

# VN Ethnomedicinal plant diversity and its uses by ethnic groups like Gond, Bhill and Korku

Badgujar

Department of Botany, Shri R.L.T. College of Science, Akola, Maharashtra, India

## Abstract

Ethnomedicinal knowledge is very ancient in India. There has been a rapid rise in interest in Ethnomedicinal studies in recent years mainly because of search for potentially new medicine and economic plants and secondly because of the need of conservations and utilization of plants resources found in tribal areas for social and economical development. The Satpuda ranges has a large population of tribals like Gond, Korku, Bhill etc. They have their own customs and traditions. Their knowledge regarding plant surrounding is rich. They totally dependent on forest for their livelihood. This knowledge should be used for welfare of society and further generation.

**Keywords:** Ethnobotany, ethnomedicinal, livelihood, tribal, diversity

## 1. Introduction

Ethnobotany or Ethnomedicine deals with the direct, traditional and natural relationship between human societies and plants. It has been recognized as a multidisciplinary science comprising many interesting and useful aspect of plant sciences, history, anthropology, culture and literature. Its importance has been chiefly realized in respect of varied economic uses of plants among the primitive human societies. It brings to light various uses of plants and also help in conservation of genetic resources. The Indian subcontinent has a population of nearly 40 million tribal's of different ethnic groups living in different states. There are total 463 tribal communities all over India, out of which the tribes are Gond, Bhill, Sonthal, Munda, Khond, Koli, Korku. These tribal people have huge knowledge and experience of local vegetation on which they are depended for their food. Many of them depends upon plants for their livelihood and collects tubers, barks, roots, rhizome, flowers, fruit, seeds, leaves, fiber, gum, lac, honey wax etc. using them in a variety of ways. This knowledge possessed by tribal people should be used to the fullest advantage in the presentation of various ecosystem. Ethnobotany as application must have been the first knowledge acquired by men to satisfy that is hunger, healing his wounds and curing various ailments <sup>[1]</sup>. Ethnomedicine is defined by Foster and Anderson (1978) is the totality of health knowledge values benefits, skills, practices of member of society including all the clinical and non-clinical activities that relate to their health needs.

## 2. Material and Methods

In order to study diversity and uses of ethnomedicinal plants and use of traditional medicine a survey was carried out by several field trips. The information on medicinal uses of indigenous people has been described after gathering information from experiences, herbal medicinal practitioners, of ethnic groups who are having knowledge of traditional

healing. The informants belongs to Gond, Bhill, Korku and Gawali tribal people are interviewed and brief discussions was made in local language. A number of plants have been used by tribal as medicine which have been recorded by <sup>[1-3]</sup> time to time collect through interview with tribal who had the traditional knowledge of plants. In addition to vernacular names questions were also asked about each plant prescribed such as part of the plant used, medicinal uses, detailed information (i.e. decoction, paste, powder and juice) from usage to either fresh or dried and other plants used as ingredients were also collected. The collected plants were identified, photographed and sample specimens were collected for the preparation of Herbariums. The collected plant species were identified by using flora of <sup>[4]</sup> as well as flora of <sup>[5]</sup>

### 2.1 Plants observed during field survey

1) Botanical Name: *Acacia sinuata* wild (DC 346)

Family: Mimosaceae

Vernacular Name: Shikekai

Part Used: Pods

Types of Uses: Powder of Pods and fruits of *Balanites aegyptica* (Z) combine by boiled and used against Dandruff.

2) Botanical Name: *Ageratum conyzoides* L.

Family: Asteraceae

Vernacular Name: Osadi

Part Used: Leaves

Type of Uses: Fresh leaves paste is applied to cuts and wounds it is also useful in boils, Leprosy, and skin diseases.

3) Botanical Name: *Butea superba* Roxb.

Family: Fabaceae

Vernacular Name: Palasvel

Part Used: Root, bark, leaf

Type of Uses: In heat eruptions of children the leaf juice and given along with curd. The root, bark, flowers are prescribed for treatment of snakebite.

4) Botanical Name: *Bridelia retusa* L.

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Vernacular Name: Kutgi

Part Used: Bark

Type of Uses: The bark is used as astringent.

5) Botanical Name: *Cardiospermum halicacabum* L.

Family: Sapindaceae

Vernacular Name: Kapalphuti

Part Used: Leaf juiceis

Type of Uses: Fresh leaf juice is used against the dysentery of animals.

6) Botanical Name: *Caesalpinia bonducella* L.  
 Family: Caesalpiniaceae  
 Vernacular Name: Bhuringani  
 Part Used: Seed  
 Type of Uses: Seed powder mixed in a cup of goat milk used against defect in eyes.

7) Botanical Name: *Celastrus Paniculata* Wild  
 Family: Celastraceae  
 Vernacular Name: Malkanguni  
 Part Used: Leaves, Seeds  
 Type of Uses: Leaves and seeds are used in Medicine.

8) Botanical Name: *Clerodendron phlomidis*  
 Family: Verbenaceae  
 Vernacular Name: Talka  
 Part Used: Root  
 Type of Uses: The root decoction is used as a demulcent in gonorrhoea.

9) Botanical Name: *Cajanus cajan* L.  
 Family: Fabaceae  
 Vernacular Name: Tur  
 Part Used: Leaves  
 Type of Uses: Filtered decoction of leaves of *Cajanus* and *Kathbol* regularizes menstrual cycle.

10) Botanical Name: *Corallocarpus epigaeus* (WF)  
 Family: Cucurbitaceae  
 Vernacular Name: Mirchikand  
 Part Used: Root  
 Type of Uses: Root powder used against snake-bite.

11) Botanical Name: *Carica papaya* L.  
 Family: Caricaceae  
 Vernacular Name: Papai  
 Part Used: Fruit pulp, Root  
 Type of Uses: Fruit pulp is used for skin treatment. Root powder used against snake-bite.

12) Botanical Name: *Diospyresexculpt*  
 Family: Ebenaceae  
 Vernacular Name: Tendu, Temru  
 Part Used: Fresh juice of leaves  
 Type of Uses: Fresh juice is used against ringworm.

13) Botanical Name: *Dioscorea bulbifera* L.  
 Family: Dioscoreaceae  
 Vernacular Name: Akashwel  
 Part Used: Root  
 Type of Uses: The young Tubercus roots are used against snake bite.

14) Botanical Name: *Ficus religiosa* L.  
 Family: Moraceae  
 Vernacular Name: Pimpal  
 Part Used: Leaves, Root, Bark  
 Type of Uses: To cure mirgrane the bidis are made from leaves which are smoked using fire powder of vitex leaves.

15) Botanical Name: *Hyptis suaveolens* L.  
 Family: Lamiaceae  
 Vernacular Name: Vilayati Tulsi  
 Part Used: Leaf Juice  
 Type of Uses: Leaf juice is used against skin disorders and itching. It is also used in colic and stomach ache.

16) Botanical Name: *Lepidagathis crista* Wild  
 Family: Acanthaceae  
 Vernacular Name: Bhuigend  
 Part Used: Roots  
 Type of Uses: Roots after boiling with water used against toothache and for gargaling.

17) Botanical Name: *Martynia annua* L.  
 Family: Martyniaceae  
 Vernacular Name: Waghnaakhi  
 Part Used: Fruit, Leaves  
 Type of Uses: The fruit are useful in inflammations. The leaves are given in epilepsy; applied to tuberculous glands of the neck.

18) Botanical Name: *Madhuca longifolia* L.  
 Family: Sapotaceae  
 Vernacular Name: Mohwa  
 Part Used: Bark, Flowers  
 Type of Uses: Flowers yields a distilled spirit, which is astringent, tonic, regarded as cooling and nutritive. Bark is used in decoction as astringent and tonic, fish poison.

19) Botanical Name: *Momordica dioica* Roxb  
 Family: Cucurbitaceae  
 Vernacular Name: Kartoli  
 Part Used: Root  
 Type of Uses: The roasted root is used to stop bleeding from piles and also in bowel complaints.

20) Botanical Name: *Murraya koenigii* L.  
 Family: Rutaceae  
 Vernacular Name: Kari-patta  
 Part Used: Leaves, Bark  
 Type of Uses: Leaves, bark are used in skin and oral infections. Leaves are also used as flavouring agent.

### 3. Result and Discussion

In the present study revealed that the tribals aborigines group of Korku, Gond, Bhill have adequate ethnomedicinal knowledge which has been transmitted from one generation to another. These Ethnomedicinal plants drugs are safe and effective constituents of plants product. Synthetic drugs widely used in the treatment of various diseases may cause toxicity and adverse side effects, whereas herbal medicine is considered less toxic than synthetic drugs. The ethnomedicinal plants are used as cheap and safe remedies for various ailments by ethnic groups of Gond, Korku and Bhill. These people possess good knowledge of herbal drug, but due to modernization, their knowledge of traditional use of plant may lost in due course, so it is important to study and record the uses of plants for future study.

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