

Survey in relation to Ethnobotany of Ambernath Taluka of Thane district in Maharashtra state, India

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Article Info	Abstract
<p>Available online on http://www.ijlsci.in</p> <p>ISSN: 2320-964X (Online) ISSN: 2320-7817 (Print)</p> <p>Editor: Dr. Arvind Chavhan</p> <p>Cite this article as: Patel Alpa K and Yeragi SS (2015) Survey in relation to Ethnobotany of Ambernath Taluka of Thane district in Maharashtra state, India, <i>Int. J. of Life Sciences</i>, Special Issue, A4: 65-68.</p> <p>Acknowledgement: Authors are thankful to the villagers for the valuable information and Dr. Dhuri for the identification of plants for the preparation of the paper.</p> <p>Copyright: © Author, This is an open access article under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial - No Derives License, which permits use and distribution in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited, the use is non-commercial and no modifications or adaptations are made.</p>	<p>Ambernath taluka is situated in Thane district and falls under the plains at the foot of the slopes of the Sahayadri, and has a small part of Matheran ranges descending as small hills. This area has heavy vegetation includes many Medicinal plants; many people use the plants for satisfying their needs. They have knowledge of Traditional Medicines also. The present work is carried out for the ethno medicinal plants, which were used for curing various health disorders like dysentery, diarrhea, wounds, poison bites etc. Ethnobotany, as a research field of science, has been widely used for the documentation of indigenous knowledge on the use of plants and for providing an inventory of useful plants from local flora & ethnobotanical studies have been used for the discovery of new drugs. This paper discusses ethnobotanical approach of traditional medicinal studies.</p> <p>Keyword: Medicinal plants, Ethnobotany, health disorders, indigenous, Ambernath</p> <p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>Since the beginning of civilization, people have used plants as medicine. Ancient people use to stay nearby river and learned first how to make agriculture and studied more forest for their food and to maintain the good health, they learned the use of plants as medicine for curing the diseases (Martin, 1995). Medicinal plants, since times immemorial, have been used in virtually all cultures as a source of medicine. The use of traditional medicine and medicinal plants in most developing countries, as a normative basis for the maintenance of good health, has been widely observed (UNESCO, 1996). Medicine, in several developing countries, using local traditions and beliefs, is still the mainstay of health care. Ethnobotany is the study of how people of particular culture and</p>

region make use of indigenous plants, ethnobotany has its roots in botany which originated from the study of plants for medicine (Schultes and Jain, 1981).

Ambernath taluka has a varied geographical structure. It has hills which descend from Matheran ranges. The hilly region of Ambernath taluka is highly rich in Plant Biodiversity, which used by local village people for fire-wood, apart from that many people are having the knowledge of medicinal plants also. The plants were mostly used for various purposes like dysentery, cold, diarrhea, snake and honey bee bite etc (Jain, 1981). The destruction of natural habitat of medicinal plants for various reasons like industrialization and urbanization, many of the medicinal plant species are threatened and striving for the existence (Jain, 1981).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The survey of medicinal plants was done by arranging collection visits. The present work was carried out within Ambernath region, specimens were collected from field observation. Accordingly information on habit, flowering, fruiting period, medicinal value, plant part used etc. was recorded. The plants were identified with help of literature.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the present study 14 plant species were recorded. The present investigation revealed that the plant species used at various diseases occurred in different seasons for both Man as well as animals. The leaves and roots are the major parts of the plant, which are used frequently by the native people of Ambernath. Different types of preparations made from medicinally significant plants including decoction, powder, juice and paste (Almeida and Chaturvedi, 2006). Families like Malvaceae, Moraceae used dominantly. The local people of Ambernath use the medicinally important plants either as single or in combination with other plants. The following

Plants have been used as a medicine by many people in Ambernath.

1. **Botanical Name:** *Sida rhombifolia*

Family: Malvaceae

Use: Leaves used in Bronchitis, Cough, Snake-bite & inflammation. Stem used in skin disease. Root used in Diarrhea.

2. **Botanical Name:** *Evolvulus alsinoides*

Family: Convolvulaceae

Use: The whole herb is used medicinally in the form of decoction with cumin & milk in fever & diarrhea. The leaves are made into cigarette & smoked in bronchitis & asthma.

3. **Botanical Name:** *Cassia tora*

Family: Caesalpinaceae

Use: Leaves used in the treatment of skin diseases like ringworm & itching. Leaves extract pain from honey bee sting bite.

4. **Botanical Name:** *Urena lobata*

Family: Malvaceae

Use: The juice of leaves & roots is used in the treatment of diarrhea, stomach ache & dysentery. The decoction of root & leaves also taken to relieve pains due to excessive exertion. The whole plant is macerated & use externally for treatment of fracture, wounds & snake-bite.

5. **Botanical Name:** *Mucuna pruriens*

Family: Fabaceae

Use: The plant & its extract have been used for snake bite & treatment of Parkinson's Diseases.

6. **Botanical Name:** *Helicteres isora*

Family: Malvaceae

Use: The roots & bark are used in the treatment of diarrhea, dysentery & diabetes. The fruit powder is used as a rich source of nutritive.

7. **Botanical Name:** *Holarrhena antidysentrica*

Family: Apocynaceae

Use: Bark & seeds used in dysentery, diarrhea & for wounds. It is also used to treat jaundice, cold & cough.

8. **Botanical Name:** *Azanza lampas*

Family: Malvaceae

Use: The roots & fruits are used in remedy for gonorrhoea & syphilis.

9. **Botanical Name:** *Azadirachta indica*

Family: Meliaceae

Use: Leaves boiled with water & used for bath to avoid skin infection. The young twig used as tooth brush.

10. **Botanical Name:** *Ficus racemosa*

Family: Moraceae

Use: Root juice is used to heal wounds & also help in bleeding.

11. **Botanical Name:** *Ficus benghalensis*

Family: Moraceae

Use: Leaf powder mixed with coconut oil and applied on affected places to treat wound.

12. **Botanical Name:** *Ficus religiosa*

Family: Moraceae

Use: Dried leaf powder is mixed with water taken orally to get relief from body pain.

13. **Botanical Name:** *Phyllanthus emblica*

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Use: Dried fruit powder used in diarrhea anemia, The leaf juice mixed with black pepper and drink to treat scorpion sting.

14. **Botanical Name:** *Phyllanthus niruri*

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Use: Diuretic, laxative and cardio protective. Decoction of leaves is used for jaundice, dysentery and typhoid fever.



1. *Helicteris isora*



2. *Urena lobata*



3. *Mucuna pruriens*



4. *Azanza lampas*



5. *Holarrhena antidysenterica*

CONCLUSION

The impact of ethnobotany is directly related to the conservation of natural resources. Due to its interdisciplinary nature, the linkages of ethnobotany have proliferated. This valuable ethnobotanical information along with the rich bio-resources of the region needs to be conserved and taken up for sustainable utilisation. The rich bio-resources have to be translated into products and uses without which the rich resources have no value for the poor people of the region. Research must be organised on plants and diseases selected from ethnobotanic study. The survey would be helpful in photochemical studies and pharmaceutical point of view. Therefore, the need of the hour for the region is to capitalize so as to get rich indigenous wealth for the benefit of the people as well as immense scope for ethnobotanist.

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