

## Traditional dye yielding plants of Porbandar District, Gujarat

B. A. JADEJA\*, N. K. ODEDRA AND V.H.JOTVA

Department of Botany, M. D. Science Collage, Porbandar - 360 577 (Gujarat), India.

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### SUMMARY

The paper describes 27 plant species, belonging to 13 families, used in the extraction of dye by the tribal and rural commodities of Porbandar district they use this dye for dyeing the cloth and other items.

Key words : Traditional Dyes, Dye yielding plants, Porbandar district.

Both ancient and recent cultures have used plants as sources of medicines, dyes, foods, clothing and shelter. Now-a-days, natural dyes are gaining popularity again throughout the world. The dyes have been under constant use since prehistoric period of Indus valley civilization. But now synthetic dyes, due to their low cost, brightness, easy usability, permanency and a wide range of colours offered threaten to wipe out the natural dye industry. A large number of families of the plant kingdom comprise an important source of natural dyes, of which Fabaceae contains perhaps the largest number of dye – yielding plants (Pandey and Chadha 2001).

Porbandar district of Gujarat state is harbour of vast diversity of vegetation. It includes 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. Junagadh district lies on the southern east part, Jamanagar district and Barda Hills are lying on the northern part and the Arabian sea is lying on the western part of this district. The atmosphere of this district is temperate and humid in the seashore area. In summer inside the district which is far away from the seashore area the atmosphere is hot and dry and in winter the atmosphere is cool and dry. Rain is irregular in monsoon

and the average annual rainfall in Porbandar is 675 mm. It experiences extremes of weather conditions.

Ethnobotanical work is done by Thakar (1910), Kant and Dutt (2005), Sharma *et al* (2005), Akimpou *et al* (2005).

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

For the present investigation, interviews were conducted during 1997-2002 with persons still engaged in this age old tradition. All the documents available in written form and the reports appearing in the local dailies and other local journals have also been consulted. Plant species have been collected and identified using standard literature and herbaria. Efforts have also been made to find the correct names in accordance with the latest international code of Botanical Nomenclature.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present investigation has revealed that 27 plant species belonging to 13 families are commonly used as dye by different ethnic communities of Porbandar district. Different plants give different shades of colour. Dyes extracted from plants used for dyeing of their handloom products. Some of these dyes are also used in fine arts, so for no systematic investigation was carried out to enumerate

Table :1 Dye yielding plants of porbandar district

Sr. No.	Scientific name	Family	Varnacular name	Parts used	Application specificity
1	<i>Acacia arabica</i> Willd.	Mimosaceae	Baval	Root bark	The dye is obtained from root bark
2	<i>acacia catechu</i> (L.F.) Willd. Syn.	Mimosaceae	Khair	Heart wood	A brown dye obtained from the heart wood of a tree native of India and Barma. The pieces of wood are boiled in water. The extract is evaporated down to a purplish, gummy and semisolid substance. The dye is fast and is mostly used for various brown, khaki and drab colours including popular khaki.
3	<i>Adenantha pavonia</i> L.	Mimosaceae	Ratanjali	Flower, tender pods.	The dye is obtained from flowers and tender pods.
4	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> L. Corr.	Rutaceae	Bili	Pericarp	The dye is obtained from pericarp.
5	<i>Bauhinia racemosa</i> Lam.	Caesalpinaceae	Asundro	Stem bark, flower and tender pods	The dye is obtained from stem bark, flower and tender pods.

\*Author for correspondence