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Medicinal Plants of Chaulher Fort Region of Nashik District, Maharashtra, India

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Abstract: *Chaulher fort region of Satana tahsil of Nasik district belongs to northern part of Maharashtra. The climate of the region is moist and dry. It supports the growth of tropical deciduous forest. The flora of this region is highly diversified. Southern &Northern part of this region is inhabited by a large number of tribal people. They use a number of plant parts or entire plant as source medicine. Analysis of data revealed that a total number of 37 species belonging to 36 genera of 25 families of flowering plants are being used by tribal people for medicinal purpose.The present study deals with the ethno medicinal uses of flowering plants with special reference to flower, fruit, seed, leaves, latex and stalk in the treatment of various diseases.*

Key Words: *Chaulher Fort, Satana Tahsil, Nashik district, Medicinal plants.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

The forest type of this study area is dry tropical. Nashik district is rich resource of medicinal plants from ancient history. This study area is attraction to many peoples, vaidyas, adivasis, researchers for the medicinal values of plants. Entire plant or parts of these plants are widely used by the local or tribal people of Satana taluka. Plants are a great source of medicines, especially in traditional medicine, which are useful in the treatment of various diseases. More population in developing countries depend on medicinal plants to meet their primary healthcare needs. Medicinal plants contain active chemical constituents in root, stem, leaves, bark, flower, fruit and seed etc. which produce a definite curing physiological response in the treatment of various illnesses in humans and other animals (Adhikari et al., 2010). The demand for medicinal plant is increasing due to easy availability, no side-effects and sometimes only source of healthcare. Northern part of this region is inhabited by a large number of local people. They use a number of plant parts or entire plants. This study attempts to document the traditional knowledge about medicinal plants of the Chaulher fort region area and to evaluate the current status of knowledge of medicinal plant resources. It is also helpful in making a documenting traditional knowledge and practice related to conservation and sustainable utilization of medicinal plants.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

Survey includes several publications (Lakshminarasimhan and Sharma, 1991; Cherian and Pataskar, 1972; Jadhav, 2002; Patil and Patil, 1990 and 2000 and Patil and Yadav, 2003, Garud, Varghese and Thakur, 2016 was carried out.

3. STUDY AREA OF STUDY:

Nasik District is situated in north western part of Maharashtra and western ghat. It lies between 19°35’ and 20°50’ N and between 73°16’ and 74°56’E. Chaulher Fort is lies between 20.575155N and 74.099934E comparatively unknown in Satana, Nashik District, Maharashtra. It is also referred to as Chaurgad and Chalheri by the locals. Chaulher Fort has a remarkable similarity to Salher Fort, the highest fort in Maharashtra. Chaulher fort is 3700 feet above sea level. Chaulher Fort is a hill type fort base village is known at Wadi Chaulher.

4. METHODS:

Present study is based on the field work and literature survey. Data based on identification, plant parts used have been recorded by Jain and Rao, 1977. Numbers of visits were given for to cross check the medicin use and collection of information interviews were carried out . Literature survey includes several publications (Lakshminarasimhan and Sharma, 1991; Cherian and Pataskar, 1972; Jadhav, 2002; Patil and Patil, 1990 and 2000 and Patil and Yadav, 2003, Garud, Varghese and Thakur, 2016 was carried out.

5. DISCUSSION:

In the present investigation a total 37 plant species belonging to 36 genera of 25 families were found bears the medicinal properties.

Table-1

	Botanical Name	Local name	Family	Habit	Part used
1	Aegle marmelos (L.) Corr	Bael	Rutaceae	Tree	Fruit
2	Annona squamosa L	Custerd apple	Annonaceae	Tree	Seed
3	Argemone Mexicana L	Piwala Dhotara	Papavaraceae	Herb	Seed
4	Azadirachta indica A. Juss.	Neem	Meliaceae	Tree	Seed / leaves
5	Balanites aegyptiaca (L) Del.	Hingan bet	Zygophyllaceae	Tree	Seed / fruit
6	Butea monosperma (Lam) Taub	Palas	Fabaceae	Tree	Flower
7	Calotropis gigantia(L) R.Br	Rui	Asclepiadaceae	Shrub	Flower
8	Carica papaya L.	Papita	Caricaceae	Tree	Fruit / latex
9	Cassia fistula L	Bahawa	Caesalpiniaceae	Tree	Fruit
10	Celastrus paniculatus Willd.	Malkangani	Celastraceae	Tree	Seed
11	Cordia dichotoma F.	Bhokar	Cordiaceae	Tree	Fruit
12	Cucumis melo L.	Indrafal	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	Fruit
13	Delonix regia Raf.	Gul Mohar	Caesalpiniaceae	Tree	Fruit
14	Diospyros melanoxy Roxb.	Tembharun	Ebennaceae	Tree	Fruit
15	Diplocyclos palmatus (L) C Jeffrey	Shivalingi	Cucurbitiaceae	Climber	Fruit
16	Emblica officinalis Gaertn	Avla	Euphorbiaceae	Tree	Fruit
17	Ensete superbum (Roxb) Cheesm.	Kawder/ Rankel	Musaceae	Herb	Seed
18	Ficus hispida L.	Bhumi umber	Moraceae	Shrub	Seed
19	Gmelina arborea Roxb.	Shivan	Verbinaceae	Tree	Fruit
20	Grewia tiliaefolia Vahl	Dhaman	Tiliaceae	Tree	Seed
21	Helicteres isora L.	Murud sheng	Sterculiaceae	Shrub	Fruit
22	Holarrhena pubescens (Buch-Ham)	Kuda	Apocynaceae	Shrub	Seed
23	Limonla acidissima Linn	Kawath	Rutaceae	Tree	Fruit
24	Madhuca longifolia Mac br.	Mahua	Sapotaceae	Tree	Fruit
25	Millettia extensa (Bth) Baker.	Agnivel	Fabaceae	Climber	Seed
26	Momordica dioica Roxb Wild	Karatoli	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	Fruit
27	Mucuna pruriens (L) DC.	Kachquiri	Fabaceae	Herb	Seed
28	Pithecellobium dulce (Roxb) Bth	Vilayti chinch	Caesalpiniaceae	Tree	Fruit

29	Portulaca pilosa L.	Chini gulab	Portulacaceae	Herb	Flower/stalk
30	Solanum anguivi / virgianum L.	Bhui-ringani	Solanaceae	Herb	Seed
31	Sterculia urens Roxb.	kadhai	Sterculiaceae	Tree	Seed
32	Syzygium cumini L	Jambhul	Myrtaceae	Tree	Seed
33	Tamarindus indica L.	Chinch	Caesalpiniaceae	Tree	Seed
34	Terminalia bellerica Roxb	Behada	Combretaceae	Tree	Fruit/seed
35	Terminalia chebula Retz.	Hirada	Combretaceae	Tree	Fruit
36	Withania somnifera (L) Dhunal	Ashwagandha	Solanaceae	Shrub	Fruit
37	Wrightia tinctoria R.Br.	DudhaKudi	Apocynaceae	Tree	Seed

Sr.No	Family	No.of Species
1	Annonaceae	1
2	Apocynaceae	2
3	Asclepiadaceae	1
4	Caesalpiniaceae	4
5	Caricaceae	1
6	Celastraceae	1
7	Combretaceae	2
8	Cordiaceae	1
9	Cucurbitaceae	3
10	Ebennaceae	1
11	Euphorbiaceae	1
12	Fabaceae	3
13	Meliaceae	1
14	Moraceae	1
15	Musaceae	1
16	Myrtaceae	1
17	Papavaraceae	1
18	Portulacaceae	1
19	Rutaceae	2
20	Sapotaceae	1
21	Solanaceae	2
22	Sterculiaceae	2
23	Tiliaceae	1
24	Verbinaceae	1
25	Zygophyllaceae	1

6. FINDINGS: Out of 37 plant species, 23 species are trees, 5 are herbs, 5 are shrubs and 4 are climbers. They are in 62.16%, 13.51%, 13.51% and 10.81% respectively.

7. RESULT: Out of 37 plant species fruits of 16 plants, seeds of 14 plants, flowers of 2 plants and both fruits and seeds of same plant 2 plants, fruit and latex 1, seed and leaves 1, flower and stalk 1 are used for various diseases.

8.CONCLUSION: The major group of dicot plants are belong to the families Caesalpinaceae (4), Cucurbitaceae and Fabaceae (3) and Apocynaceae, Combretaceae, Rutaceae , Solanaceae etc (2 each) are used. Only one family belong to monocot i.e Musaceae (1).

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