

Plants used as fencing in Porbandar district of Gujarat

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ABSTRACT

Tribals of district Porbandar, are mostly involved in agricultural practices which play a significant role in their economy. The fields are protected by permanent or temporary boundaries made from different plant species. The plant species used as fence have sharp pointed structures, large foliage, profuse and short branches which prevent entry of human beings and grazing and other wild animals. The fence they construct is very economical. It is supplemented by many Climbers of families like Convolvulaceae and Cucurbitaceae. The present paper deals with 49 plants species which are used by the tribals and rural people of district Porbandar, for the purpose of fencing.

Key words : Ethnobotany, Fencing, Porbandar district, Gujarat

INTRODUCTION

Porbandar district of Gujarat state is harbour, of vast diversity of vegetation. It include dry deciduous forest. Porbandar district occupies the western part of Gujarat lies between 21° 15 and 21° 50 east-longitude. The geographic area of this district is about 2272 sq. Km. The atmosphere of this district is temperate and humid in seashore area. Rural folk are composed of Maher, Kharva, Rabari, Charan, Lohana, Brahmin, Rajpoot, Ahir, Bhatia, Baniya, who exchange their traditional views and ideas through a common Gujarati dialect. They possess vast indigenous knowledge in relation to natural resource management that has been passed orally from generation to generation from time immemorial.

Agriculture is the mainstay of the people of Porbandar district. They practise sedentary terrace cultivation of cereals, pulses, oilseeds and vegetable. The farmland is kept under cultivation throughout the year by regular growth of summer and winter crops one after another. They make their cropland well protected from external damage by raising fences of biological origin in live or dried conditions, which now included some recently introduced species also. Such fences are of two types: homogeneous and

heterogeneous. Homogeneous fence is composed of only one species, shrub, undershrub, of herb, whereas, heterogeneous fence is composed of more than one species. The fences may be temporary or permanent. Temporary fences are renovated every two years.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ethnobotanical surveys were conduct in various part of Porbandar district (Kutiyana, Ranavav, Porbandar), etc. During field survey we observed certain plants which are used in preparation of field and house fencing. We collected the voucher specimens and took photographs and properly identified and compared with standered herbarium. The author came across a large number of tribal and rural people.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Presence of thorns, spines, prickles, stinging hair and profuse branching make field fences very effective in preventing the entry of both human beings and animals into the cropland. Plants in live field fences have strong soil-binding roots that are very efficient in strengthening mud boundaries of the field (Punjani 1998, Ant and Patel 2002).

Table 1 : List of plants used as fence

S. No.	Scientific Name	Local Name	Family	Condition	Parts used	Purpose
1	<i>Acacia jaquemontii</i> Bth.	Bavali	Mimosaceae	Live	Dry branches	Plants having spines, act as field fence.
2	<i>Acacia senegal</i> (L.) Willd.	Gordiu baval	Mimosaceae	Live	Dry branches	Plants having spines act as field fence
3	<i>Acacia arabica</i> (Lam.) Willd.	Dheshi baval	Mimosaceae	Live/Dried	Dry branches	Act as a field fence.
4	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i> (L) Nees.	Ardusi	Acanthaceae	Live	Whole plant	Act as a house fence plants have dense foliage.
5	<i>Agave americana</i> L.	Ramban	Agavaceae	Live	Whole plant	Act as a field fence.
6	<i>Aloe barbadensis</i> Mill	Kunvarpato	Lilliaceae	Live	Whole plant	Act as a field fence.
7	<i>Alangium salviflorum</i> (L.f.) Wang.	Ankol	Alangiaceae	Live	Whole plant	Act as a field fence & having spines.
8	<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i> (L) Del.	Ingoriyo	Balanitaceae	Live	Branches	Act as a field fence, barrier against animal.

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