

## Traditional knowledge of plants of western Khandesh region of Maharashtra for snake bites

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Khandesh comprises three districts, viz., Dhule, Nandurbar and Jalgaon. Western khandesh has two districts, Dhule and Nandurbar, whereas Jalgaon is in the Eastern Khandesh. The flora of Satpura ranges of Western Khandesh are highly diversified and rich in number of medicinal plants. The tribal of Dhule and Nandurbar district, are Pawara, Konkani, Bhils, Vasave, Pardhis, etc. inhabits in northern hilly parts of the district. These people are poor and unable to afford the expenses of modern medical treatment. Therefore, they depend on the traditional medicines; moreover it is deep-rooted in their culture. They use different plants and plant parts against snake bite. The present paper deals with 17 medicinal plants used as an antidote in snake bites.

Traditionally, the tribals of Khandesh use various plants species for number of ailments. Their knowledge has passed through generations. But there is fear of vanishing these store house information due to the waves of modernization and globalization. A traditional medicine refers to the indigenous system of healthcare. The World Health Organization Recently (WHO, 1978) reported that 80% of worlds population depends upon traditional medicines, herbal remedies and medicinal plants. The authors tapped the first hand ethno-medicinal information from Bhagat, Buwas (witch doctors), Medicine men and tribal old ladies. Medicinal plants used for various ailments are reported throughout India (Lal and Lata, 1980) on fertility, Menon (1919) on Influenza, Biswas (1956) on Leucoderma, Hemadri (1981) on Phumantism, studies on medicinal plants of the area lacking expect a few sporadic references except of Karnik (1966), , Bhamare (1998, 2005) threw light on some ethno-botanically important species from this region. Rajput and Yadav (2000), Yadav and Patil (2001), Bagul and Yadav (2003, 2003), Bagul *et al.* (2006). The present paper deals with the information of 17 medicinally important plants used as an antidote for snake bite and it has been tabularized in Table 1. It includes

alphabetically arranged botanical names, local names, parts used and diseases.

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