INTRODUCTION:
Nandurbar district is situated in Northern part of the state of Maharashtra bordering the state Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. It is the most tribal district of Khandesh. As near about seventy percent of tribal population. The aborigines inhabiting the district are Bhi, Pawara, Tadvi, Mavachi, Kokan. They are mainly dependent on forest products and living in Satpuda Mountain. A primarily pantropical family with only few genera occurring in temperate region. The members are perennial herbs, shrubs or rarely small trees, Sometimes fleshy or cactus like and generally with milky sap. The family Asclepiadaceae consists of 320 genera and more than 1800 species (Lawrence, 1951). In India, the family is represented by 35 genera and 234 species, out of which 172 species are endemic. The leaves are usually simple opposite decussate or even whorled. The flowers are bisexual, regular, pentamericous and hypogynous. Stamens five filaments short or none, fused with the gynoecium to form gynostegium. Pollen in one or two sacs called pollinia. The fruit is a pair of follicle with hairy outgrowths arise from petals. The staminal corolla is outgrowth arise from the staminal tube. The corolla is of two types, corolla corona and stamina corona. The corolla corona is scale or hairy outgrowths arise from petals. The staminodial corolla is outgrowth arise from the stamina. The corolla corona is double, outer annular membranous while inner alternating with outer corona. In the genus Stapelia corolla corona in two series and arising from the stamina column. The leaves of Stapelia are very much reduced and represented by spines and scales. In the genus Asclepias and Calotropis the flowers are being arranged in umbellate cyme. The flowers in Asclepiadaceae are usually small but in the genus Stapelia flowers are quite large in size.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:
The plant materials were procured from various places like Tooranmal, Ambilbari, Leghapani and Kakarda and other places of Nandurbar districts. The field work carried out in different seasons, encompassing every nook and corner of the district. Herbarium specimens were prepared by using customary methods and are deposited in the Department of Botany, P. S. G. V. P. Mandal’s Arts, Science and Commerce College, Shahada, Dist-Nandurbar, Maharashtra. The data pertaining to botanical name, habit, flowering and fruiting period and occurrence were particularly noted during the study. Plants were identified by using, The Flora of Presidency of Bombay (Cook, 1958), Flora of Maharashtra State (Singh, Kartikeyan, 2000,2001), Flora of Dhule and Nandurbar Districts (Maharashtra), (Patil, 2003).

DISCUSSION:
The Asclepiadaceous members in the district are little in numbers. Most of the taxa are having a single species except Calotropis and Tylorapha with two species each. Asclepias curassavica and Tylorapha indica is suffrutosus herb. Marsdenia tenacissima and Pergularia daemia are woody climbers. As the members are containing milky sap, they are also used for medicinal purpose. The young seeds of Pentatropis spiralis are eaten raw. The stem bark of Pergularia daemia is used to dress maggots infected wounds of cattle and leaf extract mixed with honey cures cough. The members of the family divided in to two sub families, Periplociae and Cyanhoideae on the basis of free stamens and pollinia respectively. The flowers of Asclepiadaceae are characterized by the presence of hood, known as corona. The corona is of two types, corolline corona and stamina corona. The corolline corona is scale or hairy outgrowths arise from petals. The staminal corona is outgrowth arise from the stamina. The staminal corona is double, outer annular membranous while inner alternating with outer corona. In the genus Stapelia corolla corona in two series and arising from the stamina column. The leaves of Stapelia are very much reduced and represented by spines and scales. In the genus Asclepias and Calotropis the flowers are being arranged in umbellate cyme. The flowers in Asclepiadaceae are usually small but in the genus Stapelia flowers are quite large in size.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:
The author is thankful to Prof. Dr. D. A. Patil, Dhule for his affection and guidance and Principal, P. S. G. V. P. Mandal’s Arts, Science and Commerce College, Shahada, for laboratory and library facility.

Table 1: Enumeration of Asclepiadaceae taxa:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Habit</th>
<th>Flowering and Fruiting Period</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Asclepias curassavica L.</td>
<td>Suffrutosus herb</td>
<td>Almost throughout the year</td>
<td>Cultivated as an ornamental plant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Calotropis gigantean (L.) R.Br.</td>
<td>Stout shrub</td>
<td>Almost throughout the year</td>
<td>Frequent in wastelands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Calotropis procera (Ait) R.Br.</td>
<td>Erect shrub</td>
<td>Almost throughout the year</td>
<td>Very common and abundant in wasteland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Caralluma adscendens (Roxb.) R.Br.</td>
<td>Succulent herb</td>
<td>Feb.-Sept.</td>
<td>Common on rocky slopes of hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cosmostigma racemosum (Roxb.) Wight.</td>
<td>Perennial twinner</td>
<td>Aug. – Oct.</td>
<td>In hilly forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Holostemma ad-ada-kodien Schult.</td>
<td>Climber</td>
<td>Aug. – Oct.</td>
<td>On trees and shrubs in forest areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Leptadenia reticulate (Retz.) Wight.</td>
<td>Twining shrub</td>
<td>Apr. – Jul.</td>
<td>Frequent along river, stream banks, on hedges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Marsdenia tenacissima (Roxb.) Moon</td>
<td>Woody climber</td>
<td>June-Sept.</td>
<td>Occasional on edges of fields</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Pentatropis spiralis (Forsk.) Decne.
- Slender twiner
- July-Octo.
- Occasional in hedges along roads, fields

### Pergularia daemia (Forsk.) Chiov.
- Woody twiner
- Sept.-March
- Common on edges of fields, garden, wasteland

### Sarcostemma acidum (Roxb.) Voigt.
- Succulent shrub
- July-Octo.
- Occasional in dry rocky habitats

### Stapelia grandiflora Massion.
- Leafless herb
- March-May
- Planted in garden

### Tylophora dalzellii Hook.
- Twiner
- Aug.-Dec.
- Occasional in bushes

### Tylophora indica (Burm.f.) Merr.
- Suffrutescent herb
- July-Sept.
- Occur as forest undergrowth

### Wattakaka volubilis (L.f.) Stapf.
- Twining shrub
- Feb.-April
- Common in wasteland

### REFERENCES: