

## ETHNOMEDICINAL TRADITIONS OF TRIBALS OF NANDURBAR DISTRICT (MAHARASHTRA)

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The traditional ethnomedicinal uses of 54 species belonging to 52 genera and 32 families of angiosperms are presented in this paper. The ethnomedicinal-lore of the tribes such as Pawara, Bhil, Mavachi and Kokani is documented for different diseases like scabies, jaundice, asthma, piles, diarrhoea, eczema, various diseases of stomach and urinogenital ones, apart from their uses for abscess, tumours, abortion, impotency, swelling, loss of appetite, paralysis, teething in infants etc. The correct scientific name, family, local name, plant parts used and preparation are recorded with due care.

**Keywords :** Ethnomedicine; Maharashtra; Nandurbar District.

Practice of indigenous herbal medicines is one of the advancing frontiers of medical science in modern times. From time immemorial plants have played a significant role as curative and protective agents. Aborigines have always used plants of their surroundings to treat a wide spectrum of human diseases. Keeping in view of vegetational richness of this region and the predominant population of tribals such as Pawara, Bhil, Mavachi and Kokani, attempts have been made to document ethnomedicinal uses of plants of Nandurbar district.

During ethnomedicinal surveys among the aboriginal people of Nandurbar district, the authors came across some wild plants which are being used for medicines.

The tribal people were interviewed in different seasons and pocket of forest dwellers. Validity of data was confirmed by making queries to tribal people in the same or other hamlets/villages. Plants families have been identified using Patil's<sup>1</sup> and their botanical names were deciphered using recent floras by Naik<sup>2</sup>, Patil<sup>1,3</sup> and Cooke<sup>4</sup>. The results of this study are tabulated in Table 1.

The data presented in this communication is the result of first-hand intensive survey of the tribal people of Nandurbar district. The majority of them depend on herbal medicines which are locally and easily accessible. External application or internal administration of medicine is in the form of paste, powder, oil, decoction and infusion. The

**Table 1.** Systematic enumeration of plants used for different diseases.

Sr. No.	Botanical Name	Family	Vernacular Name	Plant/ Part used	Ailment / Disease	Preparation
1	<i>Acacia catechu</i> Willd.	Mimosaceae	Khair	Bark	Abscess	Paste
				Bark	Painful menstruation	Decoction
2	<i>Adathada zeylanica</i> Medic.	Acanthaceae	Adulsa	Roots	Fever	Infusion
				Leaves	Cough, Asthma	Decoction
3	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr.	Rutaceae	Bel	Leaves	Piles, Jaundice	Infusion
				Fruit	Mucous in stool, Mouth ulcer	Powder
4	<i>Aerva sanguinolenta</i> (L.) Bl.	Amaranthaceae	Burval	Roots	Mouth ulcer	Infusion
5	<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> Roxb.	Simarubaceae	Mahrukh	Bark	Jaundice	Infusion
					Fracture	Paste
6	<i>Aloe vera</i> (L.) Burm. f.	Liliaceae	Kunwar Pato	Leaves	Burn	Paste
7	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Katoria-matla	Seeds	To avoid abortion	Powder
				Entire plant	Urinary Stone	Powder
8	<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	Annonaceae	Sitaphal	Seeds	Head lice	Paste

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Sr. No.	Botanical Name	Family	Vernacular Name	Plant/ Part used	Ailment / Disease	Preparation
9.	<i>Argemone mexicana</i> L.	Papaveraceae	Pivala Dhotra	Roots	Prolonged menstruation	Infusion
				Latex	Scabies	Latex applied
10.	<i>Aristolochia bracteolata</i> Retz.	Aristolochiaceae	Kidamari	Leaves	Eczema Pus in ears	Juice Juice
11.	<i>Baliospermum raziana</i> Keshav et. Yog.	Euphorbiaceae	Dati	Roots	Constipation	Infusion
				Seeds	Scabies	Paste
12.	<i>Biophytum sensitivum</i> (L.)DC.	Oxalidaceae	Risamnu	Entire plant	White discharge	Paste
13.	<i>Boswellia serrata</i> Roxb.	Bursaceae	Salai	Bark	Joint pain	Infusion
				Gum	Fever	Gum + water
				Root	Weakness	Decoction
14.	<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam.) Taub.	Papilionaceae	Palas	Bark	Fracture	Paste
				Gum	Foruncle	Gum applied
				Flowers	Scabies	Paste
15.	<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i> (L.)Roxb.	Caesalpiniaceae	Kachka	Seeds	Abdominal pain	Infusion
				Leaves	Asthma	Decoction
16.	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (L.)R.Br.	Asclepiadaceae	Rui	Latex	Boils/Scabies	Latex applied
17.	<i>Carica papaya</i> L.	Caricaceae	Papaya	Roots	Muscle catch	Paste
18.	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Rantakla	Roots	Snake bite	Powder
19.	<i>Cassia tora</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Tarota	Seeds	Asthma	Powder
				Leaves	Diarrhoea	Infusion
				Entire plant	Piles	Ash
20.	<i>Celosia argentea</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Lambdi	Seeds	Fever	Powder
21.	<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L.	Vitaceae	Khandvel	Entire plant	Fracture	Paste
22.	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> L.	Papilionaceae	Gokam	Leaves	Joint pain	Paste/.
23.	<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (L.) Theobs.	Menispermaceae	Vasanvel	Entire plant	Jaundice	Infusion
24.	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i> L.	Commelinaceae	Kena	Leaves	Weakness	Vegetable
25.	<i>Crataeva adansonii</i> DC.	Capparidaceae	Varno	Bark	Boils with pus	Infusion
26.	<i>Curcuma inodora</i> Blatt.	Zingiberaceae	Hengya	Rhizome	Pile	Powder
27.	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.	Cyperaceae	Chido	Tuberous roots	Watery stool	Decoction
				Tuberous roots	Fever	Infusion
				Tuberous roots	Snake Bite	Powder
28.	<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i> Roxb.	Papilionaceae	Sisam	Leaves	Fever	Infusion
29.	<i>Dioscorea hispida</i> Dennst.	Dioscoreaceae	Vaskand	Bulb	Wound	Paste
30.	<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i> (L.) Jeffery	Cucurbitaceae	Shivlingi	Leaves/fruits	Pain in arms/legs	Powder
				Seeds	Snake bite, sterility in women	Powder

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Sr. No.	Botanical Name	Family	Vernacular Name	Plant/ Part used	Ailment / Disease	Preparation
31.	<i>Emblca officinalis</i> Gaertn.	Euphorbiaceae	Awala	Fruit	Vomiting	Dry fruit chewed
				Fruit	Scabies	Powder
				Leaves/Bark	Jaundice	Infusion
32.	<i>Eranthemum roseum</i> (Vahl) R.Br.	Acanthaceae	Dashmuli	Entire plant	Paralysis	Paste
				Roots	Sunstroke	Infusion
33.	<i>Gardenia turgida</i> Roxb.	Rubiaceae	Gongdi	Fruits	Mumps	Paste
34.	<i>Gloriosa superba</i> L.	Liliaceae	Kal-lavi	Leaves	Jaundice	Infusion
				Tuber	Swelling	Paste
35.	<i>Hygrophila schulli</i> (Buch.-Ham.) M.R. & S.M. Almeida	Acanthaceae	Talimkhana	Seeds	Impotence	Powder
36.	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Chandryjyot	Latex	Burn	Latex applied
37.	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i> L.	Lythraceae	Mendi	Leaves	Scabies	Paste
38.	<i>Momordica dioica</i> Roxb. ex Willd.	Cucurbitaceae	Kantola	Tuber	Scorpion bite	Paste
39.	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lamk.	Moringaceae	Shevga	Bark	Paralysis	Paste
40.	<i>Pergularia daemia</i> (Forsk.) Chiov.	Asclepiadaceae	Nagla-dudheli	Latex	Burn	Latex applied
41.	<i>Pueraria tuberosa</i> (Roxb.) DC.	Papilionaceae	Pithana	Tuber	Weakness	Powder
42.	<i>Raphanus sativus</i> L.	Brassicaceae	Mogri	Fruit	Impure blood	Vegetable
43.	<i>Rungia repens</i> (L.) Nees	Acanthaceae	—	Entire plant Roots	Cough Muscle Catch	Powder/Infusion Paste
44.	<i>Sarcostemma intermedium</i> Decne.	Asclepiadaceae	—	Entire plant	General Sickness	Decoction/Powder
45.	<i>Sesamum indicum</i> L.	Pedaliaceae	Til	Seeds	Loss of appetite	Crushed seeds
46.	<i>Solanum virginianum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Bhoyringni	Roots	Cough	Powder
47.	<i>Spilanthus calva</i> DC.	Asteraceae	Akkalgaro	Leaves	Cough	Infusion / Leaves chewed
48.	<i>Tamarindus indicus</i> L.	Caesalpinaceae	Chinch	Bark	Bleeding from nose	Infusion
				Bark	Excessive menstruation	Decoction
49.	<i>Theriophonum dalzellii</i> Schott.	Araceae	—	Corn	Abscess and Tumours	Paste
50.	<i>Trichodesma indica</i> (L.) R.Br.	Boraginaceae	Undanfuli	Leaves	Scabies	Powder + oil
51.	<i>Vicoa indica</i> (L.) DC.	Asteraceae	Sanasali	Entire plant	Abortion	Infusion
52.	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> (L.) Kurz.	Lythraceae	Dhaiti	Flower	Teething in infants	Paste/Infusion
				Flower	Watery stool	Infusion

tribals possess fairly good amount of knowledge about their diseases. The data accrued has been verified by cross-checking. This study throws light on the popularity of our indigenous system of medicine among the tribal/rural people. They await attention of phytochemists and pharmacologists for further scientific scrutiny to divulge vital drugs for the well-being of mankind.

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