



Article : STUDIES ON BIODIVERSITY OF CERTAIN MEDICINAL PLANTS OF AHMEDNAGAR REGION, M. S., INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Ahmednagar region is a part of Deccan plateau, is situated in the western part of Maharashtra. In the course of survey conducted on the medicinal plants of Ahmednagar region it has been observed that large number of plant species are in traditional use to treat various minor/major diseases by rural people and tribal such as Bhils, Pardhi, Thakur, Mahadeo Koli, Vadar, Wanjari, Kaikadi, Laman etc. The area is rich in vegetation shows more biodiversity of medicinal plant species. Akole taluka is very rich with botanical and ethno medicinal wealth. The present paper provides information regarding 110 medicinal plants belonging to 37 families identified from Ahmednagar region.

Brief information about the plant part/s used, botanical names, English name, Marathi name, Hindi names have been presented. As the traditional herbal remedies are based on ancestral knowledge and empiric experiences. This type of ethno-medicinal biodiversity survey appeared to be useful for the research on medicinal plants for betterment of mankind.

Key words: Medicinal plants, Ethno botany, Biodiversity, Ahmednagar, Uses

INTRODUCTION

India is one of the 12 mega biodiversity countries in the world and has 17000 flowering plants, of these designed 25 hotspots in the world, the eastern Himalaya and the western Ghats are the two hotspots in India. Maharashtra is situated on the western side of Indian Peninsula. The state has 35 districts and includes 26 tribal communities. The tribal and rural population is dependent on natural use. This attracted the attention of several researchers, recently considerable attention has been paid to utilize ecofriendly and biofriendly plant based products for the prevention and cure of different human diseases.

The cultivation of medicinal plants has assumed greater importance in recent years due to their tremendous potential in modern and traditional medicine. They are also used as raw materials for pharmaceutical, cosmetics and fragrance industries. Maharashtra the '*Land of Jewels*' has various district regions, the hills and the plains. There are 33 districts of which some are entirely hilly areas, some are plains and some are hilly as well as plains. The Ahmednagar district has an area of 17,345 Sq. Km. abundant in natural resources including immense potential for medicinal plants. The Ahmednagar region has hilly as well as plain area with its distinct flora.

The Ahmednagar region witnesses the distinct character of rainy, winter and summer. The period from June to September is rainy, November to February is quite cold and March to May are hot. The temperature gradually rises from March to May and it goes up to 40°C. The regular S.-W. monsoon reaches in June and extends to September with peak during July-August. The relative humidity is generally optimum throughout the year. The tribal population inhabits in these forests. The present study is therefore, the first attempt to make an inventory and analysis of the entire flora of medicinal plants of Ahmednagar areas based on copious field observations, available literature and herbarium data, with a view to contribute to the overall knowledge.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The survey of medicinal plants was done by frequently arranged collection tours. The sample specimens wherever available or otherwise also have been preserved in the herbarium. The present study was carried out during 2009-2010. Data on taxon distribution within the Ahmednagar region were collected mainly from two sources: field observations and collection of specimens, literature, while only in a few cases data were assembled from the Herbarium of Regional Research Laboratory. The majority of field observations were carried out from 2008 to 2010 during multiple field trips throughout each growth season. Accordingly, information on habit, habitat, flowering, fruiting period, medicinal value, plant part used etc. was recorded. Collection of plant specimens was carried out in both dry and wet seasons to know more information on habitat. The information was collected from different ethnic groups, villagers, traditional healers/vaidyas who use the plants for medicinal purpose. From time to time various reports have been published by the author on plants used for different purposes (Aher, et al., 2004) present paper deals with biodiversity of medicinal plants useful for various

purpose. A literature survey was also carried out for cross checking/compilation of existing information on the medicinal value of plants. The specimens were identified with the help of local flora (Cooke, 1901). The specimens collected were deposited in herbarium.

Authors while they were on exploration of medicinal plant survey tours to Ahmednagar region old knowledgeable people were interviewed for information's of their medicinal values. Data are presented in Table-1. Further studies in this line are in progress by the authors.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

110 medicinal plants belonging to 37 families recorded in this paper with their botanical name, family, Sanskrit name, local name and use in the Ayurvedic Formulary of India (A.F.I.)/Folk medicines (F.M.) etc. Among the families most of the species were belonging to Fabaceae and Cucurbitaceae (11 spp. each), followed by Apiaceae (7 spp.), Amaranthaceae (6 spp.), Acanthaceae, Caesalpinaceae, Euphorbiaceae and Apocynaceae (5 spp. each), Moraceae, Labiatae and Asteraceae (4 spp. each). Remaining 26 families were represented by one to three species each (Table-1). The mode of utilization of these plants is either in the form of gargle of the decoction of the plant part(s), powder of dried material.

Present report is a result of exhaustive survey of biodiversity of plants used for medicinal purpose by village people/ethnic group of Ahmednagar region. The aim behind this work is to motivate the agriculturist / farmers to come forward for the cultivation and preservation of medicinal and aromatic plants, which are being depleted from nature due to overexploitation of fulfill large scale demand of phytopharmaceutical products. Authors wish to indicate that there is a scope for collection of medicinal plants from Ahmednagar areas which have other economic value also.

Scientific studies may elaborate the prospects of growing more and more medicinal plants successively. By proper management of medicinal plants remarkable improvement may be made on the earning of foreign exchange for the country. Certain industries based on the medicinal plants may be developed which will not only be economically viable but also help in the economic upliftment of the nation. On the basis of distribution of some medicinal plants it is observed that,

there is a good scope for commercial exploitation of some pharmaceutically important medicinal plants (Anonymous, 1978). The authors are very optimistic about the reclamation of waste and uncultivated land in the region for turning them into innumerable medicinal plant gardens.

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Table -1. List of biodiversity of medicinal plants

Family	Latin name	English Name	Sanskrit Name	Marathi Name	Hindi Name
Acanthaceae	<i>Acanthus ilicifolius</i> L.	Holy leaved acanthus	-	Marandi	Harku
	<i>Adhatoda zeylanica</i> Medic	Malabar nut	Vasa	Adulsa	Adulsa
	<i>Barleria cristata</i> L.	-	Sahachar	Nili koranti	Piyav
	<i>Barleria prionitis</i> L.	-	Saireyak	Kate koranti	Katsa
	<i>Crossandra infundibuliformis</i> (L.) Nees	-	Saireyak	Aboli	Salka
Liliaceae	<i>Allium cepa</i> L.	Onion	Palandu	Kanda	Piyaj
	<i>Allium sativum</i> L.	Garlic	Rason	Lasun	Lahsu
Amaranthaceae	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Prickly chaff flower	Apamarg	Aaghada	Latira
	<i>Amaranthus paniculatus</i> L.	Grain amaranth	-	Rajgira	Bagi
	<i>Amaranthus roxburghianus</i> Nees	-	Marsha, Bashpaka	Math, Tandulja	Marsa
	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L.	Prickly Amranth	Tandulia	Kante Math	Katai chola
	<i>Amaranthus tricolor</i> L.	Amranth	Tandulia	Math	Lal M
	<i>Celosia argentea</i> L.	Cocks comb	Shitawar	Kardu	Sirim
Anacardiaceae	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	Mango	Aamra	Aamba	Aam
Annonaceae	<i>Annona reticulata</i> L.	Bullock's heart	Ramphal	Ramphal	Ramp
	<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	Custard apple	Gandhagatra	Sitaphal	Sitapl
	<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i> L.	-	-	Ashok	Asho
Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)	<i>Anethum graveolens</i> L.	Dill.	Shatapushpa,	Balantashepu	Sova, Banso

	<i>Carum carvi</i> L.	Black caraway	Kirshnajirak	Shahjire, Kale jire	Kaljin
	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i> L.	Coriander	Dhanyak	Kothimbir,	Dhan
	<i>Cuminum cyminum</i> L.	Cumin	Jirak	Jire	Jira
	<i>Daucus carota</i> L. .	Carrot	Grunjnak	Gajar	Gajar
	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> Mill.	Fennel	Mishreya	Badishep	Souff Badis
	<i>Trachyspermum ammi</i> L.	Bishop's weed	Yamanika,	Ova	Ajwa
Apocynaceae	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i> L.	Dita bark	Saptaparna	Satvin, Satvan	Chitv
	<i>Carissa congesta</i> Wight	Bengal currants	Karmardak	Karvand	Karro
	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> L.	-	-	Sadaphuli	Sadab
	<i>Nerium indicum</i> Mill.	Sweet scented oleander	Karvir	Kaner	Kane Kanie
	<i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i> (L.) R. Br.	Wax flower	Tagar	Tagar	Tagar
Araceae	<i>Amorphophallus bulbifer</i> Bl.	-	Suran	Suran	Suran
	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i> L.	Vegetable Arum	Kachvi	Alu	Arui,
Arecaceae	<i>Cocous nucifera</i> L.	Coconut	Narikel	Naral, Mad	Naria
	<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i> L. Roxb.	Toddy plam of India	Vit Kharjur	Shindi	Sindi Sendl
Asclepiadaceae	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (L.) R. Br.	Gigantic swallow wort	Shwetark	Mandar, Pandhari rui	Aak, Mand
	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Ait.) R. Br.	Mandar	Raktark	Rui	Aak
Asteraceae (Compositae)	<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i> L.	Safflower	Kusumbha, Vastraranjak	Kardai	Kusu
	<i>Dendratherma indica</i> (L.) Des.	Chrysanthemum	Shatpatri	Shevanti	Gulda

	<i>Elephantopus scaber</i> L.	-	Gojihva	Gojibh, Pathari	Gobh
	<i>Tagetes erecta</i> L.	Big Marigold	Zendu	Zendu	Gend
Bambusaceae	<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i> (Retz.) Willd.	Thorny Bamboo	Wansh	Bambu	Bans
Bombacaceae	<i>Adansonia digitata</i> L.	Baobad, Monkey bread	Gorakshi, Ravanamluka	Gorakhchinch	Goral
	<i>Bombax ceiba</i> L	Silk cotton tree	Shalmali	Katesavar	Sema
	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i> L.	White silk cotton tree	Kutshalmali	Pandhari savar	Safed
Brassicaceae (Cruciferae)	<i>Brassica juncea</i> L.	Mustard	Rajika	Mohari	Rai, I
	<i>Raphanus sativus</i> L.	Radish	Mulak	Mula	Muli
Cactaceae	<i>Opuntia elatior</i> Mill.	Prickly pear	Kanthari	Phadya nivdung	Nagp
Caesalpiniaceae	<i>Caesalpinia bonduc</i> L.	Bonduc nut	Puti karanj, karanj	Sagargota, Gajaga	Kang Kanta
	<i>Caesalpinia decapetala</i> (Roth) Alston	-	-	Chillar	-
	<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i> (L.) Sw.	-	Krishanachuda	Sankarshawar	Gul-e
	<i>Saraca ashoka</i> de Willd.	Asoka	Ashoka, Hemapushpa	Ashok (Sitecha)	Asho
	<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.	Tamarind	Amlika	Chincha	Imli,
Caricaceae	<i>Carica papaya</i> L.	Papaw, Papaya	Erand – kaarkati	Popai	Papita
Celastraceae	<i>Celastrus paniculata</i> Willd.	Staff tree	Jyotishmati	Malkangoni	Malk
Chenopodiaceae	<i>Beta vulgaris</i> L.	Beet Root	Raktagrunjak	Beet	Beet
	<i>Spinacia oleracea</i> L.	Spinach	Palakya	Palak	Palak
Combretaceae	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i> (Roxb.) Wt & Arn.	Arjuna, Myrob-alans	Arjun	Arjun Sadada, Arjun	Arjun Kahu

	<i>Terminalia bellirica</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb	Myrobalans, Chebulic	Bibhitak	Behada	Baheda
	<i>Terminalia chebula</i> Retz.	Myrobalans,	Haritaki	Hirda, Harda	Harada
Cucurbitaceae	<i>Benincasa hispida</i> Thunb. [B.cerifera Savil].	Ash pumpkin, Ashguard	Kushmandh	Kohala	Petha, Ehura, Khun
	<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (Thunb) Mustet. Nakai	Watermelon	Kalingad	Kalingad, Tarbuj	Tarbu
	<i>Coccinia grandis</i> L.	Ivyguard	Raktaphala, Tundikeri	Tondali, Tondale	Kand, Kuna
	<i>Cucumis melo</i> L.	Melon	Kharbuja, Dashangul	Kharbuj	Kharb
	<i>Cucumis melo var. utilissimus</i> (Roxb.)	Snake cucumber	Karkati, Erwaru	Kakdi	Kakri
	<i>Cucurbita moschata</i> (Duch. Ex Lamk)	Pumpkin	-	Bhopala, Kashiphal	Kumli
	<i>Cucurbita pepo</i> L.	Field pumpkin	Kushmandi, Karkaru	Dangar	Safed
	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i> (Molina) Standley	Bottle gourd	Kututumbi	Kadu bhopala, Dudhya bhopala	Kada
	<i>Luffa acutangula</i> (L.) Roxb	Ridged gourd	Koshataki	Dodaka, Shirale	Torai
	<i>Luffa cylindrical</i> L.	Sponge gourd	Mahakoshataki	Ghosale	Bodit
	<i>Trichosanthes anguina</i> L.	Snakegourd	Chichinda	Padval	Chach
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Euphorbia neriifolia</i> L.	Common milk hedge	Snuhi	Nivadung	Sehuni, Thoh
	<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i> L.	-	-	Sher	Thoh
	<i>Jatropha curcas</i> L.	-	-	Mogali erand	Mogli, Erand

	<i>Jatropha gossipifolia</i> L.var. <i>elegans</i> DC.	-	-	Vilayati erand	-
	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L.	Emblic myrobalans	Amalaki	Awla	Amla
Fabaceae [Papilionaceae]	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Wild liquorice	Gunja, Raktika	Gunj	Gunc
	<i>Aarachis hypogaea</i> L.	Groundnut	Bhushimbii	Bhuimug	Mung
	<i>Butea monosperma</i> L	Flame of the forest	Palash, Brahma vruksha	Palas	Palas, Dhak
	<i>Canavalia gladiata</i> (Jacq.) DC.	Sword bean	Kolshimbi	Abai, Fatadi	Bada
	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> L.	Winged leaved	Girikarnika, Aparajita	Gokarna, Kajali	Arajit
	<i>Erythrina suberosa</i> Roxb.	Coral tree	Paribhadra	Pangara	Farha
	<i>Glycirrhiza glabra</i> L.	Liquorice	Yashtimadhu	Jyeshthimadh	Mulh, Mule
	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> L.	Indian beech	Kaaranj, Naktamal	Karanj	Karan, Kinna
	<i>Sesbania grandiflora</i> (L.) Poir	-	Agastya, Agasti	Hadaga, Agasta	Agast, Hathi
	<i>Sesbania sesban</i> L.	-	Jayanti, Jaya	Shewri	Jait
	<i>Trigonella foenum graecum</i> L.	Fenugreek	Methika	Methi	Meth
Labiatae	<i>Mentha arvensis</i> L.	Menthol	Putinash, Pudina	Pudina	Pudin
	<i>Mentha spicata</i> L.	Menthol	Putinash	Pudina	Pudin
	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L.	Sweet basil	Berber	Subja, Rantulas	Subja
	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i> L.	Sacred basil	Tulasi	Tulas Tulasi	Kala
Liliaceae	<i>Aloe vera</i> (L.) Burm f.	Aloe Plant	Kumari	Korfad	Garpa
	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Willd.	Wild Asparagus	Shatawari Narayani	Shatawari	Sataw

Malvaceae	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> L.	Shoe-flower	Japa	Jaswandi	Jasun
	<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i> L.	Sharon	Japa	Nili jaswand	Jabak
Meliaceae	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Neem tree	Nimb	Kadulimb, Nimb	Neem
	<i>Melia azedarach</i> L.	Persian lilac	Mahanimb	Limbara, Bakana nimb	Bakay
Menispermaceae	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> (Willd.)	-	Guduchi	Gulvel	Giloy
Mimosaceae	<i>Acacia catechu</i> (Roxb. Ex Rottl.) Willd.	Black catechu	Khadir	Khair, Kath	Khair, Katth
	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> L.	Babool	Babhool	Babhool	Babo
	<i>Albizia lebbeck</i> (L.) Willd	Parrot tree	Shirish	Shirish	Siras
Moraceae	<i>Ficus amplissima</i> J. E. Sm.	-	Plaksha	Pimpri, Pimparni	-
	<i>Ficus bengalensis</i> L.	Banyan tree	Byagrodh, War	Wad	Bur
	<i>Ficus racemosa</i> L.	-	Udumber	Umbar	Gulan
	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L.	Peepal	Ashwattha, Pippal	Pimpal	Peepa
Moringaceae	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lamk.	Horse radish, Drum stick	Shigru	Shwga	Sahija
Myrtaceae	<i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i> Hook.	Lemon scented eucalypt	Tailaparni	Nilgiri	Neelg
	<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels	Black plum	Jambu	Jambhul	Jamu
Rhamnaceae	<i>Zizyphus jujuba</i> Mill.	Common Jujube	Sauvir	Bor	Unna
Rutaceae	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr.	-	Bilwa	Bel	Bel
Santalaceae	<i>Santalum album</i> L.	Sandal wood	Shrikhand Chandan	Chandan	Safed Chan
Solanaceae	<i>Datura metel</i> L.	Thorn apple	Krushna Dhatur	Kala Dhotra	Kala Dhatt

Verbenaceae	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.	Three leaved chaste tree	Nirgundi	Nirgundi	Samh
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