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RESEARCH ARTICLE

A STUDY OF IMPORTANT MEDICINAL PLANTS OF SAVANTWADI REGION, WESTERN GHATS, (MS), INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The Medicinal plants provide the raw materials for use in all the indigenous systems of medicine. The demand for medicinal plants is increasing day by day and on the other hand changing global environment is worstly affecting this plant wealth. This reflects the need to study and preserve diversity of medicinal plants. The coverage area of the Western Ghats in relation to geographical area and biodiversity variation is one of the larger and ecologically sensitive areas in the world. All over the world, there are 32 ecologically sensitive areas (hot spots) of which two are in India including Western Ghats. The study area harbours the radius of 30 kms from Savantwadi. In the present investigation, we documented the important families, number of the genera and species and the medicinal uses of medicinally important plants which are being used by the people.

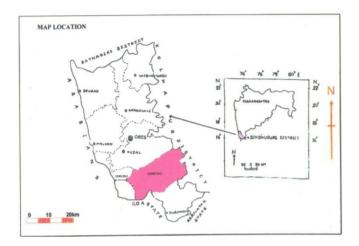
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INTRODUCTION

India is a treasure chest of biodiversity which hosts a large variety of medicinal plants. Medicinal plants provide raw material for use in all the indigenous systems of medicine in India Viz. Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha. The demand for medicinal plants is increasing day by day and on the other hand changing global environment is worstly affecting this plant wealth. This reflects the need to study and preserve diversity of medicinal plants. The coverage area of the Western Ghats in relation to geographical area and biodiversity variation is one of the larger and ecologically sensitive areas in the world. All over the world there are 32 ecologically sensitive areas (hot spots) of which two are in India including Western Ghats. Of the 4500 species of higher plants about 2000 species are endemic to Western Ghats (Daniel 1997). Western Ghats occupies just 5 % of Indians total area but support 26-27 % flowering species of the country. It is a center of high endemism in India. Numbers of new species are being described from Western Ghats every year. During 1986 to 1996 about 260 new species of flowering plants have been described from the region (Yadav S.R., 2012). The Western Ghats mountain chain is part of the Indian plate of the Gondwanaland origin. The flora of Indian plate was subjected to different climate stresses during its passage from southern latitudes resulting in the impoverishment of its palaeotropic flora. Now a days, due to human intervention in forests and increasing anthropogenic

activities like irrigation facilities, construction of hotel and industries; electric projects, mining, land for agriculture, communication development etc added reasons to decline the emage of the region in terms of biodiversity. There is an urgent need for biodiversity rich countries to save it against destruction. However, in most of the developing countries biodiversity attached to environments and forest agencies which have no idea about it. If such countries are not aware of conserving it for sustainable utilization, they would be compelled to export biodiversity import products for well being of their people. In India, a large number of institutions are involved in conservation and utilization of biodiversity which comes under Ministry of Environment and Forest, Agriculture Science and Technology. They deal conservation of biosphere reserve, national parks, wild life sanctuaries, field gene banks etc. The country needs more expertise and methodologies besides tiger-bird-wildlife syndrome. India is predominantly an agricultural country, therefore the policy makers have to realize that conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity must be placed on the top of all developmental plannings.

The Sindhudurg District lies between 15^o37' north to 16^o40' north latitude and 73⁰13' east to 74⁰13' east longitudes. The area of the district is 5087.5 sq.km. There are eight tahsils in the district namely Devgad, Dodamarg, Kankavli, Kudal, Malvan, Savantwadi, Vaibhawadi and Vengurla. The district has an average maximum temperature of 33.7°C and average minimum temperature of 16.7 °C. Average rainfall is 3042.2 mm. Laterite soil is commonly found in the district. It varies in colour from bright red to brownish red; it comes from hydrated iron oxides. It is rich with nitrogen and organic matter and its texture is loamy. This is the first hand report of its own kind. There is no such work type of research has been carried out. Hence in the present investigation, we documented the important families, number of the genera and species and the medicinal uses of medicinally important plants which is being used by the people.



METHODOLOGY

Study area

The study area harbours the radius of 30 kms from Savantwadi. The climate of the study area is typical humid. Towards the west there is Arabian Sea.

Identification of Plants

The plant materials of the present study were collected from the study area. Efforts were made to collect the plant materials in flowering and fruiting conditions for the correct botanical identification. The herbariums were prepared and compare with the herbariums in Botanical Survey of India, Western Circle, Pune. They were identified with the help of Flora of Presidency of Bombay (Cooke, 1958), The Flora of British India, (Hooker, 1892), Flora of Maharashtra state (Monocotyledons) (Sharma et al. 1996), Flora of Kolhapur District (Yadav and Sardesai, 2002), Flora of Raigad District (Kothari and Murthy, 1993), The Flora of Savantwadi (Almeida, 1990), Flora of Madras Presidency (Gamble and Fisher, 1935). Plants have been identified by using Medicinal uses of plants are known from local people around the study area and also from the Materia medica of Nadkarni (2002).

The part of study area includes Gulduve, Talawane, Amboli, Tirwade, Nonos and Charatha. This area is dominated by the trees like – Terminalia paniculata L., Terminalia tomentosa (Kurz) Cl., Mangifera indica L., Anacardium occidentale L., Thespesia papulnea (L.) Soland ex Corr., Cocos nucifera L., Garcinia indica (Thou.) Chois., Artocarpus heterophyllusn Lam., Macaranga peltata Roxb. Mueller, weeds like Cyperus sp., Ludwigia sp.Smithia sp. Cassia tora L., Commelina sp., Leucas aspera Roxb., Lindernia sp. It is comparatively plane and hilly area which covered by scruby vegetation. The nomenclature has been brought up to date as for as possible, in consonance with the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. The correct name is followed by basionym and

synonyms, if any to correct the name with the flora of British India or the regional flora. Whether latest taxonomist work is available for any species, such as revisions or dealing with nomenclature, it has been cited. Invaribly reference to J.D. Hooker's Flora of British India, Cooke's Flora of the Presidency of Bombay, Flora of Savantwadi by Almeida has been given.

DISCCUSSIONS

The study region is rich with variety of plants and animals.It has rich biodiversity. Biodiversity is the sum total of all living things on earth especially considering their great variety in structure, function and genetic make-up. It includes both the number and frequency of ecosystem and species in a given assemblage. The study region experiences significant seasonal variations in rainfall. Usually the region receives its first spell of rain from pre-monsonal convectional showers in the month of May. During the South-West monsoon period (June to Sept.) the region receive maximum rainfall. The study region has agro and Fishery based economy. The study region shows average density 13.71% of trees shrubs and herbs. Aronda is situated nearer to the Kiranpani estuary. The habitat of the Kiranpani estuary is dominated by the mangrooves. Saline marshes at Aronda is the only place where Rhizophora mucronata Linn. Sonneratia Caseolaris (L.) Engl., Avicennia marina (Forssk.) Vierh., Avicennia officinalis Linn., Excoecaria agallocha Linn., Aegiceras corniculatum (L.) Blanco are predominantly observed. Gandhinagar, Shroda and Huda is situated along the sea shore and covered by sandunes. The vegetation is found beyond high tide mark.

This area is dominated by the tree like Casuarina equisetifolia L., Thespesia populnea (L.) Soland ex Corr., Mangifera indica L., Cocos nucifera L., Areca catechu L., Ficus benghalensis L., Ficus religiosa L., Macaranga peltata Roxb. Mueller, Acanthus ilicifolius Linn., Avicennia officinalis Linn. Amboli, Tirwade and Nanos are comparatively hilly area and covered by scrubby vegetation. Sindhudurg district is known for its lush green forest, mountains, villages, water falls, river and clean beaches. Tourists are attached more and more to this place now a days. Nature's beauty and biodiversity in this place is found no where else in Maharashtra. It is also beloved place for biologist and researchers as large number of medicinal plants, rare plants and animals are found in this region. The complex topography and heavy rainfall in this region helped to retain its diversity. Sindhudurg is one of the megadiversity zones in Maharashtra.

It has been estimated that the Orchids (46), medicinal Plants (254), mangroves (09) pterodophyts (129), Keystone sp., Umbrella sp., Flagship sp., religious sacred grove, gymnosperm, bryophytes, fungi, algae, etc. represents the richness of biodiversity in this region. But during recent times, in this area the policies of rapid economic gains are wrecking the ecological balance through the process of over exploitation of natural resources such as forests, land, water etc. The plans for rapid and one sided strategic development are destroying the life supporting environmental opportunities through tremendous pressures on ecological contours. The sustainable development is highly essential for the conservation of rich biodiversity.

Table 1: List of Botanical names, families uses andpart used in Sawantwadi region

S. No.	Botanical Name	Family	Local Name	Uses	Part used
1	Tinospora cordifolia (Willd.) Miers	Menispermaceae	Gulwel	Fever	Stem
2 3	Cocculus hirsutus (L.) Theob. Cyclea peltata Diels	Menispermaceae Menispermaceae	Wasinwel Pahadwel	fever, piles Digestive, fractures setting	Leaves Root
<i>4</i> 5	Gnetum ula Brongn. Argemone mexicana Linn.	Gnetaceae Papaveraceae	Nagotrin Piwla Dhotra	Eye wash Analgesic; antispasmodic	Seeds Leaves, seeds, roots, flowers
6	Garcinia indica (Thou.) Chois.	Clusiaceae	Kokam	Digestive	Leaves,fruit
7	Mammea longfolia Wt. ex Grahan.	Clusiaceae	Surangi	Aromatherapy	Flower
8	Mesua nagassarium Burm. F.	Clusiaceae	Nagkeshar	Astringent	Bark
9 10	Abelmoschus manihot Linn.	Malvaceae	Ranbhendi	Nutritional supplement	Root hard
10 11	Thespesia papulnea (L.) Soland ex Corr. Urena lobata L. Ssp. Lobata moorthy	Malvaceae Malvaceae	Ranbhendi Caesar gavat	Anti-inflammatory Antioxidant,antimicrobial	Root, bark Leaves, root
12	Ficus exasperata Vahl.	Moraceae	Karvat	Jaundice	Root and Bark
13	Ficus racemosa Linn.	Moraceae	Umber	Food, Antiseptic	Fruit and Latex
14	Ensete superbum (Roxb.) Chess.	Musaceae	Rankeli	Urinary disorder and Kidney stone	Flower and Seed
15	Helicteres isora Linn.	Stercuiaceae	Murudseng	Antidiabetic	Root
16 17	Grewia tiliaefolia Vahl. Murraya koenigii (L.) Spreng	Tiliaceae Rutaceae	Haroli Golneem	Pneumonia,	Stem bark
18	Zanthoxylum rhetsa Roxb.	Rutaceae	Tirphal	Antioxidant Stimulants, astringent, aromatic	Leaves Fruit
19	Glycosmis pentaphylla (Retz.) DC.	Rutaceae	Chirgondha	Digestive	Leaves
20	Celastrus paniculatus Willd.	Celastraceae	Malkamni	Fish bait, muscle pain	Seed, bark
21	Semecarpus anacardium Linn.	Anacardiaceae	Bibba	Inflammation, hypoglycemic	Seed
22	Nothopegia castaneifolia Roth.	Anacardiaceae	Aameri	Antiseptic	Leaves
23 24	Memecylon umbellatum Burm. F. Nothapodytes nimmoniana Graham.	Melastomaceae Icacinaceae	Anjani Navalna	Diabetes Tumer, antidiabetic	Leaves
25	Moringa pterygosperma Gaertn.	Moringaceae	Narakya Shigru	Abortion	Fruit, leaf and bark Bark
26	Naregamia alata Wight & Arn.	Meliaceae	Nelakanchi	Kidney stone, digestive	Leaves ,roots
27	Turraea villosa Benn.	Meliaceae	Tafshin	Antihelmentic	Root
28	Syzygium caryophyllatum (L.) Alston	Myrtaceae	Shenjarel	Antioxidant, antiseptic	Leaves, flower
29	Bauhinia purpurea Linn.	Caesalpinceae	Apta	Scorpion bite	Leaves, fruit
30 31	Caesalpinia crista Linn. Cassia fistula Linn.	Caesalpinceae Caesalpinceae	Sagargoti Bahava	Diabetes, fever Purgative	Seeds, leaves bark Root, fruit
32	Mimosa pudica Linn.	Mimosaceae	Lajalu	Insomnia, inflammation	Root
33	Abrus precatorius Linn.	Papilionaceae	Gunj	Skin disease, asthma, stomatitis	Root, Leaves, Seeds.
34	Clitoria ternatea Linn.	Papilionaceae	Gokarn	Nephro protective	Leaves, root
35	Crotalaria verrucosa Linn.	Papilionaceae	Ghagari	Jaundice	Leaves
36 37	Dalbergia horrida Graham.	Papilionaceae	Kalig	Antiseptic	Leaves
37 38	Erythrina orientalis Linn. Mucuna pruriens Linn.	Papilionaceae Papilionaceae	Pamkara Khachkuli	Sedative, carminative Deworming	Bark, leaves Leaves
39	Pterocarpus marsupium Roxb.	Papilionaceae	Bivala/Bija	Antidiabetic	Heartwood
40	Xylia xylocarpa Taub.	Papilionaceae	Jambha	Kidney stones	Leaves
41	Woodfordia fruticosa (L.) Kurz	Punicaceae	Daayatti	Cytotoxic	Flower
42	Schleichera oleosa (Lour.) Oken	Sapindaceae	Kusumb	Digestive	Fruit
43 44	Sapindus emarginatus Vahl. Terminalia bellirica (Gaertn.) Roxb.	Sapindaceae Combretaceae	Ritha Behda	Skin disease Expectorant, stomactic	Bark Fruit
44 45	Terminalia chebula Retz.	Combretaceae	Hirda	Cough, stomactic.	Fruit
46	Passiflora foetida Linn.	Passifloraceae	Mukkopeera	Antiseptic	Root
47	Trichosanthes tricuspidata Lour.	Cucurbitaceae	Kavandala	Migraine, asthma	Root, fruit
48 49	Careya arborea Roxb. Centella asiatica (L.) Urb.	Lecythidaceae Apiaceae	Kumbha Ekpani bramhi,	Antiseptic, Rope making Antiulcerogenic,	Root Leaves,stem
50	Anthocephalus chinensis Lamk.	Rubiaceae	Kadamb	anxiolytic Uterine, leprosy. complaints,	Fruits, leaves, bark.
51	Gardenia resinifera Roth.	Rubiaceae	Dikmali	Astringent to bowels.bronchitis	Gum
52	Ixora barchiata Roxb.	Rubiaceae	Malwa	Muscular	Bark
53	Rubia cordifolia Linn.	Rubiaceae	Manjeshta	Skin diseases, piles	Root, stem
54	Xeromphis spinosa Thunb.	Rubiaceae	Gela	Astringent, emetic, abortifacient	Bark,fruit
55 56	Catunaregam spinosa (Thunb.) Triveng. Eclipta prostrata Linn.	Rubiaceae Asteraceae	Ghela Maka	Pesticide Hair problem,	Leaves Leaves,stem
57	Sphaeranthus indicus Linn.	Asteraceae	Gorakhmundi	Skin diseses Laxative, tonic	Leaves,fruit
58	Tridax procumbens Linn.	Asteraceae	Jayanti	Wound healing	Leaves, jruii Leaves
59	Vernonia cinerea Linn.	Asteraceae	Sahadevi	Cytotoxic,fever	Leaves
60	Elephantopus scaber Linn.	Asteraceae	Pathari	Kidney stone	Whole plant
61	Eupatorium rependum Linn.	Asteraceae	Ranmodi	Antiseptic	Leaves
62	Elaeagnus conferta Roxb.	Elaeagnaceae	Nerada Wandina	Body pain	Leaves
63	Embelia basaal Roem. et. Schult.	Myrsinaceae	Wawding	Piles, sore throat, dyspepsia	Bark, root

64	Drynaria quercifolia Linn.	Polypodiaceae	Suruli	Muscular	Rhizome
65	Plumbago zeylanica Linn.	Plubaginaceae	Chitraka	Rheumatism, pile, scabies	Leaves, root,bark
66	Diospyros nigrescens Saldanha	Ebenaceae	Kaling	Antiseptic, Food	Fruits, leaves, stem
67	Dillenia pentagyna Roxb.	Dilleniaceae	Karmel	Digestive	Bark
58	Mimusops elengi Linn.	Sapotaceae	Bakul	Ulcers, headache,	Bark, seed, flower,
		•		dental caries	fruit
69	Cordia dichotoma Forst.	Boraginaceae	Bhokar	Cough, chest relief	fruit, mucilage, kernel, barks
70	Jasminum sambac (L.) Ait.	Oleaceae	Jasmin	Aromatheraphy	Flowers
71	Alstonia scholaris (L.) R.Br.	Apocynaceae	Saptpurni	Cultural,Diabetes	Bark, leaves
72	Holarrhena antidysentrica (Roth) Wall.	Apocynaceae	Kula	Diarrhoea	Bark
73	Rauvolfia serpentina (L.) Bth.ex Kurz.	Apocynaceae	Rarpgandha	Snake bites	Root
74	Tabernaemontana alternifolia Linn.	Apocynaceae	Tagar	Digestive	Bark, leaves
75	Hemidesmus indicus Linn.	Asclepidaceae	Anatmul	Digestive	Root
76	Gymnema sylvestre (Retz.) R. Br ex Shult.	Asclepidaceae	Gulmar	Diabetic, hypertension	Leaves
77	Holostemma annularium Roxb.	Asclepidaceae	Utran	Diabetic	Root
78 	Tylophora dalzellii Hook. f.	Asclepiadaceae.	Lahan Pitambari	Asthma, dermatitis and rheumatism.	Leaves,stem
79	Mallotus philippensis (Lam.) Mull. Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Kunku	Aphrodiasic, skin infection	Fruit, bark
80	Strychnos nux-vomica Linn.	Gentinaceae	Kajara	Digestive antidiabetic	Seeds, barks
81	Argyreia nervosa (Burm. f.) Boj.	Convalvulaceae	Vrddhadaruka	Ageing, insomnia	Root
32	Ipomoea nil (L.) Roth	Convalvulaceae	Kaaladaana	Acrid, thermogenic	Seed
33	Physalis minima Linn.	Solanaceae	Phophundi	Rheumatism	Whole plant
84	Solanum anguivi Lam.	Solanaceae	Chichardi	Digestive	Fruit
85	Oroxylum indicum (L.) Vent.	Bignoniaceae	Tetu	Mouth cancer, scabies	Roots, leaves and stems
86	Heterophragma qudrilocularae (Roxb.) K. Schum.	Bignoniaceae	Kusaga	Diabetic, skin diseses	Leaves
87	Andrographis paniculata (Burm. f.) Wall. Ex Nees	Acanthaceae	Bhuineem	Fever, antiseptic	Leaves,stem
38	Barleria prionitis Linn.	Acanthaceae	Katekoranti	Toothache, joint pains, lung diseases	Whole plant
39	Leea indica (Burm. f.) Merr.	Vitaceae	Dinda	Antiseptic	Leaves
90	Clerodendrum serratum Linn.	Verbenaceae	Bharangi	Inflammations, anorexia, flatulence	Leaves, root
91	Vitex negundo Linn.	Verbenaceae	Nirgundi	Arthritis, pesticide	Leaf, flower
92	Leucas cephalotes Roxb.	Lamiaceae	Tumbha	Malerial fever, jaundice	Whole plant
93	Ocimum gratissimum Linn.	Lamiaceae	Tulasi	Urinary tract, wound, skin infections	Aerial part
94	Gnidia glauca (Fresen.) Gilg.	Thymeleaceae	Datpadi	Cancers, sore throat, wounds, burns	Leaves, bark, flower.
95	Achyranthes aspera (L.) var. Porphyrista	Amaranthaceae	Akhada	Gynecological disorders	Root, seed
96	Piper nigrum Linn.	Piperaceae	Mire	Rheumatism, Appetizer	Fruit
97	Smilax zeylanica Linn.	Smilacaceae	Ghotwel	Antiseptic	Leaves, root
98	Cinnamomum verum Persl.	Lauraceae	Gulum	Bone setting	Bark
99	Persea macrantha (Nees) Kosterm.	Lauraceae	Koorma	Asthma, arthritis, Ulcer	Leaves, bark
100	Litsea floribunda Gamble	Lauraceae	Dadeghotum	Antiseptic	Bark
101	Phyllanthus urinaria Linn.	Euphorbiaceae	Bhuiavala,	Gonorrhea, diabetes, flu	Aerial parts
102	Ficus locor Buch. Hams.	Moraceae	Plaksa	Menstrual disorders,ulcer	Stem,bark
103	Curculigo orchiodes Gaertn.	Hypoxidaceae	Dukkarkandh	Sexual tonic	Tuber
104	Tacca leontopetaloides Linn.	Taccaceae	Ransuran	Bodyache and headache	Tuber
105	Luffa acutangula (L.) Roxb.	Cucurbitaceae	Phagul	Diabetes, tinea, ulcers leprosy emetic	Leaves, seeds
106	Dioscorea bulbifera Linn.	Dioscoriaceae	Mataru	Jaundice, piles	Tuber
107	Curcuma pseudomontana Girahm.	Zingiberaceae	Jangli halad	Ulcer, antiseptic	Rhizome
108	Curcuma enodora Blatt.	Zingiberaceae	Jangli halad	Skin diseaes	Rhizome
109	Curcuma nilgiriansis Pant & Awasthi.	Zingiberaceae	Jangli halad	Ulcer,skin diseases	Rhizome
! 10 ! 11	Aloe barbadensi (L.) Burm. Asparagus racemosus Willd.	Liliaceae Liliaceae	Aloe Satawari	Skin care Food, medicine for	Leaves Rhizome
112	Gloriosa superba Linn.	Liliaceae	Kallawi	women Abortifacient, spleen	Tuber,
113	Costus speciosus Koenig.	Costaceae	Pewa	complaints, sores Burns, constipation, skin	Leaves Rhizome
114	Amount and all a	A	I 1º	diseases	T. 1
114	Amorphophallus commutatus Schott.	Araceae	Janglisuran	Scabies	Tuber
115 116	Caryota urens Linn.	Areceaeae	Bhedlimal Brumai	Body pains and coollent	Seeds, toddy
116	Celtis timorensis Span.	Ulmaceae Olagoga	Brumaj Kapashi	Digestive	Leaves Stam flower
17 18	Ligustrum perrotetii A. DC. Smithsonia viridiflora Dalzell	Oleaceae Orchidaceae	Kapashi Weni	Antiseptic Aromatheraphy, ear	Stem,flower Flowes, leaves
119	Pandanus tactorius Darkinson	Pandanaceae	Kewada	drops Diuretic	Root, fruit
	Pandanus tectorius <u>Parkinson</u> Cyperus rotundus Linn.	Panaanaceae Cyperaceae	Kewaaa Nagarmotha	Diurenc Diarrheal pathogenesis	Koot, fruit Tuber
170	CIPCIUS ICINIUUS LIIII.	cyperaceue	magarmoma	Diai incui puinogenesis	1 11001
120 121	Cympopogon citratus (DC) Stapf.	Poaceae	Gawati chah	Fevers, stomach cramps	Leaves

Figures of some endemic species of Savantvadi region of Western Ghats



Rauvolfia serpentina (L.) Bth.ex Kurz.



Curcuma inodora Blatt.



Curcuma pseudomontana J.Graham



Curcuma nilgiriansis Pant and Awasthi



Nothapodytes nimmoniana (Graham) Mabb.



Clerodendrum serratum Linn.

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