

Dye yielding Plants used by Tribals of Dhar District, Madhya Pradesh, India

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ABSTRACT

Dhar district is known as one of the tribal district of Madhya Pradesh. The use of dyes for making specific color or color combinations was found to play an important role in the social and religious life of the tribals. 18 dye yielding plants have been observed in the study area which are used by tribal. Indigenous knowledge of ethno-herbal dye is facing threats from synthetic dyes and needs attention for conservation.

Key words: Dhar district, ethno-dye plants, tribals, Madhya Pradesh.

INTRODUCTION

During the Indus valley civilization (ca 2500 BC) findings of colored garments and traces in the ruins at Mohenjodaro and Harappa are evidence of dye use at that time. In Egypt, mummies have been found wrapped in dyed clothes. The Christian holy book (Bible) has mentioned of use of many natural dyes including saffron. Henna was known to be used even before 2500 BC. By the 4th century AD, dyes sources such as woad, madder, indigo and a dark-purple were known.

Dhar district is situated in the South-western part of Madhya Pradesh. The district lies between the latitude of 22° 00' to 23° 10' North and longitude of 74° 28' to 75° 42' East. The district is bounded by Ratlam to the North, Ujjain to the Northeast, Indore to the East, Khargone to the Southeast, Barwani to the South, Alirajpur to the Southwest and Jhabua to the West. The elevation varies from 256-1000 m above sea level. Dhar name is supposed based on "Sword Blade" of Vairisingh to have been derived from Dharanagari. The total area of the district comprising 8153 sq. km. is divided into seven tahsils viz. Dhar, Dharampuri, Sardarpur, Manawer, Badnawer, Gandhwani and Kukshi. Geographically area is divided into Malwa plateau, Vindhyan scarps and Narmada valley. The average annual rainfall is between 656.7 mm. and 1556.6mm. and average Maxi. temperature varies from 26.5°C to 40.1°C and mini. temperature varies between 9.7°C to 24.2°C. Most of area is drained by Narmada,

Chambal, Man, Mahi, Karam, Khuj, Bag, Hathani rivers.

The Major part of the district is covered by dense forest area in which various tribes are living in majority out of these tribals. These Tribal's live close to the forest and are largely dependent on the wild biological resources for their livelihood. The area under study is inhabited by Bhils, one of the most important and third largest tribe of India. The *Bhil* has been derived from the Dravidian word 'bil' or 'vil' meaning a bow. Although few research paper are available (Das 2010), (Jain *et al.*1977), (Kar *et al.*2008), (Teron, *et al.* 2012) and (Singh *et al.* 2001). Regarding dye yielding plants but no research paper published from study area. Hence an attempt has been made to study the dye yielding plants of Dhar district.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Field survey was conducted during the period 2010-2013. as per well planned schedule and rich pocket of tribal areas were visited for documentation of dye yielding plants. Information on dye yielding plants were collected from the tribal villages of Nalcha, Mandu, Budhimandu, Undakho, Amkho, Keshvi, Bagh, Tanda, Pipalda, Bilda, Kukshi, Manawer, Umarband, Panala, Gyanpura, Sodpur, Mehandikhedi, Hedri and Kachal. Herbarium of the collected plants specimen was prepared following customary method (Jain and Rao, 1977).

Data on the preparation of different colours and their applications were gathered from indigenous experienced village people. Local name of the plants and their methods of preparation with other raw ingredient were recorded. The plants were identified with the help of flora and available

literature (khanna et al., 2001). The collected plant species are arranged alphabetically along with their botanical name, vernacular names, family and parts used for preparation of colour are given below in (Table-1).

Table 1: List of plants used in Ethno-Dyes production.

| s.no | Botanical name | Family | Vernacular name | Part used | Color |
|------|---|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1 | <i>Acacia catechu</i> Linn. | Mimosaceae | Khair | Barks | Brown |
| 2 | <i>Acacia nilotica</i> Linn. | Mimosaceae | Babul | Flowers | yellow |
| 3 | <i>Bauhinia purpurea</i> Linn. | Caesalpiaceae | Kachner | Flowers | Violet |
| 4 | <i>Bombax ceiba</i> Linn. | Bombacaceae | Semal | Flowers | Red |
| 5 | <i>Butea monosperma</i> (Linn.) Taub. | Fabaceae | Palash | Flowers | Red |
| 6 | <i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (L.) Diels. | Menispermaceae | Vachaniya | Fruits | Red |
| 7 | <i>Curcuma longa</i> Linn. | Zingiberaceae | Haldi | Rhizomes | yellow |
| 8 | <i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i> Buch.Ham. | Ebenaceae | Tendu | Barks | Black |
| 9 | <i>Eclipta prostrata</i> L. | Asteraceae | Bharangraj | Leaves | Black |
| 10 | <i>Emblica officinalis</i> Gaerth. | Euphorbiaceae | Amla | Fruits | Black |
| 11 | <i>Indigofera tinctoria</i> Linn. | Fabaceae | Neel | Leaves, flowerbud | Indigo-Blue |
| 12 | <i>Lawsonia inermis</i> Linn. | Lythraceae | Mehandi | Leaves | Red |
| 13 | <i>Madhuca logifolia</i> (Koen.) Macbr. | Sapotaceae | Mahua | Flowers | Red |
| 14 | <i>Mallotus phillipensis</i> Linn. | Euphorbiaceae | Sindhoor | Fruit | Red |
| 15 | <i>Punica granatum</i> Linn. | Puniaceae | Anar | Flowers | Red |
| 16 | <i>Senna auriculata</i> (L.) Roxb. | Caesalpiaceae | Avlai | Bark | Red-orange |
| 17 | <i>Syzygium cumuni</i> (L.) Skeels. | Myrtaceae | Jamun | Seeds | Indigo |
| 18 | <i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> (L.) Kurz. | Lythraceae | Dhayatri | Flowers | Red-orange |

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The dyes are coloured compound capable of being fixed to fabrics which do not washout with soap and water or fade on expose to light .18 dye yielding plants have been recorded which produces dyes (Table 1). These natural dyes have been obtained from the roots, leaves, barks, fruits, rhizome. Bright colored dye is prepared from *Butea monosperma* (L.) Taub. These of orange and saffron colors a get used. During he festival of Holy and Bhagoria. Hair dye is manufactured in the marriage ceremonies and other festivals from Mehandi (*Lawsonia inermis* Linn.). Dried fruits of

Amla (*Emblica officinalis* Gaerth.) the gate of Black colors. Pest of Haldi (*Curcuma longa* Linn.) prepared and for colouring the newly wedded couples in many ceremonies. Bright Orange-red colors in marriage ceremonies for colouring newly wedded couples Haldi (*Curcuma longa* Linn.). It is observed that in various festivals, marriage ceremonies, rituals etc. they use there are prepared colors from natural sources instead of synthetic colours. Black color is prepared from *Emblica officinalis* which is used for different purpose in marriage ceremony.

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