



## Folk medicinal plants used for skin disorders in the tribal pockets of Sabarkantha district, Gujarat.

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### Abstract

**Objective :** To study the utilization of medicinal plants in skin diseases by tribal people of Sabarkantha district, Gujarat State, India. **Materials and methods :** Ethnobotanical field trips with tribal informants was used. **Results and conclusion :** 29 species of 27 genera and 23 families of angiosperms are reported along with plant parts and some formulations of plant part used medicinally for the treatment of skin disorders. The putative plant remedies are neither evaluated nor phytopharmacologically identified.

**Keywords :** Plants, Sabarkantha, Gujarat, Folk medicinal plants, Skin diseases, Aravalli hills

### 1. Introduction

In recent times it is imperative that all systems of traditional medicines prevailing in the world need to be encouraged, if we intend to find cure for those diseases where modern synthetic medicines have failed or where the modern synthetic drugs are beyond the reach of the poor nations. Thus, natural source of drugs are required to be exploited more and more. The wealth of medicinal plants is of vital importance to vast country like India, where qualified physicians and other medical staff have not reached in the tribal and remote rural areas. In India the literature on diverse native floras and medicinal utilities of plant is voluminous [1-14].

The district Sabarkantha is situated in the north eastern part of Gujarat State between 23°03' and 24°30' north latitudes and 72°43' and 73°39' east longitudes. The poor tribal people who live in remote areas of Aravalli ranges of Sabarkantha district treat the skin diseases with plant remedies on the basis of their rich heritage knowledge. A perusal of literature revealed that, Sabarkantha district of Gujarat State, have never been surveyed from ethnomedicinal view point, the same aspect is being covered by us to collect valuable information from tribes regarding uses of medicinal plants of this region for skin diseases.

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## 2. Materials and methods

The ethnobotanical field survey was conducted in different tribal villages of three talukas : Khedbrahma, Vijaynagar and Bhiloda of district Sabarkantha during 1997-2000. The data were collected by personal contact from a large number of tribal informant and local practitioners of herbal medicines of the villages who have knowledge about the therapeutic value of wild plants in different diseases.

Tribal informants were taken to the forest along with identification and collection of plants and their local uses and local name were recorded. The collected plant specimen were identified by Prof. A.B.Vora, Ex. Head, Dept. of Botany, School of Sciences, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad.

More than 200 informants were interviewed, tribal practitioners were preferred for interviewing. The data were considered worth mentioning, when more than 50 informants gave similar answers for same plant.

## 3. Observations

During 1997-2000 the present survey of the tribal areas of Aravalli ranges of Sabarkantha district of Gujarat state, many plant species have been found to be effective drugs used by tribal people for routine health problem. The total information is arranged in alphabetical order in following manner, accession number, botanical name, family in parentheses, local name/s, plant part used.

060. *Acacia chundra* (Roxb. ex Rottl.) Willd. (Mimosaceae) Kher: Aqueous decoction of crushed stem bark used for washing and cleaning of wounds.

061. *Ailanthus excelsa* Roxb. (Simaroubiaceae) Arduso/Arllu : Decoction of stem bark is used externally to wash the parts affected by skin diseases.

062. *Argemone mexicana* L. (Papaveraceae) Darudi : Juice of leaves applied on ulcerated skin and the ash of whole plant is mixed with groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.) oil and applied on skin to cure diseases such as scabies, ring worm and eczema.

063. *Aristolochia indica* L. (Aristolochiaceae) Vaysar : Juice of leaves applied on ulcerated skin and wounds to prevent microbial growth.

064. *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss. (Meliaceae) Limdo : The infusion of the leaves used to body and hair wash at least once a week to remove external parasite like lice.

065. *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub. (Papilionaceae) Khakhro / Kesudo : The ash of the leaves mixed with edible oil is made into the paste. The paste is applied on affected part of skin to cure skin diseases such as eczema and also decaying ulcers.

066. *Calotropis procera* (Ait.) R.Br. (Asclepiadaceae) Akdo : The latex of plant is applied externally on wounds, muscular spasm and swollen part of skin.

067. *Canavalia ensiformis* (L.) DC. (Papilionaceae) Aabbo : The paste of fresh leaves is applied on skin as antiseptic to prevent microbial growth.

068. *Capparis sepiaria* L. (Capparaceae) Kanther : The ash of wood mixed with castor (*Ricinus communis* L.) oil to make a paste. The paste is useful in ulcerated skin.

069. *Cassia auriculata* L. (Caesalpiniaceae) Aaval : The leaves are crushed with the leaves of plant *Atedi* (*Helicteres isora* L.) and made into a paste. The paste is useful in ulcers and sore on skin.

070. *Cassia tora* L. (Caesalpiniaceae) Punvad : The seeds crushed with slight water into a paste. The paste is applied on skin to cure ring worm, scabies and other skin disorders.

071. *Cleome viscosa* L. (Capparaceae) Pili talvani : The juice of leaves is applied on wounds to prevent microbial growth and formation of pus.

072. *Daemina extensa* R.Br. (Asclepiadaceae) Chamar dudheli : The latex and ash of the twiner mixed with castor (*Ricinus communis* L.) oil and applied over ulcers and wounds.

073. *Datura fastuosa* L. var. alba Cl. (Solanaceae) Dhaturu : The fresh juice of leaves are mixed with the rhizome of the plant Haldar (*Curcuma longa* L.) and applied over swellings on skin and to cure microbial infection.

074. *Delonix elata* (L.) Gamble (Caesalpinaceae) Sandesaro : The crushed leaves are applied on affected skin to cure wounds and ulcers.

075. *Ficus hispida* L.f. (Moraceae) Dhedh Umro : Latex is used externally on swollen part of skin to reduce the swelling and muscular spasm.

076. *Ficus racemosa* L. (Moraceae) Umro : The wounds are washed with decoction of stem for the fast healing of the wounds.

077. *Helicteres isora* L. (Sterculiaceae) Atedi : The leaves of plant crushed with leaves of the Aaval (*Cassia auriculata* L.) and make into paste and applied to cure ulcers and sores.

078. *Holoptelea integrifolia* (Roxb.) Planch. (Ulmaceae) Kanji : Stem bark and crushed leaves warmed with edible oil, such medicated oil is applied externally on injury and ulcers.

079. *Ipomoea obscura* (L.) Ker-Gavol. (Convolvulaceae) Gumbadvel : The flowers and unripe fruits are crushed and make a paste with vegetable oil. The paste is useful in treatment of wounds and injuries.

080. *Madhuca indica* J.F. Gmel. (Sapotaceae) Mahudo : The stem bark this plant and Kher (*Acacia catechu* Willd.) are make into paste. The paste is useful in fast healing of wounds.

081. *Morinda tinctoria* Roxb. (Rubiaceae) Aal : The ash of dried leaves mixed with edible oil and applied over ulcers and wounds for fast healing.

082. *Plumbago zeylanica* L. (Plumbaginaceae) Dholo chitrak : The root crushed into the the paste and applied over ulcers and wounds for fast healing.

083. *Polyalthia cerasoides* (Roxb.) B. & H. (Annonaceae) Umbh : The crushed stem bark and paultice of leaves is applied as antiseptic on cuts and wounds for fast healing.

084. *Tamarindus indica* L. (Caesalpinaceae) Khati amli : The leaves of this plant crushed with leaves of the plant Aaval (*Cassia auriculata* L.) and make into a paste. The paste is applied on inflammations of joint and fractures to reduce swelling and pain.

085. *Terminalia arjuna* (Roxb.) W. & A. (Combretaceae) Arjun sadad : The stem bark decoction is used to cure ulcerated skin.

086. *Trichosanthes bracteata* (Lam.) Voigt. (Cucurbitaceae) Rata Indramana : The powdered fruits are boiled with edible oil. This medicated oil applied over ulcers for fast healing.

087. *Vernonia anthelmintica* (L.) Willd. (Asteraceae) Kalijiri : The juice of leaves is applied externally to cure skin diseases.

088. *Vitex negundo* L. (Verbenaceae) Nagod : The juice of fresh leaves is applied topically as an antiseptic to prevent microbial growth.

#### 4. Results and Conclusion

29 plant species used to cure skin diseases in folk medicine in Sabarkantha district, Gujarat state, India are presented from accession no. 060

to 088 arranged in alphabetical order of botanical names. Amongst the plants of 23 families used on skin diseases, maximum 4 plants were from Caesalpiniaceae, followed by Asclepiadaceae, Capparaceae and Papilionaceae with 2 each, remaining 19 families had one plant each of this action.

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