

LEAF PHYSIOGNOMIC ANALYSES OF AVAILABLE SPECIES OF *AVICENNIA* L. IN INDIAN SUNDARBANS FOR USING AS TAXONOMIC TOOL

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Abstract: Leaf physiognomic analyses with both macro and micro morphological traits of three species of *Avicennia* namely, *A. alba* Blume, *A. marina* (Forsk.) Vierh, and *A. officinalis* L. have been done to identify the variability among them. A wide range of variations in leaf shape, length, apex, base, texture, venation pattern, epidermal cell type, stomatal cell type, stomatal frequency and stomatal index are observed in the studied species which might be used as taxonomic tool. Moreover, the detailed micro morphological features as revealed through present study are new observations which will enrich the existing database on leaf morphology of *Avicennia*.

Keywords: *A. alba*, *A. marina*, *A. officinalis*, Micro morphology, Identification

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