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**ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

**Crucial and Effective Ethnomedicinal Plants in Treating Boils and Burns**

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**ABSTRACT**

India is inhabited by 53.8 million tribal belonging to 427 communities (Jain, 1987). About 47 tribes are from Maharashtra, out of which the Thakars, Mahadevkoli, Bhils and Ramoshies are hilly tribal of Akole and Sangamner tahsils. They mostly inhabit in the forests and are termed as Adivasis (Original settlers). Tribals inhabiting these areas have an age-old tradition of using specific medicinal plants for curing specific ailments e.g. boils and burns.

It is a type of damage to the skin caused by heat, electricity, chemicals, or radiations. Generally boils or burns are due to hot liquids, solids, or fire. In many areas, females have a higher risk due to frequent use of open cooking fires or unsafe cook stoves. Alcoholism and smoking may be the other factors that can cause burns. Treatment of boils or burns depends on the severity of the damage. Tribals of this area have developed their own system for treating boils and burns. Different parts from the plants like *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Capparis moonii*, *Clematis heynei*, *Cleome gynandra*, *Jatropha gossypifolia*, *Melia azedarach*, *Opuntia elatior*, *Oxalis corniculata*, *Woodfordia fruticosa* are effectively used to treat them. Tribals have incredible knowledge about the plant exploitation absorbed through their centuries old experience. Therefore the ethnomedicinal studies will be useful to find new information on unexplored natural resources as the sources of medicine.

**Keywords:** Tribal, Boils, Burns, Plants, Treatment

Received 09/02/2017

Revised 10/02/2017

Accepted 08/04/2017

**How to cite this article:**

A. S. Wabale . Crucial and Effective Ethnomedicinal Plants in Treating Boils and Burns. Adv. Biores., Vol 8 [4] July 2017: 73-74.

**INTRODUCTION**

India is inhabited by 53.8 million tribal belonging to 427 communities [3]. About 47 tribes are from Maharashtra, out of which the Thakars, Mahadevkoli, Bhils and Ramoshies are hilly tribal of Akole and Sangamner tahsils. They mostly inhabit in the forests and are termed as Adivasis (Original settlers). Tribals inhabiting these areas have an age-old tradition of using specific medicinal plants for curing specific ailments e.g. boils and burns.

It is a type of damage to the skin caused by heat, electricity, chemicals, or radiations. Generally boils or burns are due to hot liquids, solids, or fire. In many areas, females have a higher risk due to frequent use of open cooking fires or unsafe cook stoves. Alcoholism and smoking may be the other factors that can cause burns.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Information regarding the ethno-medicinal uses of plant species was collected from the tribal during various visits to the Harishchandragad-Ratangad wild life sanctuary. A questionnaire containing the information about the tribal vaidyas and ethno-medicinal importance of plants was prepared and plants specimens were collected. Herbarium specimens of plant species were prepared scientifically [3]. Photographs of plants were also taken during the fieldwork. Plants were identified with the help of Flora of Bombay Presidency [2], Flora of Ahmednagar District [6], Flora of Maharashtra State Vol. I [4], Flora

Maharashtra State Vol. II [7] and Flora of Maharashtra State Vol. III. Each medicinal use was confirmed during several visits to different locations in the area and also from the same informants during different occasions.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Treatment of boils or burns depends on the severity of the damage. Tribals of this area have developed their own system for treating boils and burns. Different parts from the plants like *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Capparis zeylanica*, *Clematis heynei*, *Cleome gynandra*, *Jatropha gossypifolia*, *Melia azedarach*, *Opuntia elatior*, *Oxalis corniculata* and *Woodfordia fruticosa* are effectively used to treat them. Details like local names of the plants, their family and method of treatment are been enumerated in Table-1.

Sr. No.	Name of the plant species	Family	Local name	Method	Plant part used	Literature used
1.	<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i> (L.) Del.	Balanitaceae	Hinganbet	Application of fruit paste	Fruit	-
2.	<i>Capparis zeylanica</i> L.	Capparaceae	Waghata	Application of Root bark paste	Root bark	Jain 1991
3.	<i>Clematis heynei</i> M. A. Rau.	Ranunculaceae	Morvel	Application of Leaf paste	Leaf	Nadkarni 2002
4.	<i>Cleome gynandra</i>	Capparaceae	Pandhare Tilwan	Application of Leaf paste	Leaf	-
5.	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Parsha Yerand	Application of Leaf paste	Leaf	-
6.	<i>Melia azedarach</i> L.	Meliaceae	Bakan Nimb	Application of Leaf paste	Leaf	-
7.	<i>Opuntia elatior</i> Mill.	Cactaceae	Nivdung	Application of Warm leaf extract	Leaf	Jain 1991
8.	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L.	Oxalidaceae	Ambushi	Application of Leaf paste	Leaf	-
9.	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> (L.) Kurz.	Lythraceae	Dhayati	Application of leaf Juice	Leaf	-

Some of the ethnomedicinal uses are found to be similar with that, those are found in the literature [3, 5]. The medicinal uses of plants species i.e. *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Cleome gynandra*, *Jatropha gossypifolia*, *Melia azedarach*, *Oxalis corniculata* and *Woodfordia fruticosa* are not found in any kind of literature. Therefore these plants would be the new findings that are used in the treatment of chicken pox.

## CONCLUSION

Tribals have incredible knowledge about the plant exploitation absorbed through their centuries old experience. Therefore the ethnomedicinal studies will be useful to find new information on unexplored natural resources as the sources of medicine. Plant extracts are given in the form of crude drugs, therefore there is a need for the standardization of these drugs and detection of the particular chemical constituent (active principle) that are effective against boils and burns.

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