.

### Bibliography

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Volume 4 Issue 5 July 2019

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