



## Ethnomedicinal Plants Used in Scorpion Bite by Tribals of West Nimar (M.p.), India

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### ABSTRACT

Khargone district was formerly known as west Nimar. It is situated in southern western part of Madhya Pradesh and boast of good species richness. Northern part of the region is covered with Vindhyan scabs and Southern part with Satpura hill ranges. This region is inhabited by tribal communities like Bhil, Bhilala, Gond and Korku. Tribal communities used these plant species by traditional way and its practitioners known as Barwa from the primary health care provider in rural areas. Present study records a total of 14 plants species which are distributed in 13 genera and 11 families. Different life forms diversity is Herbs (5), Shrubs (3), Trees (5), and Climbers (1) and leguminosae is dominant family. Various plant parts are being used in different mode of action. The leaves (4), root (3), fruit (2), were the most used plant part in traditional medicine followed by the seeds (1), corm (1) latex (1) rhizome (1) and whole plant (1) of the plants. The paper describes the traditional method of treating Scorpion bite ailment by locally available surrounding plants.

**KEYWORDS :** Scorpion bite, west Nimar, Vindhyan scabs and Satpura hill ranges

### Introduction

The Khargone district region was formerly known as west Nimar. The Khargone district is situated between 21°22' and 22°35' North Latitude and 75°25'. Topographically west Nimar region is situated in Northern part covered with Vindhyan scabs and Southern part with Satpura hill ranges (Sainkhediya and Ray 2012). It is situated on the bank of Kunda River and 250.838 m above msl. The average precipitation is 709.29 mm while minimum and maximum temperatures 11.2 °C and 42.7° C respectively. The whole area occupied by black cotton soil. (Sainkhediya and Ray 2014) The climate of the study area is mainly tropical and vegetation is semi-arid with thorny trees like Babul. Soyabean, Wheat, Cotton, Chilly, Arhar, Onion, and Jawar are the main crops of this area. It is famous for cotton and chilly production. The district is divided into 08 Tehsils and has 1407 villages. West Nimar comprises of a large population of tribal communities belonging to various ethnic groups. Bhil, Gond, Tadvi, Korku, Barela, Bhilala, Man- kar and Banjara are most common tribes of the study area. The use of medicinal plants for curing diseases in human society is probably as old as man himself. Recently there has been a popular awareness in the study of medicinal Plants. The present paper highlights some of the potential medicinal plants species that are used as traditional herbal remedies by the tribal people against Scorpion bite.

### Material and method

The ethno botanical exploration was carried out during the 2014-2015 to document the information of medicinal plants. Field trips were organized in different tribal villages e.g. such as **Shrikhandi, Raibidpura, Raibid, Chotioon, Oon, Banihar, Nandgwan** and forest areas. The information on medicinal herbal recipes used by the tribal for curing different ailments is gathered through interviews with the tribal medicine men called Barwa and local experience medicine man and expert person and question asked to gather data for this purpose. Each of the plant material was collected and documented. The information has been collected from reliable and authentic sources. The plant specimens are dried and pressed to prepare herbarium. The herbarium prepared by standard method (Jain and Rao 1977). The collected plant specimens were identified by using flora and other pertinent literature (Chopra et al; 1956; Kirtikar, 1984; Hooker 1872-1897; Mudgal, et al.1997; Hains 1924). Specimens were deposited at Department of Botany, Govt. P. G. College Alirajpur, Madhya Pradesh. The information about the plant, local name, Family, life forms plant, part used is given.

### Results and Discussion

Present study records a total of 14 Texa belonging to 13 genera and 11 families (**Fig-2**) which are found to be used in the treatment of scorpion bite. These plants are used in scorpion bite in seven villages of Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh (**Table-1**). Important Taxa

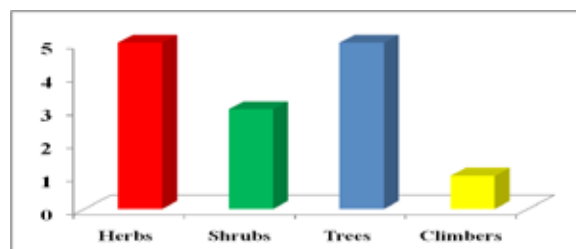
which are used by the tribal people are *Abrus precatorius* L., *Bergia ammannioides* Roxb. ex Roth, *Gloriosa superba* L., *Justicia adhatoda* L., *Phyllanthus emblica* L., *Sapindus emarginatus* Vahl., *Tamarindus indica* L. and others.

Different life forms diversity is Herbs (5), Shrubs (3), Trees (5), and Climbers (1) (**Fig-1**), and leguminosae is dominant family. Various plant parts are being used in different mode of action. The leaves (4), root (3), fruit (2), were the most used plant part in traditional medicine followed by the seeds (1), corm (1) latex (1) rhizome (1) and whole plant (1) of the plants (**Fig-3**).

These medicinal plants are used by rural people and tribal communities residing in remote area. This knowledge of medicinal plants is becoming vanished as there is no written material. These useful plants need protection and more cultivation in the present context, so that the tribal people may more be benefited and our valuable Indian Flora may also survive.

### Acknowledgment

Authors are grateful to district administration, Khargone, M.P for providing facilities in forest. The help and co-operation during plant survey rendered by informants, guide, and local people of West Nimar region is highly acknowledged. We are also grateful to Dr. P. C. Upadhyay Principal Govt. P. G. College Alirajpur, Madhya Pradesh have for providing research and library facilities.



**Fig. 1: Different life forms diversity**

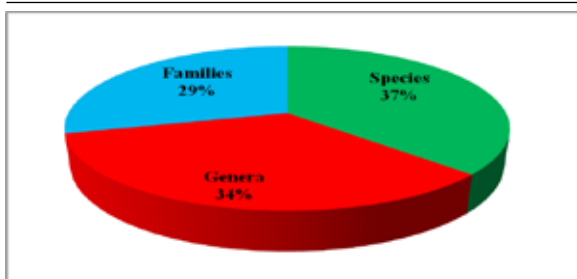


Fig. 2: species diversity

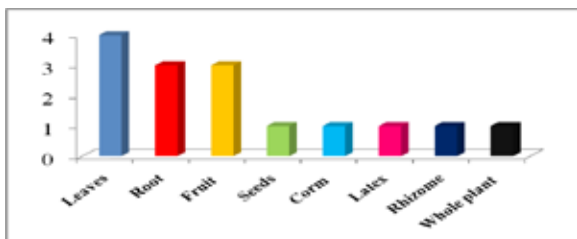


Fig. 3: Various plant parts used

10	<i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i> Roxb.	Tendu	Ebenaceae	T	Root	Root paste is used.
11	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L.	Dudhi	Euphorbiaceae	H	Latex	Latex is used.
12	<i>Gloriosa superba</i> L.	kalihari	Colchicaceae	S	Rhizome	Rhizome is Used.
15	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L.	Awala	Phyllanthaceae	T	Leaf	Leaf paste is used.
16	<i>Sapindus emarginatus</i> Vahl.	Ritha	Sapindaceae	T	Fruit	Fruit paste is used.
18	<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.	Emli	Leguminosae	T	Seed	Seed cover remove and attached the bite place.

Table-1: Ethnomedicinal plants of West Nimar (M.P.)

S.N.	Plant	Local Name	Family	Life forms	Part used	Medicinal uses
1	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Ratti	Leguminosae	C	Root	Root pest is used.
2	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i> L.	Adusa	Acanthaceae	S	Leaf	Crushed leaves are strained and gauze soaked in juice used to dress the sting site.
3	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Andhijada	Amaranthaceae	H	Leaf	Leaves pest is applied on sting site.
4	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> var. <i>porphyristachya</i> (Wall. ex Moq.) Hook.f.	Andhijada	Amaranthaceae	H	Root	Root pest is applied on sting site.
5	<i>Amorphophallus paeoniifolius</i> (Dennst.) Nicolson	Paterbel	Araceae	H	Corm	Corm is used
6	<i>Bergia ammannioides</i> Roxb. ex Roth	Delile	Elatinaceae	H	Whole Plant	Whole plant is used.
8	<i>Cleome gynandra</i> L.	Hurhur	Cleomeaceae	S	Leaf	Leaf pest is used.
9	<i>Cassia fistula</i> L.	Amaltas	Leguminosae	T	Fruit	Fruit pulp is used.

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