

**Report on**  
**Field study at Merbil and Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary**

**By Department of Botany for the Session: 2021-22**

The department of Botany under the headship of Dr. Jayanta Sonowal along with departmental colleague Dr. Urmika Phangchopi, laboratory bearer Mr. Diganta Buragohain and 12 numbers of 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> semester student visited **Merbil Eco-tourism park and Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary** for a one day field study tour which was the part of CBCS degree syllabus on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022 to study the vegetation along with endemic and common plant species of the Eco park and the sanctuary.

We would like to thank to the principal, Namrup College Dr. Durga Prasad Gogoi for giving us permission to make the study tour and also for giving us financial assistance of Rs. 4,000/- only from college fund for the purpose.

The Merbil eco-tourism park is one of the natural oxbow lake located under Naharkatia division and Dehing Patkai wildlife sanctuary is located in the Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam and covers an area of 231.65 km<sup>2</sup> which is about 20 kms away from Namrup College.

We started our journey at 8:00 am in the morning from the college campus and reached the eco-park at 9:00 am. After having breakfast we continued for the vegetation study by exploring the lake and collected voucher specimens at the same time. We were guided by a guard during the short exploratory journey. The natural lake is very rich in aquatic flora and fauna which make up a distinct ecological habitat in the area by acting as watershed. The study documented 89 numbers of angiosperm species. The vegetation is dominated by grasses and sedges which remain floating by their extensive root system, along with other free floating and submerged species. The lake also receive regular visitors such as water fowls and other aquatic birds either for food or nesting.

Our team back from the Merbil eco-tourism park by around 12:30 pm and took launch at Naharkatia in Bhojanalay Hotel.

Next our team headed to Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary to study the vegetation and some common species of the sanctuary. As the forest type of the sanctuary fall under the forest classification **wet tropical evergreen forest** i.e. **rainforest**, four types of canopy were observed with rich diversity of tree, herb, shrub and climber. The study documented 101

species of orchids under 45 genera, among them 79 species are epiphyte, 21 terrestrial and 1 saprophyte; eight critically endangered, 5 near threatened and 28 vulnerable species. The sanctuary has many wetland areas which provide habitat to many aquatic flora and fauna. The sanctuary also rich in natural resources which provide subsistence and livelihood to the fringe people.

By 4:30 pm our team returned from the sanctuary and reached the Namrup College by 5:15 pm. The tour was quite fruitful and successful from the point of the purpose of our visit.

Report prepared by



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