

Original Research Article

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**Mushroom Diversity of the Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra (GKVK) Campus,  
University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka (India)**

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The GKVK campus is located in the northern part of Bangalore, Karnataka (India) comprising 1380 acres land area receives ~994.5 mm average rain fall and receives fairly good rain during monsoon. The climatic condition and soil are congenial for growth and development of different species of mushrooms. A variety of mushrooms belong edible, poisonous and medicinal species can be seen during rainy season. In this study, twenty one different mushroom species were collected during rainy season (July to October, 2014) and identified by Internal Transcribed Sequence (ITS) homology. Amongst 21 species, four species were edible, two species were medicinal and fifteen species were non edible/poisonous. This study unraveled the abundance of the mushrooms in the campus.

**Introduction**

Mushroom growing wild are picked up and eaten by mankind from time immemorial. The ancient Romans regarded mushrooms as “Food of the Gods”; the Egyptians considered as “a gift from the God Osiris”; while the Chinese viewed them as “the elixir of life”. Thus, mushrooms were famed due to their taste, delicacy, flavour and nutritional quality. There are about 69 thousand known mushroom species of which 2000 species are regarded as prime edible mushrooms. But, a few species are being cultivated commercially around the world (Chang and miles, 2004). Mushrooms can grow in almost all types of soil, on decaying organic matter, wood stumps, termite nests etc. Majority of mushrooms are saprophytes and some are

associated with plant roots which are referred to as mycorrhizal mushrooms (Hall *et al.*, 2003). Mushrooms emanate well at relative humidity levels around 95-100%, and substrate moisture levels at 50 to 75% (Mahajan *et al.*, 2008). Since, mushrooms are ephemeral in nature; their documentation needs constant survey and collection during appropriate seasons. The life cycle of mushroom starts with germination of spore that produces a primary mycelium. This mycelium continues to grow in branches and forms mycelial network. When two sexually complementary hyphal network intercepts one another and make contact, the resulting mycelium formed is dikaryotic (Brown and

Casselton, 2001). This mycelium is fertile and capable of producing fruit bodies.

Characterization of mushroom species requires basic knowledge on the structure of the fungi. The Phenotypic characters used for identification of mushroom species are shape, size, texture, colour and odour of the fruiting body (Arora, 1986). However, in recent years, molecular tools well supported the mushroom taxonomy. Molecular markers, particularly DNA based techniques are quick and reliable to establish identities of wild mushrooms. The Internal Transcribed Spacer (ITS) region/ 18S rRNA gene sequence are the most widely used techniques in molecular phylogenetics of mushroom as these sequences are conserved irrespective of life history and evolution (Rajaratnam and Thiagarajan, 2012).

The GKVK Campus of the University of Agricultural sciences (UAS), Bangalore covering 1380 acres land area is located in the Northern part of Bangalore between Latitude: 13° 05' North and Longitude: 77° 34' East and Altitude: 924m (above mean sea level). The maximum and minimum temperature was about 29.6 and 18.5 °C respectively. The GKVK campus is considered as one of the greenest areas in Bangalore. As the campus spread in the large area which harbors many kinds of the mushrooms species, it is important to explore the diversity of the mushrooms. Therefore, we intended to unravel the mushroom diversity of the campus during rainy season during the year 2014.

## **Materials and Methods**

### **Collection of mushrooms**

Mushroom hunting was started from July 2014. Mushrooms were collected in paper bags as and when appeared during rainy

season till the end of October 2014. While collecting the mushroom fruit body's field characters were recorded. Then the samples were labeled as GKVK-1 to GKVK-21.

### **DNA extraction and amplification**

The genomic DNA from the cap tissue of the mushroom fungus was extracted by modified Cetyl Trimethyl Ammonium Bromide (CTAB) lysis method (Doyle and Doyle, 1987). Dried tissue (0.2 g) of the mushroom sample was ground into fine powder using liquid nitrogen and transferred into extraction buffer containing CTAB and incubated at 65 °C for 45 minutes. After incubation the tubes were centrifuged at 10,000rpm for 10 minutes. The clear supernatant was transferred into a fresh centrifuge tube and equal volume of chloroform; Iso-amyl alcohol (24:1 V/V) was added and mixed by inverting the tubes. These tubes were centrifuged at 10000 rpm for 10 minutes. The DNA was precipitated by adding 0.6 volumes of chilled Isopropanol and centrifuged after 20 minutes. The pellet was washed with 70 % ethanol, air dried and dissolved in Tris-EDTA (10:1) buffer. The DNA thus extracted was checked for purity as well as concentration using Nano drop (Eppendorf).

The DNA was PCR amplified in a 40 µl reaction mixture containing 4.0 µl of 10 X PCR Taq. buffer, 4.0 µl of 10 mM dNTP's mix, 2.0 µl of ITS primers, 0.6 µl of Taq. DNA Polymerase, 2.0 µl of template DNA, 27.4 µl of sterile distilled water. The PCR was carried out in a Thermal Cycler (Astec PC818) programmed as follows: initial denaturation at 96 °C for 3min, 38 cycles of denaturation of 94 °C for 1 min, annealing at 60 °C for 30 sec and extension at 72 °C for 1 min and final extension at 72 °C for 10 min. The amplified products were separated by agarose gel (0.8%) electrophoresis. The amplified product was eluted from the

agarose gel using gel extraction kit (GeneJET™ Gel Extraction Kit, Thermo Scientific) and the eluted DNA was got sequenced by Scigenom Labs Pvt. Ltd, India using ITS1 and ITS4 primers.

### Sequence analysis and homology search

Sequence results were analyzed with online software of National Centre for Biotech and phylogenetic analyses were performed to know the relationship between identified and mushroom with its sequence data available in NCBI. Preliminary pair wise and multiple alignments were performed using Clustal-W for all twenty mushroom sequence data independently.

### Results and Discussion

Mushrooms are the objects of much curiosity, speculation since time immemorial and also one of the most important components of the ecosystem. Their edibility, poisonous nature psychotropic properties, medicinal properties draw the attention of the researchers. In the present study, 21 different mushroom species (Fig. 2) were collected and identified. Out of 21 mushrooms collected, 20 (GKVK-1-20) were identified using ITS region sequence homology (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>). The figure representing BLAST search homology for the mushroom GKVK-1 is provided in figure 1. Whereas, figures for BLAST search homology of the other mushrooms designated as GKVK2 to GKVK20 are provided in supplementary data for reference.

The ITS sequence of the GKVK-1 (707bp) showed 100% homology with *Macrolepiota globosa*, GKVK-2(613bp) showed 87% sequence homology with *Ganoderma australe*, GKVK-3(639bp) showed 100% sequence homology with *Lepista* sp., GKVK-4(716bp) showed 99% sequence homology

with *Phlebopus portentosus*, GKVK-5(644bp) showed 97% sequence homology with *Termitomyces* sp., GKVK-6(627bp) showed 99% sequence homology with *Agrocybe pediades*, GKVK-7(687bp) showed 94% sequence homology with *Leucoagaricus crystallifer*, GKVK-8(647bp) showed 89% sequence homology for *Podoscypha petalodes*, GKVK-9(677bp) showed 99% sequence homology with *Agaricus* sp., GKVK-10(660bp) showed 87% sequence homology with *Tricholoma giganteum*, GKVK-11(661bp) showed 99% sequence homology with *Coprinellus disseminates*, GKVK-12(661bp) showed 89% sequence homology with *Ompholotus olivascens*, GKVK-13( 706bp) showed 99% sequence homology with *Agaricus* sp., GKVK-14(692bp) showed 99% sequence homology with *Macrolepiota dolochula*, GKVK-15(585bp) showed 94% sequence homology with *Panus conchatus*, GKVK-16(299bp) showed 97%sequence homology with *Marasmius leveilleanus*, GKVK-17(576bp) showed 94% sequence homology with *Polyporus arcularius*, GKVK-18(659bp) showed 94% sequence homology with *Lepiota fuscovinacea*, GKVK-19(649bp) showed 99% sequence homology with *Agrocybe semiorbicularis* and GKVK-20(715bp) showed 95% sequence homology with *Marasmius* sp.

The mushroom fruiting body of GKVK-21 was identified based on its morphological characters. Pileus of this mushroom was reddish brown in colour, kidney shaped and the border surrounded by white tissue. Stipe was brown in colour, off centric and tapered upward. Texture of the fruiting body was corky and tough. These characters perfectly matched with *Ganoderma lucidum* when consulted the book entitled Indian polyporaceae (Bakshi, 1971). Thus, the mushroom was confirmed as *G. lucidum*.

**Table.1** Field information and phenotypic character of mushrooms recorded during collection

Designated samples	Habitat	Character of Pileus		Character of Gills	Annuals	Character of Stipe	Name of identified mushrooms	Family
		Color	Shape					
GKVK1	Soil	White	Umbonate	Free	Present	Tapering upwards	<i>Macrolepiota globosa</i>	Agaricaceae
GKVK2	Wood	Dark brown with white margin	Irregular	Absent	Absent	Sessile	<i>Ganoderma australe</i>	Ganodermataceae
GKVK3	Dry leaf debris	Creamish white	Convex	Attached	Absent	Equal	<i>Lepista</i> sp.	Tricholomataceae
GKVK4	Soil	Greenish brown	Convex	Absent	Absent	Tapering upwards	<i>Phlebopus portentosus</i>	Boletinellaceae
GKVK5	Soil	Creamy white	Uplifted	Present	Absent	Tapering upwards	<i>Termitomyces</i> sp.	Lyophyllaceae
GKVK6	Soil	Yellowish brown	Convex to flat	Sinuate	Absent	Equal	<i>Agrocybe pediades</i>	Strophariaceae
GKVK7	Dry leaf debris	Orange	Convex	Free	Present	Tapering upwards	<i>Leucoagaricus crystallifer</i>	Agaricaceae
GKVK8	Dry leaf debris	Cream	Petal like	Absent	Absent	Absent	<i>Podoscypha petalodes</i>	Meruliaceae
GKVK9	Soil	Creamy light brown	Plane	Free	Present	Equal	<i>Agaricus</i> sp.	Agaricaceae
GKVK10	Soil	White	Convex	Present	Absent	Tapering upwards	<i>Tricholoma giganteum</i>	Tricholomataceae
GKVK11	Dead wood	Grey	Convex	Adnate	Absent	Equal	<i>Coprinellus disseminatus</i>	Psathyrellaceae
GKVK12	Wood	Golden yellow	Funnel	Decurrent	Absent	Equal	<i>Omphalotus olivascens</i>	Omphalotaceae
GKVK13	Soil	Creamy white	Convex	Free	Present	Equal	<i>Agaricus</i> sp.	Agaricaceae
GKVK14	Soil	White and brown at the center	Umbonate	Free	Present Absent	Equal	<i>Macrolepiota dolochula</i>	Agaricaceae
GKVK15	Wood ( <i>Causuraina</i> )	Brown	Depressed	Decurrent	Absent	Equal	<i>Panus conchatus</i>	Polyporaceae
GKVK16	Soil	Orange	Convex	Free	Absent	Equal	<i>Marasmius leveilleanus</i>	Marasmiaceae
GKVK17	Soil	Light brown	Flat	Present	Absent	Equal	<i>Polyporus arcularius</i>	Polyporaceae
GKVK18	Soil	Cream with purple	Plane	Free	Present	Equal	<i>Lepiota fuscovinacea</i>	Agaricaceae
GKVK19	Dry leaf debris	Brown	Plane	Sinuate	Absent	Equal	<i>Agrocybe semiorbicularis</i>	Strophariaceae
GKVK20	Humus	Light brown	Convex	Sinuate	Absent	Tapering upwards	<i>Marasmius</i> sp.	Marasmiaceae
GKVK21	Soil	Reddish brown	Kidney shape	Absent	Absent	Equal	<i>Ganoderma lucidum</i>	Ganodermataceae

**Fig.1** Partial sequence length showing hundred percent homology to *Macrolepiota globosa* (707bp)

TTGTCGCTGGCTCCTTTGGAGCATGTGCACGCCTGTCTTGACTTCATTCATCCACCTG  
 TGCACCACTTGTAGTCTTTGGGGGGTTTGTGAGAGAGAGAGTGGCTGACTTGTCTGGG  
 AATTCTCCCGGATGTGAGGACTGCAGTGTGAAAGCACGGCTCTCTTCTACCTGGCTA  
 TGAACCCCTTGCTCCCCCGAGGTCTATGTATTTATTCATACACCATGTAGCATGTTAAA  
 GAATGTCTCAATGGGCCTTTGTGCCTATAAAAATCATATACAACCTTCAGCAACGGAT  
 CTCTTGGCTCTCGCATCGATGAAGAACGCAGCGAAATGCGATAAGTAATGTGAATTG  
 CAGAATTCAGTGAATCATCGAATCTTTGAACGCACCTTGCCTCCTTGGTATTCCGA  
 GGAGCATGCCTGTTTGTGAGTGTCAATTAATTTCTCAACTCCTCCAGCTTTTTGTAAAGTT  
 GGCTTTGGAGCTTGGATGTGGAGGTTTGTGGCCCTTGTATTGACTGGGTTTCAAGCTC  
 CTCTGAAATACATTAGCGGAACCGTTTGCAATCCGCCACAGGTGTGATAATTATCTA  
 CACCAGTGGGTTGCTCTCTGTGTTGTTTCGGCTGCCAATCGTCTCTGCTTCAAAGAGAC  
 AATTTTCTGAATGCTTGACCTCAAATCAGGTAGGACTACCCGCTGAACTTAAGCATA  
 TCAAAAAGCCGGGAGAAGA

Sequences producing significant alignments:

Select: [All](#) [None](#) Selected:0

Alignments Download GenBank Graphics Distance tree of results

	Description	Max score	Total score	Query cover	E value	Ident	Accession
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Macrolepiota globosa internal transcribed spacer 1, partial sequence, 5.0S ribosomal RNA gene, cc</a>	1204	1204	94%	0.0	100%	<a href="#">AF482842.1</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Chlorophyllum globosum voucher 26-VII-1999, D.C. Mossebo internal transcribed spacer 1, partial s</a>	1204	1204	95%	0.0	99%	<a href="#">AY243619.1</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Chlorophyllum globosum voucher MFLU121815 internal transcribed spacer 1, partial sequence: 5.8S</a>	1166	1166	91%	0.0	100%	<a href="#">KJ524553.1</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Chlorophyllum molybdites voucher MFL-2382837 internal transcribed spacer 1, partial sequence: 5.8</a>	1130	1130	100%	0.0	96%	<a href="#">KP012712.1</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Chlorophyllum molybdites voucher MFLU121765 internal transcribed spacer 1, partial sequence: 5.8</a>	1128	1128	97%	0.0	97%	<a href="#">KJ524559.1</a>

**Fig.2** Mushrooms of GKVK campus: GKVK1-*Macrolepiota globosa*, GKVK2- *Ganoderma australe*, GKVK3-*Lepista* sp., GKVK4-*Phlebobus portentosus*, GKVK5-*Termitomyces* sp., GKVK6-*Agrocybe pediades*, GKVK7-*Leucoagaricus crystallifer*, GKVK8-*Podoscypha petalodes*, GKVK9-*Agaricus* Sp, GKVK10-*Tricholoma giganteum*, GKVK11-*Coprinellus disseminates*, GKVK12-*Omphalotus olivascens*, GKVK13-*Agaricus* sp, GKVK14-*Macrolepiota dolichaula*, GKVK15-*Panus conchatus*, GKVK16-*Marasmius leveilleanus*, GKVK17-*Polyporus arcularius*, GKVK18-*Lepiota fuscovinacea*, GKVK19-*Agrocybe semiorbicularis*, GKVK20-*Marasmius* sp. and GKVK21-*Ganoderma lucidum*.





Out of twenty one mushrooms collected, eleven species (GKVK-5,6,7,8,9,13, 15,17,18,19 and 21) were documented from Botanical garden of the campus. Richness of the mushroom species in the botanical garden is due to undisturbed soil condition and rich organic matter content of the soil. Whereas in the other locations, such as FTI block (GKVK-3), NSP block (GKVK-14), K block (GKVK-10,16 and 20), near South and North block blocks (GKVK-2, 4, 11and 12) number of mushroom flora decreased due to human intervention. However, richness of the species is more compared abundance as richness of

the species depends on characteristics of the habitat and ecosystems in which they establish. Abundance of mushroom species belongs to *Agrocybe* and *Leucoagaricus* have been reported from Western ghats of Kerala (Arunkumar and Manimohan, 2009). Similarly, Farook *et al.*, (2013) reported 616 species of gilled mushrooms belonging in 112 genera and 50 orders from Kerala state. Ranadive *et al.*, (2013) collected 20 species of *Aphyllphorales* from 10 host plants growing in 15 different localities of the Western Ghats of Pune districts of Maharashtra state, India. In the present study we report 21 species of

mushrooms belonging to 11 families envisaging the mushroom diversity of the campus (Table 1). Out of 21 species, the *Termitomyces* sp., *Tricholoma giganteum*, *Polyporus arcularius* and *Coprinellus disseminates* are belong to edible mushrooms and two species viz., *Ganoderma lucidum* and *Ganoderma australe* are medicinally important mushrooms. Remaining fifteen mushrooms were regarded as non-edible mushroom or poisonous or edibility is not known.

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