

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF PLANTS FOR SKIN AILMENTS OF DHULE AND NANDURBAR DISTRICTS, MAHARASHTRA (INDIA)

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The tribals of Dhule and Nandurbar district are Powara, Mavachi, Bhils, Kokani, Kokana, Paradhi and Vasave. They use different plant and/or plant parts for healing skin ailments like ring worm, psoriasis, wounds, exzema, scabis, pimples, tumours, leucoderma and other bacterial or fungal diseases. The paper presents hitherto undivulged information on 26 angiospermic species belonging to 20 families. The mode of usage and dosage prescribed are also given.

Keywords : Ethnomedicine; Leucoderma; Ringworm; Scabis; Tribals.

Dhule and Nandurbar districts are situated on north western border of Maharashtra State. They lie between 20°-30' and 22°-3' N latitude and 73°-47' and 75°-11' E longitude. Very recently on 1st July 1998 the erstwhile Dhule district is divided into two districts viz. Dhule and Nandurbar, named after their headquarters. Out of the ten talukas of erstwhile Dhule district, the aborigines inhabit in Navapur, Taloda, Dhadgaon, Akkalkuwa and parts of Shahada and Shirpur talukas. The tribals are Bhils, Pawaras, Vasave Kokani, Mavachi, Paradhis and Kokanas. The tribal population constitutes nearly 41% of the total population. The Satpura mountain lies on northern border, while the ranges of western ghats extend in the western side of the districts. The forests are of dry deciduous type.

Yadav and Bhamare¹; Borse *et al*². and Bhamare³ threw light on some ethnobotanically important species from this region. In the present paper, information about ethnomedicinal plants used for various skindiseases such as ringworm, eczema, fresh injuries, wounds due to burning, leucoderma, pimples, leprosy, tumours are being communicated.

The present author during his ethnobotanical outing gathered information regarding the medicinal plants used for

different skin diseases. The method of collection, pressing, drying and preservation, of Jain and Rao⁴ has been followed. The species were deciphered using recent different district, state and regional floras.

The first-hand ethnomedicinal information was tapped from *Bhagat, Buwas* (witch doctors), medicine men and tribal old ladies. Ethnobotanical methods are adapted as that of Jain⁵. The data so accured was compared with the works of Jain⁶, Ambasta⁷ and Wealth of India⁸.

The information has been tabularised in Table-1. It includes alphabetically arranged botanical names, their respective families, local names, parts used, names of diseases and mode of usage.

The tribals use various plant species for different skin diseases traditionally. Their knowledge has passed through generations. The importance of their medicines and its know-how is gaining recognition worldwide. There is every fear of vanishing their storehouse of informations due to the waves of modernisation and globalisation. These forces of depleting traditional knowledge are, now-a-days, putting long strides. The present author is, therefore inclined to suggest to undertake further studies on scientific grounds. This will help to preserve and utilize our invaluable plantlore.

Table 1.

S.No.	Botanical Name	Family	Local Name	Parts	Disease and mode of usage
1.	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> (L.) Sw.	Malvaceae	<i>Khapat</i>	Leaves	Fresh leaf juice on eczema.
2.	<i>Alangium salvifolium</i> (L.f.) Wang	Alangiaceae	<i>Akkal</i>	Root bark	Paste of dried root bark applied leucoderma.
3.	<i>Albizia amara</i> Boivin var. <i>amara</i>	Mimosaceae	Kansar	Leaves	Dried leaf powder of <i>Albizia amara</i> and <i>Maytenus emarginata</i> mixed with cow ghee applied on leucoderma.
4.	<i>Aloe vera</i> (L.) Burm f.	Liliaceae	<i>Korpad</i>	Leaves	Leaf pulp used on wounds due to burning.
5.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss	Meliaceae	<i>Neemda</i>	Leaves and Bark	Fresh leaf juice and bark is applied on ring worm. The leaf pulp applied on scabis for seven days.
6.	<i>Baliospermum raziana</i> Keshav	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Dati</i>	Latex	Latex used on scabis.
7.	<i>Bombax cieba</i> L.	Bombiaceae	<i>Saver</i>	Bark	Paste of tubercles applied on pimples; within ten days pimples disappear.
8.	<i>Cassia fistula</i> L.	Caesalpiniceae	<i>Garmal</i>	Leaves	Leaf Decoction given orally on scabis and psoriasis.
9.	<i>Curculigo orchiodes</i> Gaetn.	Hypoxidaceae	<i>Kalimusali</i>	Rhizome	Rhizome paste applied on pimples.
10.	<i>Datura innoxia</i> Mill.	Solanaceae	<i>kantalo</i>	Seeds and leaves	Seed oil used on scabis. Green leaf applied on boils (Kestoda) along with coconut warm oil for suppuration.
11.	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.) Pierre	Papilionaceae	<i>Karanj</i>	Seeds	Seed oil applied extrnally on scabis and ringworm.
12.	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i> (L.) L. Mant.	Asteraceae	<i>Kalamaka</i>	Leaves	Crushed green leaves on itch and fresh wounds.
13.	<i>Euphorbia parviflora</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Dudhi</i>	Stem and	latex used externally on boils and scabis.
14.	<i>Fagonia bruguieri</i> DC. var. <i>bruguieri</i>	Zygophyllaceae	Dhamasa	Roots & stem	Mixture of root paste and stem paste on tumours.
15.	<i>Ficus arnottiana</i> (Miq.) Miq.	Moraceae	<i>Amasa</i>	Stem bark	Decoction of stem bark given orally in scabis. Stem paste also applied externally.
16.	<i>Martynia annua</i> L.	Martyniaceae	<i>Kutri, Vinchhudo</i>	Seeds	Seed oil used externally on scabis and itching wounds.
17.	<i>Meyna laxiflora</i> Robyns	Rubiaceae	<i>Alu</i>		
18.	<i>Ocimum canum</i> Sims	Lamiaceae	<i>Rantulsi</i>	Leaves	Leaf juice mixed with common salt applied externally on ring worm (Anjuit)
19.	<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i> L.	Lamiaceae	<i>Tulas</i>	Leaves	Leaf juice mixed with common salt applied externally on ring worm (Anjuit)
20.	<i>Psoralea corylifolia</i> L.	Papilionaceae	<i>Brachi, Gavar</i>	Leaves and	Fresh leaf juice used on scabis; seed oil in leprasy.
21.	<i>Sida mysorensis</i> Wight & Arn.	Malvaceae	<i>Gubata</i>	leaves	Leaf extract used on fresh wounds.
22.	<i>Soymida febrifuga</i> (Roxb.) A. Juss.	Meliaceae	Rona, Rehani	Stem bark	Bark paste used on scabis.
23.	<i>Tacca leontopetaloides</i> (L.) O. Ktze.	Taccaceae	<i>Bhala, Bamanzarya</i>	Tubers	Tuber paste applied externally on boils.
24.	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i> (Roxb. ex DC.) W. and A.	Combretaceae	Arjunsadada	Stem bark	Bark ash mixed with coconut oil used on wounds due to burning.
25.	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> L.	Asteraceae	<i>Ghavati</i>	Leaves	Leaf juice applied on fresh injuries.
26.	<i>Typha angustifolia</i> L.	Typhaceae	<i>Chilam, Ramban</i>	Inflorescence	Florets along with coconut or ground nut oil used on eczema.

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