

Project Update: October 2009

Canarium strictum (black dammer) yields resin with a reported harvest >100 tonnes/yr from Western Ghats. The resin is used as an incense and air purifier. It is presently known from only two locations from entire northern Western Ghats of Maharashtra with serious population bottle-neck as reproductive individuals are hardly encountered /surviving. To date only five mature individuals are known to be present from this entire stretch. Predation of fruits and seeds and very low germination success further complicates the revival. As a result, the survival of this species is under severe threat. To revive the severely depleted population, saplings of black dammer were successfully reintroduced in the Amba Ghat region in the wild. In the first phase, 30 saplings were planted in the climax evergreen forests with the help of State Forest Department's participation. Forest guards were also given training about monitoring of various growth parameters such as measurement of collar diameter, number of flushes and height measurements, etc.

