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POLLEN RAIN STUDIES IN THE ENVIRONS OF TAJMAHAL, AGRA

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ABSTRACT

Present paper attempts to evaluate the palynoflora in the environs of the Taj complex. The overall pollen assemblage depicts that the environs of Taj are charged with palynomorphs from higher as well as lower plant groups which include trees, shrubs, herbs, ferns, bryophytes, fungi, etc. However, a few recovered taxa are most probably exotic as they do not grow either in the area or in the vicinity. Pollen analysis of spider's webs in the present study has opened an important frontier in evaluating the modern pollen rain. Spider's webs are often quite rich in pollen/spores, etc., and have proved to be a reliable parameter, particularly when soil samples are either unproductive or remain poor in pollen yield.

Furthermore, comparison of recovered taxa from surface soil and web has amply demonstrated that spider's webs are as good as soil samples and sometimes even better for pollen rain studies. Retrieval of fungal spores from the walls of the main gate of the Taj complex, must be taken care of as their deposition is very likely to affect the lustre of the marble monument in the long run.

Keywords: Surface samples, spider's webs, soil samples, palynomorphs, pollen spectra, Tajmahal, Agra