



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### TRADITIONALLY IMPORTANT MEDICINAL PLANTS USED BY ANDHA TRIBES OF YAVATMAL DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA TO CURE SKIN ALIMENTS

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#### ABSTRACT

The present survey provides information of the therapeutic proprieties of 38 crude drugs used by Andh tribes of Yavatmal District. Information on their botinical name, Vernacular name, family, parts used, mode of drug preparation and administration is provided.

#### Key words:

Skin disease, Indigenous folklore,  
Yavatmal, Maharashtra, India.

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## INTRODUCTION

Yavatmal district lies in the South – Western part of the Wardha Penganga – Wainganga plain. The district lies between 19.26 and 20.42, North latitude and 77.18, and 79.9, East longitudes. It is surrounded by Amravati and Wardha district to the North Chandrapur district to the East. Andhra Telangana state and nanded district to the South and Hingoli and Washim district. The district has an area of 13582 sq.km (4.41 percent of the State). The density of population is 153 persons per km<sup>2</sup> which is less than 257 person per km<sup>2</sup> for the state as whole. Amongst district in the state. Yavatmal reanks 6 th in term of area and 19 th in term of population. The district consists of masses of hilly country broken by broad valley and partially surrounded by plains. The whole district is flower, Silk –cotton tree, Bamboos and East Indian embony trees are plentiful furniturewood bamboos, gum plants Tendu leaves (Diospyros leaves) for of medicinal. Plants are the main forest produce (Source – Official website) During last 60 -70 years waste amount of ethanobotanical information has accumulated. Record of 9500 wild plant species used by the tribal one of the other purpose is an outcome of the research project launched by Ministry of Environmental and Forest Govt. of India, New Delhi. Out of these 7500 species are used for medicinal

purpose about 3900 are edible and 2325 for miscellaneous purpose (Anom, 1994) About 80 % tribal area has been surveyed under this project. However except Chandrapur district Vidharbha region of Maharashtra still remains exposed Umarched tahsil of Umarched of Yavatmal district is one of the ethnobotanically unexposed area of Vidharbha region. Tribal population here exceeds 30 % of the total. Andha and Banjara are major tribes (Census 2011). Most of the tribal generally follow age old traditions and practices. This is true for health practices. Regularly practicing medicine men are available in every village. Also there are spiritual healers who treat all types of diseases and ailment. persons but educated and well off persons occupies by a number of East – West range. The geographical area is 1351900 hectors spread over 2117 villages in 16 tahsil.

#### Forests

Nearly one fifth of the total district area is forested concentrated in the Pusad, Digras, Ghatanji, Maregaon and Yavatmal tahsils. Tipeswar, Tiwasala, Umbarda and Bitergaon are well known forest while Tipeswar and Painganga have been declared as Sancturaries. Wildlife in these forest includes birds like Peacock, Pigeon, Partridge quail and animals like tiger, Bear, Sambar, Chinkara (a Deer sp) wild boar and blue antelope. High quality teak wood is abundant in these forest while Indian laurel, woodapple, Indian Gumtree, Red also come to these medicine men.

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## METHODOLOGY

For documentation of ethobotanical information and collection of plant material, several tours were undertaken during the period 2012 to 2015. Data presented here 48 medicine men covering 55 villages representing a cross section of Umardhed region were interviewed. Nine person were found to deal with skin disease (ectodermal disorder). 4 were engaged in the treatment of Psoriasis while 3 person were found to be working in Itch and Scabise and 2 person were treatment of Leprosy and Dropsy and methodology used based on methods available in literature (Jain, 1989) and (Jain & Mudal). Ethnobotanical information about skin diseases gathered was documental in data sheet prepared for collection of plant material, Plant identification was done by using regional flora V.N. Naik, flora of Maharashtra, Vol –I & II Aurangabad; Amrut Prakashan (1999) and well known taxonomist. Plants used in skin disease were compared with major published literature (Ambasta 1992) (Anonymous 1948 -1976) (Asolkar et al., 1992) (Chopra et al., 1956 and 1969) (Jain 1991) (Jain 1999) (Kapur, 2001) (Kirtikar and Basu, 1933) (Pradhan et al., 2005) and (Sharma and Singh, 2001) Herbarium specimens are deposited in the herbarium of Department of Botany, Bharatiya Mahavidyalaya Amravati. Locality and voucher numbers for only wild local plants used in treatment are mentioned. If some plant species is repeated in the text then detail are not given

### Enumeration

The present ethno – botanical explorations conducted in forest areas of Vidharbha resulted in the traditional plant uses in skin disease of 38 plant species belonging to 30 families. Following data included botanical name of the species, vernacular name, family, plant part used, method of preparation of medicine and mode of administration and details about its application.

1. *Acacia leucophloea* (Roxb) Wild. Mimosaceae) Hiwwar) Fresh stem bark and leaves are extracted together. The extract is applied twice a daily for 10 -15 days or more to cure psoriasis.
2. *Aloe vera* L. (Liliaceae) Korphad : Pulp of leaf is wrapped in a betel leaf. It is warmed, cut into small pieces and consumed (about 5-6 gm each time) thrice a daily for rapid wound healing
3. *Dolichandrone falcata* (Wall.ex. DC) seem (Bignoniaceae) Medshing): Decoction is prepared from leaves. About 20 ml of it is drunk twice daily especially to cure itching.
4. *Ehretia aspera* Roxb (Ehretiaceae) Lokhandi) Ash obtained from steam bark, roots and leaves is used daily as tooth –powder for 3-4 days. This helps cure tooth-ache, mouth ulcer and to remove foul smell of mouth.
5. *Mangifera indica* L. (Anacardiaceae) Amba Stem bark powder mixed in coconut oil is applied daily on wounds till cure
6. *Maytenus emarginatus* (Wild) Ding Hou (Celastraceae) Yenkal) : Tender leaves (5-6) are chewded once daily for 2-3 days as a remedy against mouth ulcer & tooth ache.
7. *Plumeria alba* L. (Apocynaceae) Chafa : Flowers are cut into pieces, deeped in coconut oil and then made into paste. This paste is applied twice daily to cure scabies and ringworm till cure.

8. *Spermadictyon suaveolens* Roxb. (Rubiaceae) Padri : Stem bark Ash is applied directly on wounds a daily once to check itching.
9. *Terminalia arjuna* (Roxb). Wight & Arn. (Combretaceare) Arjun – sadada : A spoonful of stem bark powder is homogenized with honey. Petlets are prepared. A pellet a day is consumed at morning to cure wounds for 5-8 days.
10. *Achyranthes aspera* L. Amarnathaceae Aaghada : Leaves crushed in cow urine and applied in black dots.
11. *Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.f). Wall. Ex Nees Acanthaceae Bhuinimb : One tea spoon of leaf powder taken with water in curing skin diseases like scabies, ringworm & itch.
12. *Annona Squamosa* L. Annonaceae Seethapal : Leaf paste applied for treating ringworm & itch.
13. *Artocarpus heterophyllus* lam. Moraceae : Fanas, Paste of fruit epidermis applied externally on ringworm twice a day to cure.
14. *Cassia absus* L. Caesalpiniaceae Chanubala : Seed paste applied externally on Ringworm and itch.
15. *Cassia alata* L. Caesalpiniaceae Tamara Chattu : Leaf paste applied for treating ring worm.
16. *Cassia tora* L. Caesalpiniaceae Tarota : Paste of roots with lemon juice applied externally on ringworm.
17. *Indoneesiella echioides* (L) Sreem, Acanthaceae , Noogu nelavemu : Leaf paste applied externally on ringworm and itch twice a day until cure.
18. *Ipomaea nil* (L.) Roth, Convolvulaceae, Katuka gingalu : Seeds paste applied externally on ring worm and skin diseases to cure.
19. *Jasminum officinale* L., Oleaceae, Jai : Leaves and flowers crushed and paste applied externally on ring worm twice a day for 7 days.
20. *Launaea procumbens* (Roxb). Ramaya & Rajgopal, Asteraceae : Nela eurusu : Leaf paste applied externally on skin disease twice a day for 6 days.
21. *Lepidagathis cristata* Willd, Acanthaceae, Nakka Pindi gadda : Ash of inflorescence with oil applied externally to cure black patches on face.
22. *Leucas aspera* (Willd). Link., Lamiaceae, Tummi : 60-70 ml extract of leaves taken orally once a day for 5-8 days for skin disease.
23. *Mucuna Pruriens* (L). DC., Fabaceae : Khachkui : Root extract with cow milk is taken orally for skin diseases like ring worm and scabies.
24. *Passiflora foetida* L., Passifloraceae, Gajuteega : Fine paste of leaves applied externally for 5 days for treating ringworm.
25. *Cissus elongata* Roxb. Vitaceae : Adavi draksha , One tea cup extract of roots with Phoenix sylvestris toddy taken for skin disease.
26. *Cleome viscosa* L. Capparidaceae : Kukka Vaminta, paste of leaves applied externally to cure ringworm.
27. *Cocculus hirsutus* (L) Theob., Menispermaceae : Dussara teega , Leaf paste applied twice a day until cure on ringworm.
28. *Cordia dichotoma* Forst f., Boraginaceae , Iriki : 50-60 ml extract of handful stem bark with 7 drops oil taken orally, another dose after an interval of 3 days. Total 3 doses taken for cure scabies.
29. *Cymbopogon citrates* (DC.) Stapf , Poaceae : Nimma gaddi : Paste of leaves with curd applied externally on Ringworm.

30. *Emblica officinalis* Gaertn., Euphorbiaceae : Awala, Fruits (1 to 2) and equal amount of jaggery crushed and 'Laddus' prepared, taken regularly for 25 -30 days as anti – allergic against skin ailments.
31. *Ficus glomerata* L., Moraceae, umbar : Latex applied on ring worm and boils.
32. *Hibiscus Sabdariffa* L., Malvaceae, lal ambadi : Paste of leaves applied externally on ringworm twice a day to cure.
33. *Sansevieria roxburghiana* Schult. & Schult., Agavaceae : Chaganara : Leaf paste with Curcuma longa turmeric powder applied externally twice a day for treating itching.
34. *Sesbania grandiflora* (L) Pers. , Fabaceae Avisachettu : Leaf paste with coconut oil applied externally for treating itch.
35. *Solanum nigrum* L. Solanaceae, Nalla buddakashi : Leaf paste applied on ring worm and itch
36. *Tabernaemontana divaricata* (L) R. Br., Apocynaceae : Nandivardhana mu. 1 teaspoon powder of its root powder taken orally once a day for 31 days for treating skin disease.
37. *Thespesia populnea* (L) soland . ex Corr. , Malvaceae Bhandi ke jhar : Seed paste applied externally twice a day for 7 days for treating ringworm.
38. *Vitex negundo* L. Verbenaceae, Nirgudi : Leaf juice applied externally to cure ringworm and itch.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The drug yielding plants which are reported here are traditionally used by the Andh tribes of Yavatmal districts. Their use in treating a various skin ailments along with mode of administration is given.

### Conclusion

The present results are encouraging to take more intensive investigation in other parts of Yavatmal district. It may help complete a remarkable catalogue of ethnomedicine. This and future bio-prospection projects will lead to the development of drug. Such attempts may help rescue traditional knowledge and will be a useful tool to fight against currently alarming

acculturation. It may also aid in constituting necessary information to be collected or an example of wise environment management.

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