

# Rural herbal remedies used by the tribal peoples of Kalwan and Surgana Taluka of Nashik District, Maharashtra, India

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**Abstract:** This paper presents the first-hand information and enumeration of 20 species of plants belonging to 20 genera and 16 families of angiosperms having medicinal active principles. That plant species generally utilized by tribal people of Kalwan and Surgana taluka. Recent botanical and local names, parts used, treated or use on, preparation, application along with duration have been provided.

**Keywords:** Rural Herbal remedies, Kalwan and Surgana Taluka.

## INTRODUCTION

The headquarter of taluka Kalwan is located at 20° 29' 32.2116" N and 74° 1' 33.6324" E and Surgana at 20.57° N 73.62° E. Both talukas are in Nashik district, situated in north western part of Maharashtra. It lies between 19° 35' and 20° 50' N and between 73° 16' and 74° 56 'E. Kalwan and Surgana occupying an area of 1278.4 sq. km. Therange of Western Ghat extends in the district and is a predominantly tribal district.

The tribal communities such as Kokana, Mahadev-koli, katkari and Bhil inhabit the rugged terrains of Western Ghats. Although they are forest dwellers, they practice agriculture. The agricultural produce doesnot suffice their sustainance and, therefore, have to depend on forest resources. A very littile ethno botanical work done from this region in the past. The author gathered data on the use of local plants during ethno botanical visits to the study area. The paper includes some of the commonly cultivated and wild plants of the study area used by local tribals. On comparison with the published literature, the information on 20 species of 16 families reporting having medicinal importance.

## METHODOLOGY

The general method of collecting the information was same as described by Jain(1981), consisted either interviewin g the older local person or witnessing uses of plants during visited these villages, local bazaar and tribal fair. Older tribal-men, women and medicine-men were interviewed. The data was verified in subsequent visits. This information was identified by the author with the help of flora of Nashik district, Sharma BD and Lakshminarsimhan (1986), Cooke T (1958).Information on medicinal plants with botanical and common names, families, parts used, medicinal uses and preparation along with application and duration and additional uses of the plant parts used.

## RESULTS

TABLE I. Methods of using the plant parts as medicine by the tribals of Kalwan and Surgana taluka.

Sr.No	Botanical Name / Local name/ Family	Part used	Treated/Use on	Preparation	Application
1	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Lam. Phanas, Moraceae	Fruits	Vomiting	Powdered the fruits and mixed with jiggery ,then prepared pellets	1 pellet for 5 days
2	<i>Aspidopterys cordata</i> A.Juss. Makadvel, Malthigiaceae	Latex	Lactation	Latex mixed with rice and eaten as raw	Daily 12-15g for 30 days.
3	<i>Bombax ceiba</i> Linn. Sawar, Bombacaceae	Root	Bleeding, Injuries	Prepared paste in water	Till cure injuries
4	<i>Butea monosperma</i> Lam.Palas, Fabaceae	Seed	Worms in intestine of child's	Decoction obtained by crushing and boiling the seeds	5ml twice a day for a week

5	<i>Calotropis procera</i> R.Br. Ruchkin, Asclepiadaceae	Tender leaves	Fever and cold	Lime, catechu and root bark chewed with tender leaves	Twice a day for 3 days
6	<i>Careya arborea</i> Roxb. Kumbhi, Lecythidaceae	Bark	Haemorrhoids / Piles	Extract prepared in water	20ml twice a day for 15 days
7	<i>Carissa carandas</i> L. Karvand, Apocynaceae	Latex	Burning sensation during urination	Latex dropped on urinogenital opening	Daily once till cure the burning
8	<i>Casearia graveolens</i> Dalz. Kirmira, Flacourtiaceae	Stem	Snake-bite	Stem pieces chewed as raw	Daily once for week
9	<i>Cordia dichotoma</i> G.Fost. Bhokar, Boraginaceae	Stem bark	Excessive menstruation	Decoction in boiling water	Twice a day for week
10	<i>Crinum defixum</i> Ker-Gawl. Kumbh, Amaryllidaceae	Leaves	Body swelling and pimples	Fumigation or smoke passed over infected body	Daily once for week
11	<i>Dellinia pentagyna</i> Roxb. Karwal, Dilleniaceae	Stem bark	Jaundice and urinary problems	Extract by crushing and squeezing in water	Daily once till cure
12	<i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i> Roxb. Temburini, Ebenaceae	Wood	Easy delivery	Burnt wood smoke is passed over the body of woman	Daily once for week
13	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i> (L.) Hassk. Bhringraj, Asteraceae	leaf	Chikhali	Juice obtained by crushing and squeezing	Twice a day till cure
14	<i>Glossocardia bosvallia</i> (Linn.f.) DC. Mirgi-Kand, Asteraceae	Root stalk	Alcohol addicts	Decoction mixed with tea	Once daily for a month
15	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> (Linn.) Schultes Anantmul, Asclepiadaceae	Root	Increase flow of milk	Orally take root extract in water	Once daily for a month
16	<i>Hygrophila schulli</i> (Ham.) Talimkhana, Acanthaceae	Whole plant	Painful urination with yellow colour	Decoction prepared by boiling all plant parts in water	Once daily for 3-4 days
17	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (Linn.) Karanj, Fabaceae	Seed	Ringworm	Oil extracted from seed	Once daily till cure
18	<i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i> Roxb. Bija/Bivala, Fabaceae	Bark	Regularize menstruation in teenage girls	Infusion	Once daily for 7 days

19	<i>Vitex negundo</i> Linn. Nirgudi, Verbenaceae	Leaf	Conjunctivitis	Juice obtained by crushing and squeezing	Once daily applied around eyes till cure
20	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> (Linn.) Kurz Dhaiti, Lythraceae	Stem bark	Bleeding after delivery	Infusion prepared in water	Once daily for 2 week

### CONCLUSION

The flora of Nashik district included 943 species belonging to 108 families and the forest range from evergreen, semi-evergreen to dry deciduous types. However, it was largely untapped for ethno medicinal heritage. The information has been compared with ethno botanical literature. It is noted that out of 20 species, only single species, viz. *Pongamia pinnata* (Linn.) Pierre is recorded for similar use in Wealth of India and Dictionary of Economic products India, Jain SK (1991). 19 species reported elsewhere but the uses presently reported are different. Likewise, 3 species, viz. *Hygrophila schulli* (Ham.) *Glossocardia bosvallia* (Linn.) DC. and *Woodfordia fruticosa* (Linn.) Kurz find place in ethno botanical literature with use of different plant parts.

The remedies used for native healthcare practices in Nashik district are used in the form of decoction, infusion, paste, gum, juice, latex, crude powder, smoke and ash. The plants are used either singly or in combination with other plants. The chemical and pharmacological investigations on these species and their derived products are required to know their efficacy on modern scientific lines.

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