RESEARCH ARTICLE

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES IN URBAN ECOSYSTEM OF SARGUJA

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Abstract: Biological diversity faces many threats throughout the world. One of the major threats to the native diversity is biological invasions, caused by the invasive alien species (IAS). These are the non-native species that are introduced in areas outside their natural habitat where they grow, survive, reproduce and produce self sustaining populations causing direct and indirect health effects. The effects are exacerbated by global climate change and chemical and physical disturbance to species and ecosystems. Change in climate may also produce more conducive conditions for the establishment and spread of invasive species as well as change the suitability of local climate for native species and nature of interactions among native species. The present study was undertaken to record the invasive alien species of Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh. The dominant invasive species mainly comprised of *Lantana camara*, *Parthenium hysterophorus*, *Cassia tora*, *Cyperus spp.*, *Ipomoea carnea* etc. *Parthenium* and *Lantana* were found to be most frequent species ouuuring in the region. The ecological diversity of invasive plants suggests wide ranging impacts which needs to be assessed.

Keywords: Biological diversity, Ecosystems, Habitat, IAS, Native species

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