

**Research Article**

## **Eco-contributory species composition of butterflies in Panchavati garden area, Aarey colony, Goregaon, Maharashtra, India**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The study area is a part of Aarey Milk Colony, located to the southern border of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park. The habitat is highly varied consisting of scrub forest, seasonal freshwater marshes, hillocks, rocky outcrops, grass, and scrub, inhabiting a variety of biodiversity, thus making this area a biodiversity hotspot in Mumbai. Aarey Milk Colony is established in 1949 and it is situated in Goregaon east; a suburb of Mumbai that covers an area of 16 sq. km. The study area inhabits diverse living forms which specifically have not yet been documented. This area is a grass and shrubs habitat with a few hillocks, possessing two perennial and one seasonal pond as well as many seasonal streams in the area. But apart from being an industrial establishment, it is blessed with diverse flora as well as abundant fauna. The present study comprises a survey of butterflies of Panchavati Garden (five-plant garden) in Aarey colony, Mumbai, which would provide baseline data, for planning an effective management study of butterfly diversity with respect to the sustainable development of the Aarey colony. The study area is home to diverse flora and fauna which has not yet been documented. Various anthropogenic activities are resulting in heavy loss to the biodiversity in the area. In the present study, a total of 95 individuals including both the resident and migratory ones belonging to 16 sub families were identified and recorded. Butterflies are often considered as vital indicators of a region's eco-health as is experienced in this green realm.

**Key words:** Aarey Colony, Butterfly, Species Composition, Sustainable Development, Panchavati Garden Area.

