

## Ethnobotanical Study of Some useful Plants of Nandurbar District ( Maharashtra)



### Botany

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### ABSTRACT

The results of ethnobotanical surveys of local names among tribals of Nandurbar district are presented. The ancient knowledge of herbal uses, still put into practice by the tribals such as pawara, Bhil, Vasave, Mavachi and Kokani. The authors have recorded 70 angiospermic species belonging to 62 genera and 34 families for local name and their meaning of local, tribal language. The plants have been given in Table-I alphabetically with their botanical name, family, local name and meaning in English along with reason or basis for the naming of the plants.

### INTRODUCTION:

Nandurbar district is situated in Northern part of the state of Maharashtra bordering the state of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Nandurbar district situated between 20° to 21° North latitude and 74° 55' and 76° 59' East longitude. It comprises six revenue talukas. The forest in the district cover an area of 4732.199 sq. km. The district is divided into the natural physiographic region such as the tapi valley and the satpuda region. The satpuda region which is thickly wooded and inhabited by the aborigines. The tribes inhabiting the district are Pawara, Bhil, Vasave, Mavachi and Kokani. (Patil,1998,2000) They are mainly dependent on forest products. They still use several wild plants growing around them for different and ailments. These people give name to the plants based on characteristics in their local language. The local name describes characteristics features of the plants or plant parts. Their traditional knowledge as disappearing fast so it appeared imperative to document their traditional wisdom.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS:

During ethnomedicinal surveys among the aboriginal people of Nandurbar district, the authors came across some wild plants with their local name. The tribal people in the same or other hamlets/villages refer with their language. Plants have been identified using Patil's key (1992) and their botanical names were deciphered using recent floras by Naik (1998), Patil (2003) and Cooke (1958). The results are enumerated alphabetically in Table-I.

### DISCUSSION:

The aboriginal people of Nandurbar district are primitive and still prefer to live in remote hamlets ( Padas) in harmony with the

natural endowed resources. They have, by trial and error, developed their basic requirements from the nearby forests. Their long-standing experience and practice accumulated rich knowledge on medicinal plants. It is necessary to record the uses of the plants by different aborigines before their focus is shifted from traditional primitive knowledge to modern remedies. During the course of this study the authors also participated in the discussions about the local name of the plants used by the aborigines. They also informed about depletion of species in this region. Local names are not recommended directly for scientific accounts of plants as they lack uniformity and consistency. However it can be considered as a useful tool for search of new useful plants. (Singh, 2008). The allied species are named by closed morphological character of the plants such as *Argyreia sericea* Dalz. is called as Khujlowel and *Argyreia strigosa* (Roth.) Sant. & Patel is called as Gowel. Similarly *Cucurbita maxima* Duch is called as Tambada-bhopla, while *Cucurbita moschata* (Duch.ex Lamk.) Poir is known as Kala-bhopla. *Dioscorea bulbifera* L. is known as Kand while *Dioscorea hispida* Dennst is known as Vaskand. The local name of the plants based on shape, size, colour, test, odour, edibility of plant and plant organs, animal organs e.g. ear pinnae of cow, deer feet, ear pinnae of rat, religious utility, inconvenient of mankind like irritation caused by hairs. As the aborigines have well knowledge of plants which are useful for various aspects of ethnobotany, this knowledge should be made to collect and preserved.

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**Table I : List of Etymological Plants :**

Sr.No	Botanical Name	Family	Local Name and Meaning	Etymology
1	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Fabaceae	Gunj (B) = jewelers weight	Healthy seeds are used for weighing the jewelry
2	<i>Abutilon pannosum</i> (Forst.f.) Schlect	Malvaceae	Rodga (P) = a preparation of maize and wheat dough	Fruit is resemble to <i>Rodga</i>
3	<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> Roxb.	Simarubaceae	Maharuk (B)=large	Plant is gigantic
4	<i>Aloe vera</i> (L.) Burm.f.	Liliaceae	Kunwar pato (B) = unmarried	Girls use the plant by various ways
5	<i>Argemone mexicana</i> Linn.	Papaveraceae	Pivlo-dhotro (B,M) = yellow flower	Flower yellow like dhatura
6	<i>Argyreia sericea</i> Dalz.	Convolvulaceae	Khujlowel(B,P) = irritation	Silky hairy structure of climber irritate
7	<i>Argyreia strigosa</i> (Roth.) Sant. & Patel	Convolvulaceae	Gowel(B) = cow	Climber fed to the cow
8	<i>Aristolochia bracteolata</i> Retz.	Aristolochiaceae	Kidamari(B) = worm	Fruits are used to kill worms in animals
9	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Meliaceae	Kadu-Neemdo(B,P) = bitter	All parts of plants has bitter test
10	<i>Balanites aegyptiana</i> (L.) Del.	Balanitaceae	Hinganbet (B) = asafetida	Ripen fruit highly smell like asafetida

11	<i>Bombax ceiba</i> L.	Bombacaceae	Kate-sawari (B,K) = prickle	Bark possesses by black prickles
12	<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i> L.	Caesalpinaceae	Sagar-goti (P,M,B) = sea	Seed smooth, lead colour seems to a marbles of sea
13	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> L.	Caesalpinaceae	Rantaklo (B) = wild, bald	Seeds are smooth
14	<i>Cassia tora</i> L.	Caesalpinaceae	Dukkarsheng (P) = pig	Fruits eaten by pig
15	<i>Chlorophytum tuberosum</i> (Roxb.) Baker	Liliaceae	Ran-ratalu (B) = wild sweet potato	Tubers are edible
16	<i>Cissampelos pareira</i> L.	Menispermaceae	Banjan- bhaji (M) = vegetable	Leaves are used as vegetable
17	<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L.	Vitaceae	Khandvel (B) = piece	Stem is adjoining
18	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> L.	Fabaceae	Gokarn (P) = ear pinnae	Flower resemble to cow ear pinnae
19	<i>Corchorus olitorius</i> L.	Tiliaceae	Choocha (M) = magic	Plant is used in magic /superstition
20	<i>Corchorus fascicularis</i> L.	Tiliaceae	Haran-khuri (B) = deer feet	Leaves resemble to deers feet
21	<i>Cordia sharaf</i> (Forsk.) Ehrenb	Boraginaceae	Gondhani B,P) = gum	Pulp of the fruit is sticky gum like
22	<i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duch.	Cucurbitaceae	Tambada-bhopla (B) = red	Mature fruit red in colour
23	<i>Cucurbita moschata</i> (Duch.ex Lamk.) Poir	Cucurbitaceae	Kala-bhopla (B) = black	Mature fruit blackish in colour
24	<i>Cuscuta chinensis</i> L.	Cuscutaceae	Amarwel (B) = long live	Parasitic climber multiply fast so become long live
25	<i>Datura metel</i> L.	Solanaceae	Kala-dhotra (B) = black	Flower purplish to blackish
26	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i> L.	Dioscoreaceae	Kand (B,P) =tuber	Plant has underground tuber
27	<i>Dioscorea hispida</i> Dennst.	Dioscoreaceae	Vaskand (B) = odour	Tuber has specific odour
28	<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i> (L.) Jeffery	Cucurbitaceae	Shivlingi (B) = a god shiva	Fruits seems alike shivlinga
29	<i>Drimia indica</i> (Roxb.) Jessop	Liliaceae	Rankand (P) = wild	Tuber found in wild
30	<i>Drimia polyantha</i> ( Blatt.& McC.) Ansari & Raghvan	Liliaceae	Jangali-Kando (B,P) = wild onion	Bulbs seem alike onion
31	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i> L.	Asteraceae	Kala-maka (B) = black	Seeds black in colour
32	<i>Elytraria acaulis</i> (L.f.) Lin.	Acanthaceae	Vishmuli (P) = poison	Roots poisonous
33	<i>Eranthemum roseum</i> (Vahl) R.Br.	Acanthaceae	Dashmuli (K) = many	Plant has bunch of root
34	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> (Linn.) Schultes	Asclepiadaceae	Dudhwel (B) = milky	Climber has milky latex
35	<i>Hibiscus sabdaiffa</i> L.	Malvaceae	Lal-ambadi (B) = red	Stem and fruits red in colour
36	<i>Holarrhena pubescens</i> ( Buch.-Ham.) Wall.	Apocynaceae	Kala-kuda (B) = black	Bark blackish brown in colour
37	<i>Hygrophila auriculata</i> (Schum.) Heine	Acanthaceae	Talimkhana (B) = fitness	Seeds are used in venereal diseases
38	<i>Indigophera cordifolia</i> Heyne ex Roxb.	Fabaceae	Godhadi (P) = spread of thread	Plant spread on ground
39	<i>Kalanchoe pinnata</i> (Lam.) Pers.	Crassulaceae	Pan-phuti (K) = leaf	Leaves develop new plants
40	<i>Kirganelia reticulata</i> (Poir.) Baill.	Euphorbiaceae	Kali-kamhuni (B) = black fruit	Fruit is blackish and edible
41	<i>Lagerstroemia parviflora</i> Roxb.	Lythraceae	Bondara (B) = capsule	Fruit woody capsule
42	<i>Lantana camara</i> Linn.	Verbenaceae	Haldi-kunku (P) = turmeric	Flowers are yellow and red colour
43	<i>Leucaena latisiliqua</i> (L.) Gill.	Mimosaceae	Subabhul (B) = good	All part of the plant are useful and fast growing
44	<i>Mallotus philippiensis</i> (Lam.) Muell.Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Shendrya (B) = saffron colour	A saffron coloured dye obtained from the fruits
45	<i>Martynia annua</i> L.	Martyniaceae	Wagh-nakhya (B) = tiger nail	Fruit woody and hooked at tip like tiger nail
46	<i>Medico sativa</i> L.	Fabaceae	Ghoda-ghas (B) = horse	Plants fed to horse
47	<i>Merremia emarginata</i> (Burm.f.) Hall	Convolvulaceae	Undirkani (B) = rat pinnae	Leaves resemble to rat ear pinnae
48	<i>Mimosa pudina</i> L.	Mimosaceae	Lajalu (B) = shy	Leaves fold when touch
49	<i>Mucuma pruriens</i> (L.) DC	Fabaceae	Khaj-kuiiri (B) = irritation	Fruit densely covered with irritant bristles
50	<i>Pedaliium murex</i> L.	Pedaliaceae	Ubha-gokhru (P) = erect	Fruit erect pyramidal with spines
51	<i>Peltophorum pterocarpum</i> (DC) Baker	Caesalpinaceae	Son-mohar (B) = golden	Flowers golden yellow in colour
52	<i>Peptatropis spiralis</i> (Forsk.) Decne	Asclepiadaceae	Popti-seng (B) = parrot	Fruit follicle tapering to a beak like structure of parrots
53	<i>Physalis minima</i> L.	Solanaceae	Phuga (B) = balloon	Fruit covered by calyx which is balloon like
54	<i>Solanum virginianum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Ran-wange (B) = wild brinjal	Fruit resemble to brinjal
55	<i>Spilanthus calva</i> DC.	Asteraceae	Akkalkhar (B) = refresher	Flower head are chewed for cleaning mouth
56	<i>Terminalia catapa</i> L.	Combretaceae	Deshi-badam (B) = almond	Seeds used as substitute to almond
57	<i>Terminalia crenulata</i> Roth.	Combretaceae	Ragatroda (B) = blood	Wood red in colour
58	<i>Thespesia lampas</i> Dalz.	Malvaceae	Ranbhendi (B) = wild lady finger	Fruit seems to be a lady finger
59	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> (Willd.) Miers ex Hook.f. & Thom.	Menispermaceae	Gulwel (B) = good climber	Climber has many medicinal properties
60	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> Linn.	Zygophyllaceae	Gokhru (B) = cow feet	Fruits are hard and like cow feet
61	<i>Trichodesma indicum</i> (L.) Lehm.	Boraginaceae	Devacha-chana (B) = gram	Fruits are resemble to gram
62	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> L.	Asteraceae	Ghavpala (B) = wound	Leaves applied in wound

63	<i>Salvadora persica</i> Linn.	Salvadoraceae	Tikhi-phuli (B) = spicy	Fruits are spicy
64	<i>Uraria picta</i> Desv.	Fabaceae	Pithvan (B) = flour	Tubers flour used for bread
65	<i>Vernonia cinera</i> (Linn.) Less.	Asteraceae	Sahdevi (K) = goddess	Flowers are worshipped to goddess
66	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Nirgudi (B,P,K) = blue	Flowers blue in colour
67	<i>Wendlandia heynei</i> (R.&S.) Sant & Merch.	Rubiaceae	Geshtya (B) = grey coloured	Leaves grey, tomentose beneath
68	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> (L.) Kurz.	Lythraceae	Pechari (B) = bunch of flowers	When in full bloom, the plants are showy
69	<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i> R.Br.	Apocynaceae	Dudh-kudi (B) = milk	Leaves are fed to goat for increasing milk
70	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> L.	Asteraceae	Banmani (P) = wild bead	Fruit compressed, glabrous bead like

B = Bhil name; P=Pawari name; K=Kokani name; M=Mavachi name

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