

---

## UTILIRIAN FLORA OF TORANMAL PLATEAU, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

**Bankar V. V.**

Arts, Commerce and Science College,  
Nashik

Email- [vilas.bankar@yahoo.com](mailto:vilas.bankar@yahoo.com)

---

### **Abstract :**

*Ethnobotanical investigations since the decades continued to aim at tapping the legacy of primitive people with a view to find out plant resources for food, medicine and other purposes. The Indian subcontinent is inhabited by more than 53 million tribal's belonging to over 550 tribal groups or communities that come under 227 linguistic groups but, the structured study of is relatively recent in India and majority of the work has been done during the last five decades.*

**Key words :** *Toranmal, Ethanobotany, food, medicine, tribal*

---

### **Introduction :**

At present, the significance of ethnobotanical research particularly for medicine and food is keenly felt, as it represents one of the finest avenues for searching new economic plants for food and medicine. In recent years a number of workers are involved in ethnobotanical studies and a lot of information about different utilities of plants common among the tribes and other aboriginals has been gathered. Toranmal plateau is confined by the escarpment from all sides that can be grouped as northern, southern, eastern and western escarpment, forming an inseparable land of the plateau

### **Study area:**

Toranmal Plateau is one of the important plateaus in mid Satpuda in northern Maharashtra. This plateau forms a table land and summit covering about 41 Sq.Km. area at 1155-meter altitude (AMSL). It lies in western Satpuda Mountain which is a horst block between Narmada graban on north and Tapi in the south. Because of its scenic beauty it has a long historical background. Formerly, it is believed to be capital of King Yuvanashav during Mahabharata period. The total plateau summit area covers 41 Sq. Km. and extend between 21o 54' North to 21o 61' latitude and 74o 26' to 74o 34' East longitude. This is one of the best hill stations and famous tourist resort in North Western Maharashtra, 55 Km. from Shahada Tahsil

and 90 Km North of Nandurbar district (Anonymous, 2010).

Toranmal plateau is confined by the escarpment from all sides that can be grouped as northern, southern, eastern and western escarpment, forming an inseparable land of the plateau.

Nandurbar district comprises of major portion of Satpura ranges. The Satpuda is a broad belt of mountainous land stretching east west in a wall like manner on the northern side of the river Tapi. Satpuda Mountain forms about seven major folds with an average height of 600 m above sea level and slope down steeply towards river Narmada in North. Two of these ranges of hills unite at Toranmal and enclose an irregular tableland of about 50 km long and 25 km broad.

### **Methodology :**

During the present investigation the data regarding tribal people and medicinal plants gathered from different parts of Toranmal plateau, Nandurbar district of Maharashtra. The locations of study area are Sitakahi, Kalapani, Leghapani, Khadaki, etc. during the period. The tribal people were interviewed and information of the useful plants gathered and the voucher specimens of plants were collected. Plants were identified by the experts.

Several of the medicinal preparations of these tribal matched with those mentioned in earlier literature and those medicinal preparations, traditional medicines and healthcare system of Tribals of Satpura region, Sharma and Mujumdar, (2003): traditional knowledge on plants from Toranmal Plateau, while Patil, (2004): ethno medicines for human skin diseases from Tribal areas of Nandurbar District, Patil S.H. and Yadav S.S., (2003): Traditional medicinal plants of Satpuda, Nandurbar district Maharashtra state Jagtap, S. D. *et al.* (2009): Traditional ethanomedicinal knowledge confined to the Pawra tribe of Satpura hills .

The data presented here is based on personal interviews and observations of informants. The indigenous knowledge of local people regarding plants was gathered by intensive ethnobotanical explorations. The area visited annually for 4-5 times during the 2012 to 2014 for covering different villages of study area and each visit lasted about 5-6 days.

### **Result :**

Total 42 angiosperm species used for treating different diseases of human being have been recorded. Out of the 42 plant species some species is used for earache, eczema, eye problem, fertility, fever, fits, and foot cracks. Maximum number of species used to cure

diseases are from family Fabaceae which is followed by cucurbitaceae, Solanaceae, Euphorbiaceae. (Bankar and Sharma P.P.)

### Acknowledgements:

Authors are thankful to Principals of college for constant support, encouragement and facilities and also thankful to my colleague who are supporting me in this work.

### Enumeration :

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<b>Family</b>	<i>Local Name</i>	<b>Parts Used</b>	<b>Mode Of Admn</b>
<b>EAR ACHE</b>				
<i>Agave americana</i>	Agavaceae	<i>Ghaypat</i>	LF	EAR
<i>Capsicum annum</i>	Solanaceae	<i>Mirchi</i>	FR	EAR
<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i>	Sapindaceae	<i>Kapalphodi</i>	LF	EAR
<i>Crinum asiaticum</i>	Amaryllidaceae	<i>Gadhani kand</i>	WP	EAR
<i>Luffa acutangula</i>	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Dodake</i>	LF	EAR
<i>Cleome gynandra</i>	Capparaceae	<i>Pandharitilvan</i>	LF	EAR
<i>Cleome viscosa</i>	Capparaceae	<i>Pivalitilvan</i>	LF	EAR
<i>Erythrina stricta</i>	Fabaceae	<i>Pangara</i>	LF	EAR
<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i>	Lamiaceae	<i>Tulashi</i>	LF	EAR
<i>Solanum anguivi</i>	Solanaceae	<i>Mothi ringani</i>	RT	EAR
<b>ECZEMA</b>				
<i>Clematis gouriana</i>	Ranunculaceae	<i>Morvel.</i>	WP	O
<i>Launaea procumbens</i>	Asteraceae	<i>Pathri</i>	LF	E
<i>Lawsonia inermis</i>	Lythraceae	<i>Mehandi</i>	LF	E
<i>Ventilago maderaspatana</i>	Rhamnaceae	<i>Khandvel</i>	LF	E
<b>EYE PROBLEMS</b>				
<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i>	Fabaceae	<i>Unhali</i>	SD	E
<i>Cassia tora</i>	Fabaceae	<i>Tarota</i>	LF	EYE
<i>Nymphaea pubescens</i>	Nymphaeaceae	<i>Kamal</i>	LF	E
<b>FERTILITY</b>				
<i>Caesalpinia pulcherima</i>	Fabaceae	<i>Shankasur</i>	FL	O

<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i>	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Shivlingi</i>	SD	O
<i>Vigna trilobata var. trilobata</i>	Fabaceae	<i>Math</i>	RT	O
<i>Actinopteris radiata</i>	Actinopteridaceae	<i>Morpankhi</i>	WP	O
<b>FEVER</b>				
<i>Abutilon hirtum</i>	Malvaceae	<i>Barkanghi</i>	RT	O
<i>Adiantum lunulatum</i>	Polypodiaceae	<i>Hansraj</i>	RT	
<i>Ammannia baccifera</i>	Lythraceae	<i>Bharjambhal</i>	WP	O
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Meliaceae	<i>Limbada</i>	LF	O
<i>Bidens biternata</i>	Asteraceae	<i>Chikata</i>	LF	O
<i>Boerhavia repens L. ver. diffusa</i>	Nyctaginaceae	<i>Punernawa</i>	RT	O
<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	Bombacaceae	<i>Kapok</i>	LF	O
<i>Clematis gouriana</i>	Ranunculaceae	<i>Morvel.</i>	LF	O
<i>Clerodendrum serratum</i>	Verbenaceae	<i>Bharangi</i>	LF	O
<i>Delonix regia</i>	Fabaceae	<i>Gulmohar</i>	BK	O
<i>Enicostema axillare</i>	Gentianaceae	<i>Nai</i>	LF	O
<i>Gmelina arborea</i>	Verbenaceae	<i>Shivana</i>	RTBK	O
<i>Indigofera cordifolia</i>	Fabaceae	<i>Godadi</i>	RT	O
<i>Lagerstroemia parviflora</i>	Lythraceae	<i>Bhondara</i>	BK	O
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	Linaceae	<i>Javas</i>	WP	O
<i>Nyctanthes arbor-tristis</i>	Oleaceae	<i>Parijat</i>	LF	O
<i>Plectranthus mollis</i>	Lamiaceae	<i>Lalagheda</i>	LF	O
<i>Soymida febrifuga</i>	Meliaceae	<i>Rohan</i>	BK	O
<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>	Menispermaceae	<i>Gulvel</i>	LF	O
<b>FITS</b>				
<i>Trichosanthes tricuspidata</i>	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Ranpadawal</i>	LF	EAR
<b>FOOT CRACKS</b>				
<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i>	Amaranthaceae	<i>Kateri-Math</i>	LF	O

Abbreviation- LF- leaf, BK-bark, WP-whole plant, RT- root, SD-seed, FL- flower, O- orally, E- externally

**References :**

- Anonymous *"Toranmal - Toranmal Maharashtra, Toranmal Hill Station India"*. *Maharashtratourism.net*. Retrieved 2010-09-27.
- Bankar V. V. & P.P. Sharma. (2016). Ethno-musico-botanical studies from Toranmal region, Nandurbar District, Maharashtra, India. *The South Asian Academic Research Chronicle*. Vol . 3 ( )2 : 57-63.
- Bankar V. V. & P.P. Sharma. (2016). Traditional Knowledge of wild Plants Used in Toranmal Region of Nandurbar district Maharashtra, India. *Int. Journ. Of Institutional Pharmacy and Life Sciences*. Vol6:1. 260-267
- Bankar V. V. & P.P. Sharma. (2016). Utilitarian Aspects of Some Plant Resources from Toranma lplateau, Nandurbar District, Maharashtra, India. *Scholars World* , Special Issue VI: 21-29.
- Patil M.B., Ramajah P. V., 2004. Ethnomedicines for Human skin diseases from Tribal areas of Nandurbar District of Maharashtra, India. Proceedings of the National Seminar on and Sacred Groves, Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, India, Pp. 218-222.
- Patil, D.A., 2003. Flora of Dhule & Nandurbar District, Maharashtra. Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehra Dun, India.
- Sharma P.P. and Mujumdar A.M. (2003). Traditional knowledge on plants from Toranmal Plateau of Maharashtra. *Indian J. Traditional Knowledge*. 2:292–296.
- Sharma P.P. & N.P. Singh, (1999), Less known Ethnobotanical uses of plants in Dadra & Nagar Haveli (U.T.): part I (A-K), vol. 11, Deep publications, New Delhi, P.P. 109-114.
- Sharma P.P. & R.J. Savant, (2012a), Indigenous Traditional Practices for eco-friendly management of insect/pest in Maharashtra, India, *Recent Research in Science & Technology* 4 (10), P.P. 21-24.
- Sharma P. P. and J.R. Mulay. (2013). Floristic Diversity of Ahmednagar District Maharashtra. *Bioinfolet*. 10 (4A):1121-1127.
- Sharma P. P. (2015). Studies on Plant Based Natural Colours. *The South Asian Academic Research Chronicle* Vol. 2 (11) 1-11.
- Jagatap, S. D., S.S. Deokule and S. V. Bhosale. (2008). Ethnobotanical Uses of Endemic and RET Plants by Pawara tribe of Nandurbar district, Maharashtra. *Indian Journ of Traditional Knowledge*. Vol. 7(2);311-315.
- Jagtap, S. D., Deokule, S. S., Pawar, P. K. and Harsulkar, A. M. (2009). Traditional Ethnomedicinal Knowledge Confined to the Pawra Tribe of Satpura Hills, Maharashtra, India. *Ethnobotanical Leaflets* 13: 98-115. 2009.