ASSESSMENT OF ANTS (HYMENOPTERA-FORMICIDAE) SPECIES DIVERSITY AND COMPOSITION IN VSK UNIVERSITY CAMPUS BALLARI, KARNATAKA

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ABSTRACT

The research on biodiversity and species composition of Ants was carried out in Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University campus, Ballari from October 2017 to March 2018. Twenty one species of ants, collected from different locations in university belonged to 21 genera and five subfamilies. Maximum species (Eight) belonged to Myrmicinae and Formicinae families followed by Dolichoderinae (three species), Psuedomyrmicinae (one) and Ponerinae families (one). The present study was carried out to yield valuable information on availability of ants in campus. The number of species in these subfamilies indicates suitability of habitat along with their foraging pattern. Minimum species representation from Psuedomyrmicinae and Ponerinae indicate the fragmented habitat or altered topographical features.

Key words: Biodiversity, Ants, Myrmicinae, Formicinae, Dolichoderinae Psuedomyrmicinae, Ponerinae