



## Ethnobotanical studies on certain tree species of Ambaji forest of Banaskantha district, Gujarat, India

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### ABSTRACT

Banaskantha district, in northern part of the Gujarat state, lies between 230.35' to 240.34' north latitudes and 710.00' to 730.00' east longitudes. Out of 300 sq. km. geographical area of the range, about 542 sq. km is notified as Ambaji-Balaram wildlife sanctuary. The present investigation was carried out in Ambaji range forest of Banaskantha district of North Gujarat. Tribal people of Ambaji forest range directly depend upon forest resources for their daily needs. In this context an ethnobotanical surveys were undertaken to record ethnobotanical uses and ethnomedicinal remedies of plant species growing in Danta and Ambaji forest areas. During the present investigation it was observed that tree species are being greatly used for various purposes. *Lannea*, *Alangium*, *Butea*, *Zizyphus*, *Acacia*, *Diospyros*, *Boswellia*, *Gmelina*, *Ailanthus* etc. are the commonly found trees in this forest. Besides this some minor forest products like bark, gum, flowers, fruits, fuel wood are interwoven with tribal's life for their survival. The species like *Dendrocalamus*, *Holoptelea*, *Phoenix*, *Wrightia*, *Acacia* etc. are used for various purposes. A large number of traditional herbal healers exist belonging to the tribal community and are utilizing local plants in ethno-medicinal practices prevalent in the area and resulted in the documentation of medicinal plant species. The study thus underlines the potentials of the ethnobotanical research and the need for the documentation of traditional ecological knowledge pertaining to the medicinal plant utilization for the greater benefit of mankind in different regions. The first hand information on the medicinal plants used by the villagers was arranged alphabetically by genus and species name following as. During the present research work, different areas of Ambaji forest were frequently visited and specimens were collected and identified. Each plant species discussed with its scientific name, local name, family name and its uses. The name of the resource person for each use is also appended.

**Key words :** Ethnobotanical studies, Tribes, Ambaji forest, Banaskantha district

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### INTRODUCTION

Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Mehsana and Patan are the four districts of North Gujarat, among them in Banaskantha district the Danta and Ambaji range forests are the part of Danta taluka having the part of Aravalli hills. Ambaji range forest is a part of Danta taluka situated on eastern part of the Banaskantha district in North Gujarat. The forest type is dry deciduous and scrub (Champion and Seth, 1968) harbors about 400

tracheophyte plant species, including pteridophytes, gymnosperms and angiosperms. These forest areas are inhabited by around 20 tribes. These forests are inhabited by a variety of ethnic groups including the tribes like Bubadiya, Parghi, Taral, Bhemiya, Dhrangi, Khair, Laur, Makwana, Dabhi, Solanki, Chauhan, Gamar, Parmar, Rohisa, Rathod, Mansi, Damor, Khermal, Kodarvi etc. These tribes cover 48 per cent of the total population. The *adivasi* (local people) dwelling in the forest have good knowledge of herbal medicine. The herbal practice is a part and parcel of their life and is developed into an efficient method of healthcare system, though it is diffused outside their societies. The present data were collected through frequent field studies conducted during the ethnobotanical survey of different parts of Ambaji range forest. It was observed that the tribes have specific folk remedies for almost all kinds of diseases except severe cases. It is glibly asserted that good

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