

iving the  
e. will be

## Reserach Paper

ndividual  
re known  
d and the  
ion of the  
d torsion

# Assessment of indigenous knowledge of medicinal tree species from Southern Melghat region of Maharashtra (India)

Dhande Ravi, \*Bobdey Atul, \*\*Chikhale Nandkishor  
Department of Botany, Shri Shivaji College, Akot  
\*Department of Zoology, Shri Shivaji College, Akot  
\*\*Shri Shivaji Agriculture College, Amravati

diction is  
A hybrid  
ulate the  
rce fields.  
optimal  
to work  
for other  
Alanine,  
in the  
produce

## Abstract

*Ethnobotanical document directs how the different indigenous plants in different regions have been exploited by the local communities for the treatments of various diseases. The immense knowledge of plants as a medicine to the people, effectively serves as a remedy for different ailments. The benefits of precious knowledge can be offered to the majority of human population by establishing its appropriate medicinal potency for the treatment of specific diseases, thus confirms the validity of such knowledge. For ethnomedicinal studies, southern Melghat region of Maharashtra encompassing unique ecosystem was selected. The region comprises of sanctuaries of Narnala and Wan. Survey in both mentioned sanctuaries was conducted in the year 2007-08. The ethnomedicinal data reported was compiled through a fusion of interviews with the inhabitants. Various tree species, herbs and shrubs were found to have medicinal potency. In the current paper, the ethno medicinal uses of 38 tree species were documented in the study area. The most frequently used plant part were leaves (15.78%) followed by bark and fruits (10.52%). The most common ailments of the study area were documented as diarrhea, gonorrhoea, malaria, jaundice and bronchitis. The 18 tree species were found medicinally on these ailments. Documenting the medicinal tree species and associated indigenous knowledge can be used as a basis for developing management plans for conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants in the study area.*

**Keywords:** Southern Melghat, Ethnomedicinal, Maharashtra, Indigenous, Medicinal tree species

## Introduction

Ethnomedicinal survey of tribal areas brought record of several hundreds of wild medicinal plant species. Much of an indigenous knowledge system, from the earliest times, is also found linked with the use of traditional medicine in different countries (Farnsworth NR, 1994). These plants not only satisfy the medicinal requirement but nutrition and hunger too. Traditional medicine refer to culturally based healthcare practice different from scientific medicine and it is commonly regarded as indigenous or folk and largely orally transmitted practice used by communities with different cultures (Cotton CM, 1996). WHO defined traditional medicine as health practices, approaches, knowledge and beliefs incorporating plant based medicines applied to treat, diagnose and prevent illnesses or maintain well being (WHO, 2003). Medicinal plants are used as export commodities, which generate considerable income (Rai LK, et.al, 2000). These plants are normally traded in dried or freshly preserved form as whole or comminuted (Lange D, 1998); and their global markets are found in China, India, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, England and USA (Laird SA, 1999).

Many of the drugs found today have been derived from plant sources (Deshpande *et.al*, 1998). However, many chemical based drugs have replaced plants as the sources of medicine in industrialized countries (Kapoor, 2001). In India the long history of using traditional medicinal plants for combating various ailments can be confirmed by referring to the medico-religious manuscript in the country (Kirtikar KR, *et.al* 1975. Beddome, Indian ministry, 1978).

## Materials and Methods

Field Survey method was applied for the assessment of indigenous knowledge of medicinal tree species. Ethnomedicinal studies, in different localities of Narnala (12.35 Sq. Km forest area) and Wan (205.86 Sq. Km. forest area) wildlife sanctuaries of Akola and Amravati district