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**ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

**Ethnobotanical Resources of Marathwada**

\* Sangita Vijaykumar Kachare

\* Head Department of Botany Late. L.D. Mahila College, Parli-Vaijnath (India)

Email: sangitakachare@gmail.com

**ABSTRACT**

*About 80% population in Marathwada lives in rural areas, present study based on survey in Marathwada. Visited places are Mahur, Nanded, Kinwant, Loni, Tuppa, Anandwadi, Degloor, Ambajogai and Parli-Vaijnath. Authour collected traditional knowledge from local inhabitants. Information on local uses of plants in based on their uses categories, ethnobotanical resources into nine major groups. Such valuable traditional knowledge has been preserved, propagated and protected its validity should be proved.*

**Key Words :** Medicinal plants, Ethnobotanical Resources, Marathwada Local inhabitants.

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**INTRODUCTION**

Marathwada has recognized the high biological and economic value of its natural forests. Marathwada region comprising seven districts Aurangabad, Beed, Jalna, Latur, nanded, Osmanabad and Parbhani forms the part of Vast Deccan plateau of India located 70°5 - 78°5 E longitude and 17°5 - 20°5 N longitude plants are generally rich sources of many herbal products. Which have mostly used for human welfare these plants known as ethnobotanical resources. Most of the tribals are largely dependent on agriculture, they also collect wild plants and plant products from the forest for their own consumption as plants easily available surrounding them. A number of plants species used as traditional medicine for the relief of pain and to cure various diseases have been selected or the medicinal and scientific literature [1] of China, South America and West Africa, Whether there was an indication of biological activity [4-5].

**Study area**

Maharashtra state laying between 72°6 – 80°g E longitude 22°1 – 16°4N longitude covers as area 3,07,762 sq.Km. Marathwada region comprising seven districts. Aurangabad, Jalna, Beed, Latur, Nanded, Parbhani, Osmanabad. The study was carried out during 2004-2006. Marathwada area covers 64567 sqkm with altitude ranging tribal's sharing 6% of total tribal population country.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Regular field trips of Marathwada area were conducted between year 2004 to 2006 for collecting ethnobotanical data and voucher herbarium species. The tribal people, including local healers, vaidyas (Traditional) healer in Marathwada. Who regularly use the plants provided important information regarding ethnomedicinal uses of plants information obtained from more than one source only has been incorporated. The Loni, Degloor, Mahur, Nanded, Kinwa,t Saradgaon, Kakhandi, Bhagwati, Ambajogai, Parli-Vaijnath are the main localities surveyed where these ethnobotanical resources used. The collected plants by using book "The flora of Marathwada" [2, 3] identified and brought into laboratories. Identified plants were further studied for their medicinal value.

**Enumeration**

The plant species are arranged for easy references with their Botanical names localities and methods of preparation. Based on their uses the ethnobotanical resources are categorized under nine major heads.

**Edible plants**

The fruits seeds, flowers, leaves, tender shoots and tubers / rhizomes of several plants are edible provide subsidiary food.

Fruits of *Ficus racemosa* L., *Phyllanthus emblica* L., *Solanum nigrum* *Terminalia bellerica*, *Bauhinia Vahili*, *Carica papaya*, *Mangifera indica* Linn, *Silybum cumini* Linn., *Punica granatum* Linn., Underground parts of *Asparagus racemosus* willd., *Dioscorea bulhifera* (Gaertn) Roxb D. *Pentaphylla* L.

Leaves and tender shoots of *Amranthus* spp. And *Ipomea aquatica*, Rhizome of *Zingiber officinale* Rosc., Flowers of *Bauhinia* spp., *Indigofera cassiodes*.

**Plants for Timber and wood crafts**

The Marathwada region has number of timber trees which are used for house building material, furniture etc.

*Tectona grandis* Linn., *Azadirachta indica* Linn., *Cedrus deodara* (Roxb.) Loud., *Gardenia resinifera* Roth, *Eucalyptus globules* Labill.

**Plants for fibers, mats and Baskets**

Species like *Abutilon indicom*(L.) *Helicteres Isora* L., *A gave angustifolia* Haw. Yields leaf, fibers ft. while floss, fibers are obtained from fruits of *Bombex Ceiba* L. *Calotropis procera* (AIF)

**Medicinal plants**

*Zingiber officinale* Rosc (Zingiberaceae) powdered Rhizome along with turmeric powder, jiggery and line made into pills. 2 pills a dry for 20 days given in Fuberculosis. Utilized by Gupta M.B. at Mahur Dist.Nanded.

*Hemidesmus indicus* R.Br. (Asclepiadaceae)

One teaspoonful powdered root bark given once a day early morning before breakfast for 15 days in diabetes utilized by Munde B.V. at Saradgaon Dist. Beed.

*Boerhaavia diffusa* L. "Purnarnava"

Tender leaves are eaten like vegetable for jaundice utilized by Phad E.N. at Dharmapuri Dist.Beed.

*Eclipta prostrate* (L.) L. Gharmra (Asteraceae)

whole plant burnt, powdered mixed with coconut oil applied on eyelids for conjunctivitis utilized by Gowale M.D. at.Kaknandji Dist.Nanded.

*Brassica juncea* (L.) (Brassicaceae)

Nearly 10gm seeds are eaten raw with warm water immediately after insect bite. Sometimes it may cause vomiting also utilized by Rangade V.R. at Gokunda Dist.Nanded.

*Raphanus sativus* L. (Brassicaceae)

Extract of root C 1-2 teaspoonfuls is given on empty stomach to cure, acidity and flatulence utilized by Jadhav M.K. at Loni Dist.Naded.

*Ficus benghalensis* L. (Moraceae) 'Bargad'

Young leaves or buds crushed with deshi ghee and tied on the anus to get relief from pile utilized by Gutte D.B. at Mahur Dist.Nanded.

*Ficus racemosa* L. (Moraceae) 'Gular'

Latex of *Ficus racemosa* L. in water of river gang given twice a day in case of diarrhoea. Utilized by Khan Tauphic Khan at Kinwat Dist.Nanded.

*Convolvulus microphyllus* sieb. (Convolvulaceae)

Dried plants are ground with Mishri in 3:1 ratio and given twice a day with water as a brain tonic to improve memory utilized by Pujari Kantabai Narhari at Renapur Dist.Beed.

*Piper longum* L. (Piperaceae) 'Pipla'

Infusion of dried fruits is taken orally in cough and fever utilized by Vaidya P. Baswaraj at Parli-Vajjnath Dist.Beed.

*Gloriosa superb* L. Bachnag (Liliaceae)

Root tubers are utilized to cure Neurological pain, root tuber powder taken orally tea spoonful twice a day utilized by Narwade G.B. at Tuppa Dist.Nanded.

*Tylophora indica* (Burm f.) (Asclepiadaceae) 'Mahanandi'

Leaves powdered with black pepper and garlic and made into pills. The pills taken twice a day regularly, for eleven days to cure rabies (mad dog bite) utilized by Kamalkar Magare at kahandi Dist.Nanded.

*Sida Cordata* (Burm f.) (Malvaceae)

Plant juice taken orally, to cure diarrhoea utilized by Mukhedkar S.K. at Degloor Dist.Nanded.

*Justicia adhatoda* L. (Acanthaceae)

Leaf juice as nosal drops for bleeding from nose in summer utilized by Patil D.H. at Loni Dist.Nanded.

*Solanum trilabatum* L. (Solanaceae)

Root decoction given twice daily to children (5-8yrs) in case of whooping cough a handful of leaves boiled in water till reduced one length filtered this liquid drunk for bodyche utilized by Gutte Sumitriabi at Parli-V.

*Nerium indicum*. Mill (Apocynaceae) 'Kaner'

Latex applied externally two or more times and washed with decoction of leaves for a week in case of reddish, itchy skin with small blisters (Dermatitis) utilized by Puri D.D. at Ambajogai Dist. Beed.

*Asparagus racemosus* willd (Liliaceae) 'Shatawar'

About 200ml root extract is given out on empty stomach once in the morning to control gastric trouble and high blood pressure utilized by Jadhav M.K. at Loni Dist. Nanded.

*Tribulus terrestris* (Zygophyllaceae) 'Ghokhru'

Leaf juice along with honey is given in gonorrhoea, rheumatism, dyspepsia and acidity of urine utilized by Madawi R.N. at Anandwadi Dist. Nanded.

#### **Gum and Resin yielding plants**

The tribals collect gums and resins from trees of *Acacia catechu* (L.F.) willd.

*Acacia nilotica* spp.(Benth), *Azadirachta indica*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Butea monosperma*, *Cochlospermum religiosum*.

The gums and resins exude from tree trunk naturally. Locally gums and resins are used as medicine and 'dhoop' (incense)

#### **Dye yielding plants**

A number of species of the area are source of natural dyes used for colouring clothes, body pats ropes, food stuffs etc. common dye yielding species are *Butea monosperma* *Lawsonia inermis* and *phyllanthus emblica*.

#### **Oil yielding plants**

Several species of plants yield oil mainly used for edible and medicinal purposes. Species like *Arjemone mexicana* L., *Azadirachta indica*, *Jatropha curcas* L., *Riccinus communis* L., *Madhuca longifolia*.

#### **Plants used for making country liquor**

The tribals distil the spirituous liquor from the fleshy corolla of *Madhuca longifolia* besides fruits of *Phoenix acaulis* Roxb. *Nelsonia canescens* (Lam) are also used for this purpose.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The present survey revealed that the forests of Marathwada, are rich in raw material like gums and resins, fibers, wild fruits, herbal drugs, dye and oil. The tribal and villagers collect them for their own consumption as well as for trading them along their societies in local weekly bazaars or market.

Most of these raw materials are minor forest products which can easily obtained without largely affecting the forests. They can be utilized for establishment of forest based Cottage industries like Katha manufacturing fruit processing, collection, cultivation and processing of herbal drugs, for making cigarettes, mat, basket making, gum requires seeds for making various dyes. As hospitals are away from villages the villagers take traditional medicines from vaidyas to cure various diseases. As the tribals are not aware of real market value of these wild resources, there is an urgent need to educate them through some government or voluntary agencies ensuring that higher income and possibilities of local employment. The sharp decline in natural flora and erosion of tribal culture due to modernization industrialization so it should be protected, preserved & evaluated for coming generation.

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