

## LONG ECURSION TO DOOARS AND ADJOINING AREAS OF NORTH BENGAL, WEST BENGAL

This excursion is a trip away from college locality and made for educational purpose. The aim of long excursion is to study geographical peculiarities , biodiversity composition of a certain place. Dooars region of West Bengal is a complete package tour of plain land , hilly region and riverside ecosystem.

Dooars is the gateway of hilly region of North Bengal , Bhutan and famous for lushurous green vegetation and its tea garden.

Teachers : Dr. Sujita Datta Ghosh and Dr. Nandini Chakrabarti

Students : 17 students of 2<sup>nd</sup> year Botany Honours were participated in this excursion.

Place : Dooars and adjoining areas.

Date : 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.

### **Report of the excursion :**

**16<sup>th</sup> January, 2018** : We the two teachers and the students started from Kolkata station and reached Mal Bazar Station of North Bengal, West Bengal. After reaching there we started for forest resort by jeep.

Field study -- Aims of the field study:

1. It is a first-hand knowledge for a student to learn the basics of biodiversity.
2. To provide a general idea about a forest ecosystem bio-diversity and understanding its all aspects.

3. To study about various aspects of a particular forest habitat, its flora and fauna.
4. To study ethological aspects of local people and tribes.
5. To get an idea about the breeding season of the forest animals.

To have an idea about the conservatory measures of the protected area as it is conserved sanctuary.

**17<sup>th</sup> January, 2018** : We started for studying the local ecosystem and plant diversity near Mal Bazar, Murti river alongside at 10am after breakfast. The plants we studied on eyeview as collection by uprooting them was not our motive.

Some of the plants we studied –

1. *Shorea robusta* – It is the most valuable tree of Gorumara forest.
2. *Tectona grandis* – economically important plant.
3. *Quercus* sp.
4. *Swetenia mahagoni* .
5. *Albizia lebbeck* .
6. *Betula pendula* .

Different kinds of bamboo, cane etc.

Wild weeds – *Lantana camara* , *Crotalaria juncea*, *Bidens* sp., *Anapheles* sp., *Anisomeles* sp., *Costas* sp., *Erigeron bonariensis*, a lots of weeds from Asteraceae family and Poaceae family.

**18<sup>th</sup> January, 2018** : The forest visit – By bullock cart and jeep journey, we visited the Jaldapara and Gorumara forest in the morning and afternoon. We found one-horn Rhino, Asiatic Elephant, Gaur, Deer etc.. At

after-noon trip, we found Leopard, Deer, Pithon, King Cobra, Nilgai etc..

**19<sup>th</sup> January, 2018** : We went for site seeing the nearby places like Jhalong, Bindu, Suntaley khola, and the border of Bhutan. The scenery was very picture catching and nice to please our eyes, memorable also. We visited a tea processing factory, rubber and coffee plantation areas also.

The flora includes different kind of Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms and Bryophytes. Among Gymnosperms – *Pinus* sp., *Araucaria* sp. etc., Pteridophytes – *Selaginella*, *Equisetum*, etc., Bryophytes are *Marchantia*, *Dumortiera*, *Funaria*, *Pogonatum* etc.. Lichens of crustose and fruticose types were also available and different kinds of epiphytes.

**20<sup>th</sup> January, 2018** : Eastern Himalaya in the North-Eastern India is famous for its lushgreen tea gardens, dense forests, wild life sanctuaries and beautiful rivers. We visited Chilapata forest on this day and nearby tea garden, a tribal fair and local market also. At night we enjoyed campfire and tribal dance with local food momos.

**21<sup>st</sup> January, 2018** : We started for home from New Jalpaiguri station and reached at Sealdah station, Kolkata on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2018.

We ended our long excursion on a happy note.



Coffee plantation



*Cycas* sp.



*Selaginella* sp.



Rubber plantation



Students and teachers during excursion



Tea garden visit by our students

