

# Diversity and Species Composition of Mangroves in Rajpuri Creek of Raigad, Maharashtra, India.

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**Abstract:** *The Rajpuri Creek, located in Raigad, Maharashtra, represents a diverse and ecologically significant mangrove ecosystem. This study investigates the species composition, distribution, and diversity of mangroves in the creek through a comprehensive analysis of ten selected sites. Using quadrat analysis and diversity indices such as Margalef's index of richness, Shannon-Weaver diversity index, and Simpson's index of dominance, we assessed species richness and dominance. A total of 10 mangrove species belonging to seven families were identified, with the families Avicenniaceae, Sonneratiaceae, and Rhizophoraceae contributing significantly to the diversity. The uneven distribution of these species highlights the environmental heterogeneity across the creek. The study emphasizes the importance of these mangroves in maintaining ecological balance and provides insight into their conservation status in light of ongoing global environmental changes.*

**Keywords:** Mangrove diversity, Rajpuri Creek, species composition, quadrat analysis, Avicenniaceae, Sonneratiaceae, Rhizophoraceae, ecological balance, conservation

