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Ethnomedicinal investigation of some sacred plants species in Dhule district Maharashtra

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Abstract
This paper includes result of investigation of botanicals used against various ailments in Dhule district. Total 20 angiospermic species belonging to 18 genera and 15 families reported. Various plant parts such as leaves, roots, stem, fruits, seeds and flowers etc. these are employed in form of different recipes like extract, decoction, juice, powder, ash etc. and supplemented occasionally with milk, honey, jaggery. Although there are traditionally reported useful. They must be testified on scientific line involving chemical, biological and clinical screening.

Keywords: ethnomedicine, sacred plants, Dhule district, Maharashtra

Introduction
Most of the Puranas and Upnishidas consider the plants have sacred origin. It has identified that some plants and forest are adobes of gods or demigods. Our ancestors possessed a profound understanding of healing powers of plants. Their knowledge has been passed orally generation to generation since long past. They considered these sacred plants with their strong beliefs, faith and taboos. These ancient healing practices are still vogue in a period when different well thought and organized system of medicine are being practiced all over the world.

Dhule district is situated in the northern border of the state of Maharashtra. Ethnobotany of the district was studied by Bhamre [1-3] and Borse *et al*. but the studies on sacred plants remain unexplored. Present study is carried out and noticed some medicinal claims from this area.

Material and Methods
Routine ethnomedicinal investigation was carried out during 2011-2017 comprising interviews of tribal's and rural peoples like poojaries, bhagats, bowa etc. and open discussion with them as suggested (7). The vouchers were processed and identified using different floras (5-12). Plant species are arranged alphabetically followed by family, local name and ethnomedicinal observations.

Table 1

Botanical Name	Vernacular Name	Family	Ailment	Mode of preparation
Boswellia serrata Roxb.	Salayi.	Burseraceae	wounds and cuts	Paste of the flowers is used in the treatment of wounds and cuts
Buchanania cochinchinensis (Lour.) Almeida	Charoli	Anacardiaceae	skin problems	The seed oil is externally applied in the skin problems
Cleome viscosa L.	Pivli-Tilwan	Capparidaceae	boils	Leaf paste is externally applied on the treatment of boils until it cures.
Coccinia grandis (L.) Voigt	Tondli	Cucurbitaceae	cough and cold	The fruit juice is prescribed one cup twice in day in the treatment of cough and cold until it cures.
Costus speciosus (Koen.) J. E. Sm.	Pev	Zingiberaceae	body pain	Half cup of decoction of root is prescribed twice a day in the treatment of body pain.
Datura metel L.	Kala dhotra	Solanaceae	tumour	The seed oil is applied on the tumour regularly.
Desmodium gangeticum (L.) DC.	Salvan	Fabaceae	ulcer	One spoon full of root powder mix with one teaspoon honey and given once a day for a week in the treatment of ulcer
Diospyros peregrina (Gaertn.) Guerke	Temburni	Ebenaceae	dysentery and diarrhoea	Half teaspoon of fruit pulp once a day is used in the treatment of dysentery and diarrhoea until its cure
Eclipta prostrata (L.) L.	Maka	Asteraceae	toothache	The paste of whole plant is used as atoothpaste in the treatment of toothache
Enicostema axillare (Lam.) Raynal	Chota-karait, Nai	Gentianaceae	blood purification	One teaspoon powder of plant is mixed with honey is prescribed one teaspoon twice a day for blood purification up to one month
Ficus bengalenisis L.	Vad	Moraceae	cuts and wounds	The leaf paste is applied as an antiseptic on cuts and wounds

Ficus racemosa L.	Umbar, Audumbar	Moraceae	diarrhoea	One teaspoon latex of the plant is mixed with one teaspoon honey and taken orally once a day in the treatment of diarrhoea until cures
Botanical Name	Vernacular Name	Family	Ailment	Mode of preparation
Gloriosa superba L.	Kal-lawi	Liliaceae	asthma	The paste of leaf is applied on the chest, forehead and throat in the treatment of asthma
Gymnema sylvestre (Retz.) R. Br.	Gudhmar	Asclepiadaceae	eye infection	Two drops of leaf decoction is dropped in eye for eye infection until cure
Hemidesmus indicus (L.) Schult.	Anantamul	Asclepiadaceae	health tonic	Half cup of extract of root mixed in two teaspoon honey is recommended one teaspoon morning and evening as a health tonic
Jasminum officinale L.	Chameli	Oleaceae	fever	Two spoonful of decoction of flower is mixed in half cup of boiled milk or tea and recommended in the treatment of fever for four days
Jasminum sambac (L.) Ait.	Mogra	Oleaceae	indigestion	Half cup of decoction of flower is with tea is taken for the digestion of meal in case of indigestion
Lagenaria siceraria (Mol.) Standl.	Dudhi	Cucurbitaceae	sole externally	The fruit paste is applied locally on cracks of sole externally
Madhuca longifolia (Koen.) Mac Bride	Moha	Sapotaceae	skin problems	The ash of leaves is mixed with coconut oil and used on cuts wounds and other skin problems
Mangifera indica L.	Amba	Anacardiaceae	toothache	The gum obtained from the tree is used in powder form. A teaspoon of powder mixed in cup of water in the treatment of the toothache

Conclusion

20 species of 19 plant genra belonging to 17 angiospermic families are highlighted in this paper. All are wild plants occurs in sacred temple groves or sacred forest. It is advised to employ botanical in the form of various medicinal recipes e.g. extract (01), Decoction (04) paste (05), powder (02), oil (02). These plant parts used to cure various diseases like diabetics, Asthma, blood purification, antiseptic, fever and stomach-ache and so on. It is advisable to identify their bio resources in laboratories. Such attempt will authenticate their claims and may add a new are additional source of medicine.

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