

Ethno medicinal investigation of sacred plants found in Dab, Akkalkuva district Nandurbar, Maharashtra

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Abstract

This paper communicate 11 plant species found from 11 different families which are the part of religious belief, taboos, rituals and other day to day life motif of tribal peoples of Dab, Tehasil Akkalkuva, District Nandurbar, Maharashtra. These plants are used in sacred purpose as well as their medicinal needs. Al these plants are listed at the end of the paper with their local name, family, sacred uses and medicinal uses.

Keywords: sacred plants, ethnobotany, dab

Introduction

Dab is one of the beautiful place located in Akkalkuva tehsil in Nandurbar district Maharashtra. It is one of the coolest region of Satpuda Mountain which preserve a verity of biodiversity in it. Tribal population is dominant in this region which is directly dependent on various forest products for food, shelter and medicinal purposes. There is a big temple of Goddesses Yahamogi Mata, Goddesses Devgovi Mata and Goddesses Kali Mata. On the Mahashivratri, a big pilgrim is held in this village. The rich biodiversity and cool climate add to the importance of this place. There are variety of plants found in the region which are the part of religious belief, taboos, rituals and other day to day life motif of tribal peoples of Dab. Out of them some important sacred plants are investigated in this article. Preservation of natural resources has been a feature of mankind since time immemorial. This important habit of cultivating various useful plants by giving them religious significance has been done through this habit for many years.

Methodology

Dab is located in Akkalkuva tehsil, district Nandurbar, Maharashtra. It is near about 12-15 Km. from Akkalkuwa. In the period of June 2021 to December 2021 routine ethnobotanical observation was carried out by the author with regularly visit to Dab. The information gathers regarding the medicinal and sacred uses of the plants through the interview of local peoples, vaidus and pujaries. The obtained information regarding plants are place in tabular form. The identification of the plant are done with the help of published literature. Plant species are arranged alphabetically followed by family, local name and ethnomedicinal observations.

Table 1: Bioculture and Ethnomedicinal Practices

	Botanical Name	Vernacular Name	Family	Plant part used for Scared Purpose	Plant part used for Medicinal Purpose
01	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L.	Vad	Moraceae	1. It is called as Kalpvruksha (wish fulfilling tree).	1.Latex is typically used on the skin infections. 2.Leaf paste is used as an antiseptic on wounds.
02	<i>Lantana camara</i> L.	Ghaneri	Verbenaceae	1. Plant is found frequently in the region. It is one of the most important part of local plant diversity.	1.Leaf paste is applied especially on fungal infection on skin. 2. Leaf paste is used as an antiseptic on wounds.
03	<i>Tectona grandis</i> L.	Saag	Verbenaceae	1.Leaves are used to cover the roof of a house to avoid the entering of evil. 2.Vagdev festival is celebrated by the tribal's. A branch of this tree is placed erect in a place. If a tiger looks at it, then it is believed that the tiger will not disturb anybody.	1.Paste of wood powder is topically applied on the rheumatism and swellings. 2.Seed oil is used in hair treatment.
04	<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i> L.	Tulasi	Lamiaceae	1. For the invitation to all gods, the plant is planted in front of the main door.	1.2-3 Drops of leaf decoction are recommended in ear problems thrice a day.

				2. Inflorescence of the plant is used in the worship of Goddess Yahamogi Mata, Goddess Devgovi Mata and Goddess Kali Mata.	2. Leaf paste is externally used on headache.
05	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	Amba	Anacardiaceae	1. Fruit juice is used for food offering to god as Naivaidya 2. Twigs are placed in windows or doors at the time of marriage ceremony. Being auspicious, this is also thought a sign of invitation to the house owners.	1. Dried gum powder is mixed in a cup of water. It is administered in the treatment of the toothache.
06	<i>Madhuca longifolia</i> (Koen.) Macbr.	Moh	Sapotaceae	1. Liquor is served to all the people who are participated in various religious ceremonies.	1. Seed oil is used topically on rheumatism. 2. Ash of leaves is used on cuts wounds and other skin diseases.
07	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> L.	Jasvand.	Malvaceae	1. Flowers are offered in the worship.	1. A cup of decoction of flowers is recommended, a teaspoon twice a day in the treatment of cough until cure. 2. A cup of floral extract is diluted with water and recommended before sunrise with empty stomach for ladies to regularize the menstrual cycle.
08	<i>Eucalyptus maculata</i> Hook.	Nilgiri	Myrtaceae	1. Plant is found frequently in the region. It is one of the most important part of local plant diversity.	1. Fruit pulp is prescribed in kidney stone treatment. 2. Leaf extracts use as mosquito repellent.
09	<i>Alsophila dealbata</i> (G.Forst.) C.Presl		Cyatheaceae	1. Plant is found frequently in the region. It is one of the most important part of local plant diversity.	
10	<i>Adiantum philippinense</i> L.		Pteridaceae	1. Plant is found frequently in the region in rainy season.	
11	<i>Limonia acidissima</i> L.	Kaith, Kavath	Rutaceae	Fruits are not collected at night.	Decoction of root administered, two spoonful thrice a day, to treat body pain and dysentery.

Result and Discussion

Every living thing has a place in Indian culture. And the most important factor is plants. When we study the ancient Indian way of life, we find that humans have deliberately made special efforts to conserve certain important things, and this is what we call the method of conservation. When we come across some old lifestyle, we find things that have been nurtured in this way. Medicinal plants have a unique significance in Indian medicine. Plants have been used to treat various ailments since ancient times. In modern times there has been a modernization in the method of treatment but even today medicinal plants are used in the treatment of rural and remote areas. And so some conservation methods have been used since ancient times to save the plants from extinction. One of the important methods is to give spiritual importance to plants. So that man may be connected with spiritually relevant useful plants and indirectly conserve plants.

This research paper has studied the important plants found in such a remote, scenic and biodiversity rich place of Satpuda. Dab is a scenic spot in Akkalkuwa taluka at an altitude of about 209 meters above sea level. It is also another cool place in Satpuda. There are two temples of local deities in the area and this area has a unique spiritual significance in the tribal community. During this research study, a total of 11 plants were found to be directly or indirectly playing an important role in the local folk life. Out of 11 plants, 9 are angiospermic and 2 are pteridophytes. The all 12 plants are used differently with various ways in the treatment of skin infection, cuts & wounds, rheumatism, hair treatment, ear infection, headache, toothache, cough, kidney stone treatment and to regulate menstrual cycle. The plants part are involved like leaf, stem, bark, seed, fruit and gum in above treatment.

The knowledge of the use of medicinal plants in various treatments is passed on orally from one generation to another by the tribal community. This knowledge of tribal healing methods is profound as like a wide Satpuda. This knowledge is more likely to be lost. Therefore, it is very important to collect this knowledge for the treatment and study of various diseases in the future.

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