

Plants used in agriculture implements and house hold instruments by the tribals of R.D.F. Poshina forest range of Sabarkantha district, North Gujarat, India

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SUMMARY

Agriculture implements and house hold instruments are used by the tribals in R.D.F. Poshina forest range of Sabarkantha district, north Gujarat, India. About 14 plant species belonging to 12 families were observed during the research work. The adivasi dwelling in the forest have good knowledge of different plants. Certain plants like Umph (*Miliusa tomentosa* (Roxb.)), Shan-Jute (*Corchorus capsularis* (L.)), Bordi (*Zizyphus nummularia* (Burm.f.) W. and A.), Limdo (*Azadirachta indica* (A.Juss.)), Sandesro (*Delonix elata*), Baval (*Acacia nilotica* (L.) Del.), Dhao (*Anogeissus pendula* (Edgew.)), Runchalo Dudhalo (*Wrightia tinctoria* (R.Br.)), Sag (*Tectona grandis* (L.f.)), Charal (*Holoptelea integrifolia* (Roxb.) Planch.), Khajuri (*Phoenix sylvestris* (L.)), Vans (*Bambusa bambos* (L.) Voss.), Vans (*Dendrocalamus strictus* (Nees.)), Ghaun/Wheat (*Triticum sativum* (Lam.)) etc. were observed as a commonly useful plants in the R.D.F. Poshina Forest during the year 2010-2011.

Key Words : Agriculture implements, House hold instruments, Tribals, Sabarkantha district, R.D.F. Poshina forest range

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As ethnobotanical studies have emphasized the use of plants by hunter gathered and agricultural societies, it is often assumed that it is restricted to those societies only. Ethnobotany encompasses many field including botany, biochemistry, pharmacognosy, toxicology, medicine, nutrition, agriculture, ecology, evolution, sociology, anthropology, linguistic, history and archeology (Balik *et al.*, 1995; Black and Cutler 2001; Cook, 1995; Cotton, 1996; Gliessman, 1990; Rindos, 1984; Rival, Laura, 1998, Saucer, 1994; Etkin, 1993).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sabarkantha district having hilly forest area in the range

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of Arvalli hills. Sabarkantha district is the backward district of Gujarat state. The total population according to 2001 census is 1027 million. The rural population is 15,75,918 (86.48%) and tribal population is 18.41 per cent. The rural commonly are Brahmin, Patel, Vania, Rajput and Muslims etc. The adivasi commonly are Bhils, Parmar, Pardhi, Sarar, Dabhi, Angari, Kher, Kapedia, Rohisa, Bangadia, Lakhumada, Chunara, Damors and many more. Their principal means of livelihood is agriculture and live stalk. The main crops raised are maize, wheat, chana, peddy, tuvar, bajra, and rajko.

Poshina range is divided into two ranges, Poshina forest range and R.D.F. Poshina forest ranges. The R.D.F. Poshina forest range is a tribal area located in Khedbrahma taluka of Sabarkantha district of North Gujarat, India. The R.D.F. Poshina forest range belongs to Sabarkantha forest division of Gujarat state. The total area of R.D.F. Poshina forest range is 8156.03 H.A., of which reserve forest under section-20 is 921.43 H.A. and un-classed forest under section-4 is 7234.60 H.A.

Extensive field trips were organized during the year 2010-

2011 in R.D.F. Poshina forest range area of Sabarkantha district in North Gujarat. Forest areas and villages of such regions were frequently visited, to collect the information about the forest wealth and uses of plant species were noted. Village wise men, experienced informants, elderly people, head man of the hamlets, tribal medicine men, 'vaidya', 'bhagat', 'bhuwa', etc. were contacted and by repeat queries data was gathered. These people are the only source of information about the local plant names and their ethnobotanical uses. This is the original and ancient knowledge, which was not documented systematically earlier but from last few decades several ethnobotanical workers had worked on this subject. The collected plant specimens were identified and arranged according to Bentham and Hooker's system of plant classification described in the Gujarat flora by Shah (1978). Valid scientific name, local name, family and ethnomedicinal uses are described.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The experimental findings of the present study have been presented in the following sub heads:

Agricultural implement:

Vavaniyo :

- The lower part is made up of the stem of Vans (*Dendrocalamus strictus*(Nees.)-Poaceae and the upper part is made up of the strips of the stem of Vans [*Bambusa bambos* (L.)Voss.] Poaceae, the upper part is covered by the cloths of Shan- Jute (*Corchorus capsularis* L.)-Tiliaceae.
- This agricultural implement is used by farmer for sowing seeds like bajara, wheat, juwar, maize. (Manuhai-Tebda Village).

Junsari :

- The vertical part is made up of the stem of the Sandesro (*Delonix elata* (L.) Gamble.)-Caesalpiaceae and Dhao (*Anogeissus pendula* (Edgew.)- Combretaceae.
- The horizontal part is made up of the stem of the Runchalo Dudhalo (*Wrightia tinctoria* R.Br.)-Apocynaceae (Ladubhai-Kharania Village).

Trikom :

- The handle of this implements is made up of Baval (*Acacia nilotica*(L.)Del.)-Mimosaceae (Kalubhai-Tebda Village).

Mango/hamar :

- The horizontal part is made up of the wood of Sag (*Tectona grandis* (L.f.))-Verbinaceae and the vertical part is made up of the wood of Baval (*Acacia nilotica*(L.) Del.)-Mimosaceae (Kalubhai-Tebda Village).

Hal :

- The horizontal part is made up of the wood of Umph (*Miliusa tomentosa* (Roxb.) Annonaceae, small part associated with it is made up of Vans (*Dendrocalamus strictus* (Nees.)- Poaceae, the horizontal parts are made up of the wood of Dhao (*Anogeissus pendula* Edgew.)- Combretaceae and Bordi [*Zizyphus nummularia* (Burm.f.)W. and A.]-Rhamnaceae(Kimabhai-Golvada Village).



Fig. 1 : Agricultural implement

Gofan :

- Catapult is made up of the fibers of Shan-Jute (*Corchorus capsularis*) – Tiliaceae which is used to protect the crops against wild animal (Malabhai-Demti Village). (Malabhai-Demti Village).

House hold instruments :

Jadu :

- Leaves of Khajuri (*Phoenix sylvestris* (L.))-Aeracaceae are used to make cleaning brush. (Somiben-Tebda Village).

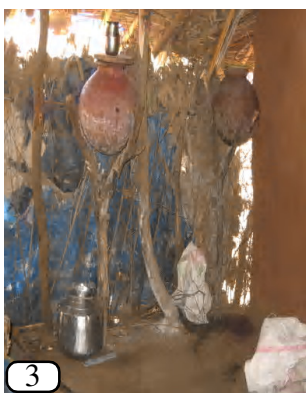


Fig. 2 : House hold instruments

Garagdina teka :

- The main support of the wheel is made up of the wood of Charal (*Holoptelea integrifolia*(Roxb.) Planch.)-Ulmaceae, Baval [*Acacia nilotica* (L.) Del.] – Mimosaceae and the horizontal support is made up of Bordi [*Zizyphus nummularia*(Burm.f.)W.and A.] - Rhamnaceae (Kimabhai-Golvada Village).

Matla nighodi :

- The support of the stand is made up of the wood of Limdo (*Azadirachta indica* A.Juss.)- Meliaceae ,Baval [*Acacia nilotica*(L.) Del.]– Mimosaceae (Anilbhai-Tebda Village).

Ghar no mukhya patdo :

- The stem wood of Khajuri (*Phoenix sylvestris* (L.))-Aeracaceae and Dhao (*Anogeissus pendula* Edgew.)- Combretaceae(Ajitsingh-Lambadia Village).

Dadar/nihaini

- The main two parallel vertical supports are made up of Vans [*Bambusa bambos* (L.)Voss.] - Poaceae and the horizontal steps are made from Bordi [*Zizyphus nummularia* (Burm.f.)W. and A.] - Rhamnaceae (Naranbhai-Tebda Village).

Anaj bharvani kothi :

- The body of the barrel is made from the strips of Vans (*Dendrocalamus strictus*(Nees.)- Poaceae warped with the mixture of the stem chips of ghaun/wheat (*Triticum sativum* Lam.) Poaceae, loamy soil and animal (cow) dung (Somiben-Tebda Village).

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