

PROFILE OF SCIENTIST/RESEARCH WORKER

- Name:** Dr. Pratap Chandra Panda
- Address:** Principal Scientist, Regional Plant Resource Centre,
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- E-mail:** pcpanda2001@yahoo.co.in
- Qualification:** M. Sc., Ph.D. (Botany-Plant Taxonomy); International
Diploma in Herbarium Techniques; and Plant Conservation
Techniques (RBG, Kew)
- Area(s) of Specialization:** Plant taxonomy, molecular taxonomy, plant conservation,
Ethnobiology
- Occupation/Designation:** Principal Scientist
Taxonomy & Conservation Division,
Regional Plant Resource Centre, Nayapalli,
Bhubaneswar 751 015, Odisha
- Major Activities:**

Dr. Pratap Chandra Panda holds an M. Sc. (Botany) and Ph. D. degree from Utkal University and specializes in plant taxonomy, molecular taxonomy and conservation biology of higher plants. He is worked at Regional Plant Resource Centre since 1986 as Scientist, Senior Scientist and Principal Scientist. He obtained International Diploma in Herbarium Techniques from Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK in 1987 and in Plant Conservation Techniques in 1995. He worked on Flora of erstwhile Puri District, mangrove flora of Orissa coast, Flora of Chilika lagoon, Legumes and Grasses of Orissa, Ferns of Puri District, taxonomic revision of the genera *Crotalaria*, *Macrotyloma*, *Typhonium*, *Sesbania*, ethnobotanical studies among the tribals of Baliguda, Gandhamardan hills, Similipal Biosphere Reserve and Keonjhar district. He has reported the occurrence several additional species to the flora of India, Eastern India and Odisha. He has thoroughly surveyed the flora of Chilika lagoon and its adjoining regions and brought out several publications on this ecosystem. Dr. Panda worked on conservation biology and molecular characterization of RET plants of Orissa, molecular phylogeny of Desmodieae, Millettieae, *Typhonium*, *Calliandra*, *Zingiber*, Rhizophoraceae, canes, bamboos, *Cassia* and allied genera. He is associated with the infrastructure development of RPRC since its inception and is instrumental in establishment of Bambusetum, Arboretum, Palmetum, RET plant Garden, Hibiscus Garden, wild edible fruit garden and also the institutional Herbarium and Laboratories. He has thorough knowledge on plant resources of Eastern Ghat region in general and Odisha state in particular.

He has brought out more than research 79 publications in international and national journals of repute and over 20 popular scientific articles. He has handled 8 major research projects and presently operating three projects funded by DBT, MOEF and World Bank. Five students have obtained Ph. D. degree working with him and six more are working for the same. More than 30 M. Sc. students have completed dissertation work on molecular taxonomy of different groups of plants under his supervision.

Presently, Dr. Panda is working on quantitative assessment and mapping of plant resources of Eastern Ghats, Similipal Biosphere Reserve, sacred groves of Odisha, Aquatic Plants of Eastern India, Wild Food Plants from Forests of Eastern India, genetic diversity assessment and *ex situ* conservation of RET plants, inventory and threat assessment of medicinal plants in Odisha and development of digital herbarium at RPRC. He is author of three books including the recent one entitled “*Wild Edible Fruit Plants of Eastern India*” and “*Floral Diversity of Nandankanan Wildlife Sanctuary*”.

Awards/Recognitions: Nil