

Report On the Study Tour Conducted By the Department of Botany to the Dooars on December 2023

Date of the Tour: 9th-13th December, 2023

Place: Dooars with Neora Valley National Park

Participants: A total of 18 students (Jointly organized by the Department of Zoology and Botany) and 4 faculty members.

Objective: The objectives of this educational tour for the Botany department at Durgapur Women's College could include:

- **Field Study:** To provide students with hands-on experience in observing and studying plant species in their natural habitats, allowing them to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world situations.
- **Biodiversity Exploration:** To explore different ecosystems, such as forests or grasslands, to understand the diversity of plant life and its ecological significance.
- **Conservation Awareness:** To raise awareness about the importance of conserving plant species and their habitats, highlighting conservation efforts and challenges faced in preserving biodiversity.
- **Practical Skills Development:** To develop practical skills such as plant identification, data collection, and fieldwork techniques, which are essential for a career in botany or related fields.

These objectives can help enhance the learning experience of students in the Botany department by providing them with a holistic understanding of plants and their significance in the natural world.

Short Description:

Lava is located in the state of West Bengal, India. Lava is a small hamlet situated at an altitude of about 2,360 meters (7,740 feet) in the Darjeeling district, known for its pristine natural beauty and serene environment. It is surrounded by lush green forests and offers breathtaking views of the majestic Himalayan peaks, making it a popular destination for nature lovers and trekkers.

Neora Valley National Park, adjacent to Lava, is a protected area known for its rich biodiversity and unique ecosystems. It is home to a variety of flora and fauna, including rare and endangered species such as the red panda, clouded leopard, and Himalayan black bear. The park is characterized by dense forests, gushing rivers, and cascading waterfalls, making it an ideal habitat for diverse wildlife.

Both Lava and Neora Valley National Park offer opportunities for eco-tourism, trekking, bird watching, and nature walks, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the natural wonders of the region. The area is also known for its cultural heritage, with several ethnic communities residing in the vicinity, adding to its charm and appeal. In the park's diverse range of habitats, including forests, streams, and higher altitudes, one can expect to find a variety of bryophytes and pteridophytes. These plants play important ecological roles, such as providing habitat for other organisms, contributing to soil formation, and participating in nutrient cycling. Bryophytes and pteridophytes, which include mosses, liverworts, hornworts, ferns, and their allies, are likely to be found in Lava and Neora Valley National Park due to the

region's favorable climatic and ecological conditions. Both bryophytes and pteridophytes are known for their ability to thrive in moist and shaded environments, which are characteristic of the park's ecosystems. Given the park's rich biodiversity and status as a protected area, it is likely that efforts are being made to document and conserve the bryophytes and pteridophytes found within its boundaries.

Some of the prominent flora found in Neora Valley National Park includes:

- Rhododendrons: The park is known for its spectacular displays of rhododendron flowers during the blooming season. These colorful flowers add vibrancy to the park's landscape.
- Orchids: Neora Valley is home to numerous species of orchids, known for their exotic beauty and diversity. Orchid enthusiasts can find a wide variety of these delicate flowers in the park.
- Bamboo: The park is characterized by dense bamboo groves, which are an important component of the ecosystem and provide habitat for various wildlife species.
- Oak and Chestnut Trees: The higher altitudes of the park are dominated by oak and chestnut trees, which contribute to the park's lush, forested areas.
- Alpine Flora: As the park encompasses a wide range of altitudes, it is also home to alpine flora adapted to higher elevations, including various species of mosses, lichens, and high-altitude shrubs.
- Medicinal Plants: Neora Valley National Park is known to harbor a variety of medicinal plants that are used by local communities for traditional healthcare practices.

The flora of Neora Valley National Park contributes to its ecological significance and makes it an important area for conservation efforts to protect the diverse plant species and their habitats.

LIST OF STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDY TOUR

SL NO.	NAME OF THE STUDENTS	SEMESTER
1	BARSHA DAS	3 RD PROGRAM
2	ANKITA BISWAS	3 RD GENERIC
3	MADHURI KUMAR	3 RD GENERIC
4	MUSKAN SINGH	3 RD GENERIC
5	SHREYASHREE BISWAS	3 RD GENERIC

LIST OF FACULTY MEMBERS WHO ACCOMPANIED THE STUDENTS ON THE STUDY TOUR

SL NO.	NAME OF THE FACULTY MEMBERS
1	DR. LILY PAL
2	DR. RAMANSU GOSWAMI
3	DR. SAUBHIK MITRA
4	MS. SHIULI CHAKRABORTY

PHOTOGRAPHS:



Some Photographs of the Study Tour



At Neora Valley National Park



At Neora Valley National Park



Purubisa Pradhan Nursery, Kalimpong