

**ETHNOMEDICINAL VALUE OF PLANTS FOUND IN DHINODHAR
HILLS OF KACHCHH REGION OF GUJARAT****HARIBHAI RABARI****L. M. College of Pharmacy, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad.***ABSTRACT**

Dhinodhar is the central hilly and dry deciduous area of Kachchh region of Gujarat. The ethnobotanical survey of this hill was conducted in the month of September-October. In the present study, a defined attempt has been made to document the indigenous knowledge of some medicinal plants of this region. The data reported was compiled through a fusion of interview with the local tribes. Some plants were found to have medicinal value and the tribal people largely depend on them for treating various types of ailments. The main plants of this hilly region consisting of Gando Bawal (*Prosopis juliflora*), Kherdi or Kherio-baval (*Acacia senegal*), Hanju (*Melhania futeyporensis*), Jar or Pilu (*Salvadora persica*), Sweet Gugal (*Balesmodendron mukul*), Lai (*Tamarix gallica*), etc. The ethnomedicinal value of 67 plant species belonging to 47 genera of 25 families were collected from this region.

KEY WORDS: Medicinal plants, Ethnomedicinal value, Dhinodhar hill and Kachchh region.**HARIBHAI RABARI**

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INTRODUCTION

Dhinodhar hill is located on the border of the Kachchh region. It is a highest hill of this region measuring 1515 feet in height. During the monsoon season (June to October), are often completely submerged by the floods. The area gets covered with the huge variety of trees and tall grasses. Dhinodhar hill is a rich source of medicinal plants. Some of the plants are well known for their curative properties and hence played a vital role in folklore medicine for the few centuries in this region¹⁻⁴. Till today, the local traditional races like Rabari, Koli, Bhil and Jat tribes are exclusively dependent on plants found in the forest. History of herbal remedies is very old. Since old times before modern medicine, people became ill and suffered from various ailments. In absent of modern medicinal remedies people relied on herbal remedies derived from herbs and spices. There are many medicinal herbs and spices, which find place in day-to-day uses, many of these, are used as herbal remedies. Herbal remedies with the use of medicinal properties of spices may cure some minor ailments like common cold, cough, fever etc. Herbal remedies can be taken in the form of fine powders, infusions,

decoctions etc. Infusion and decoction both are known as herbal teas. Sometimes essential oil of herbs and spices are also used as herbal remedies. Action of herbal remedies may vary from human to human and care should be taken while taking any of the herbal remedies or consuming large quantity of medicinal herbs or spices as medicinal product.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted by making different trips at Dhinodhar hills and villages around it and information about the medicinal plants were collected from the local people. Throughout the field trips a general collection of plants were made. Plants were identified with the help of available literature.¹⁻¹⁰

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The ethnomedicinal value of 67 plant species belonging to 47 genera of 25 families were collected. Information regarding their botanical name, local name, and their medicinal uses are listed in the Table 1

Table 1
Ethnomedicinal value of some plants found in Dhinodhar hill of Kutch region of Gujarat¹⁻⁶

Sr. No.	Family	Botanical Name	Local Name	Ethnomedicinal Value
1	Acanthaceae	<i>Barleria prionitis</i> Linn.	Kanta-aserio	Leaf juice are given with honey in catarrhal affections in children. A paste of the root applied on boils and swellings.
2	Acanthaceae	<i>Elytraria crenata</i> Vahl	Pat-pathari, Shatmul	Aqueous decoction of root are used in fever and paste of root applied on swellings.
3	Acanthaceae	<i>Hygrophila spinosa</i> T. Anders.	Ekro, Ekthro	Roots, leaves and seeds are diuretic; also used in jaundice, rheumatism and urino-genital diseases.
4	Acanthaceae	<i>Neuracanthus sphaerostachyus</i> Dalz.	Gandharo	Roots are used in indigestion. Paste of root are used in ringworm infection. Fruits are used as an antidiabetic.
5	Aizoaceae	<i>Mollugo hirta</i> Thunb.	Dholo-okharad	Leaves are used in skin and abdominal disorders.
6	Amaranthaceae	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> Linn.	Aghado	Decoction of herb is diuretic and used in renal diseases. Fruits are antibacterial. Leaves and root bark are antipyretic. Seeds are emetic.
7	Amaranthaceae	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> Linn.	Kandharo-tanderjo	Leaves are emollient. Infusion of shoots are used in eczema and fever.
8	Amaranthaceae	<i>Celosia argentea</i> Linn.	Lampdi, Lambdi	Seeds are demulcent used in painful micturition, cough and dysentery. Flowers are astringent and used in diarrhea.
9	Aristolochiaceae	<i>Aristolochia bracteata</i> Retz.	Kida-mari	Leaves are mixed with castor oil and applied to skin to control eczema. Decoction of roots are effective in expulsion of round worms.
10	Asclepiadaceae	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (Linn.) R. Br. ex Ait.	Moto-akdo	Root barks are diaphoretic, purgative and emetic. Leaf juice is used in enteric fever.
11	Asclepiadaceae	<i>Calotropis procera</i> R. Br.	Nano-akdo	Root bark is used in leprosy.
12	Asteraceae	<i>Blainvillia latifolia</i> Linn.	Tal-bhangro	Leaf paste is applied on head in migraine. Juice of leaves are used as an anti-inflammatory.
13	Asteraceae	<i>Eclipta alba</i> (Linn.) Hassk.	Bhangro, Karo-bhangro	Roots are laxative and emetic. Juice of leaves is applied in skin disorders.
14	Boraginaceae	<i>Heliotropium marifolium</i> Koen. Ex Retz.	Dungario-agio	Leaf paste are anti-inflammatory and applied on skin disorders.
15	Boraginaceae	<i>Heliotropium ovalifolium</i> Forsk.	Hathi-sundho	Leaf paste is applied to syphilitic ulcers.
16	Burseraceae	<i>Commiphora mukul</i> (Hook ex Stocks) Engl.	Gugar, Gugal	Used as an astringent, stomachic, diuretic, expectorant, antiseptic and uterine stimulant.
17	Burseraceae	<i>Balsamodendron mukul</i> Linn.	Mitho-Gugar	Used as an astringent, stomachic, diuretic, expectorant, antiseptic and uterine stimulant.
18	Cactaceae	<i>Opuntia dillenii</i> Haw.	Nagphani	Fruits were used in whooping cough. Stems were used as a poultice and applied on inflammation.
19	Caesalpinaceae	<i>Cassia auriculata</i> Linn.	Avar	Seeds are used in eye troubles, diabetes and urinary disorders. Bark is used in treatment of cough.
20	Caesalpinaceae	<i>Cassia obovata</i> Collad.	Pat-aavar, Pat-	Leaves are laxative and astringent.

			mid-avar.		
21	Capparidaceae	<i>Cadaba indica</i> Lam.	Batakani		Roots and leaves were used as an anthelmintic. Decoction is used in uterine obstructions.
22	Capparidaceae	<i>Capparis grandis</i> Linn.	Dumro, Dumrau-kandharo		Infusion of bark and leaves were given in swellings and eruptions.
23	Capparidaceae	<i>Capparis spinosa</i> Linn.	Achho-kandharo		Bark is diuretic, expectorant and tonic; used in rheumatism and paralysis.
24	Capparidaceae	<i>Gynandropsis pentaphylla</i> DC.	Vighro, vighro	Vado-	Leaves are used in headache, neuralgia, rheumatism and other local pains. Seeds are used as rubefacient and anthelmintic.
25	Compositae	<i>Lactuca remotiflora</i> DC.	Chhataradi, Patharadi		Paste of herb applied on swellings.
26	Compositae	<i>Laggera alata</i> Sch. Bip. ex Oliver	Bodo-kalar		Whole plant is used as a disinfectant.
27	Compositae	<i>Pulicaria wightiana</i> DC.	Son-phuladi		The herb boiled in water and fumes were inhaled in headache and fever.
28	Compositae	<i>Siegesbeckia orientalis</i> Linn.	Pili-phuladi, Pili-badakadi	Pili-	Plant possess healing properties in case of gangrenous ulcers. Herb is considered diaphoretic and anti-infective.
29	Compositae	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> Linn.	Dudhari-sonki, Gudpatri		Leaves and roots were used in case of indigestion. Stem powder is used as a tonic.
30	Convolvulaceae	<i>Ipomoea obscura</i> (Linn.) Ker-Gawl.	Gumdiar		Leaf paste is applied to treat wounds and inflammations.
31	Convolvulaceae	<i>Ipomoea reniformis</i> Choisy	Under-kani		Plant is considered as diuretic.
32	Convolvulaceae	<i>Ipomoea sepiaria</i> Koenig ex Roxb.	Gummad-vel, Hanuman-vel		Leaf juice is applied on swellings.
33	Convolvulaceae	<i>Ipomoea tridentata</i> Roth.	Zamar-val, Topara-val		Decoction of roots is used in toothache. Leaves are used as poultice, applied in skin disorders and swellings.
34	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Mukia scabrella</i> Arn.	Chanak-chibhadi-ji-vel		Decoction of roots is given in flatulence.
35	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Acalypha indica</i> Linn.	Dadar jo-jhad		Decoction of leaves is emetic, laxative and used in skin disorders.
36	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Euphorbia hypericifolia</i> Linn.	Dudheli		Infusion of plant powder used as an astringent in diarrhea and dysentery.
37	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Euphorbia nivulia</i> Buch.-Ham.	Kantaro-thor, Bhungar-thor		Milk of plant used externally in rheumatic pain.
38	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i> Linn.	Kandliyo-thor		Latex of plant is applied externally in rheumatic pain and to remove warts.
39	Labiatae	<i>Moschosma polystachyum</i> Benth.	Dungrau-tulsi		Leaf paste is applied on forehead to relieve headache.
40	Leguminosae	<i>Acacia arabica</i> Willd.	Bavar, bavar	Deshi-	Leaves are antibacterial and laxative. Gum is nutritive. Roots are diuretic.
41	Leguminosae	<i>Acacia catechu</i> Willd.	Rato-kher		Leaves and bark were used as an astringent. Gum is nutritive.
42	Leguminosae	<i>Acacia farnesiana</i> Willd.	Tal-bavar, Atario-bavar		Leaves are used in wounds and inflammations. Gum is nutritive.
43	Leguminosae	<i>Acacia jacquemontii</i> Benth.	Tal-bavri, Chhela-bavri		Leaves and root paste were applied on swellings.
44	Leguminosae	<i>Acacia leucophloea</i> Willd.	Harmo, Harmo-bavar		Bark is used astringent, diuretic and antipyretic.
45	Leguminosae	<i>Acacia senegal</i> Willd.	Achho-kher, Goradiyo-bavar		Gum is demulcent and emollient; used for intestinal troubles.
46	Leguminosae	<i>Crotalaria juncea</i> Linn.	San		Plant is used in menstrual abnormalities particularly in the treatment of amenorrhea.
47	Leguminosae	<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i> Linn.	Gadi		Roots are given in urinary complaints and hepatitis. Paste of herb is used in sores, old ulcers and piles.
48	Leguminosae	<i>Mimosa hamata</i> Willd.	Kai, Zinzdiyo	Zinzdi,	Bark is used in asthma.
49	Leguminosae	<i>Phaseolus trilobus</i> sensu Ait. & auct.	Mungi, Magi, Kag magi		Plant is used as an astringent, soothing agent and also used in liver disorders.
50	Leguminosae	<i>Prosopis spicigera</i> Linn.	Khijado		Pods are used as an astringent and demulcent. Leaf paste is useful on wounds and swellings.
51	Leguminosae	<i>Prosopis juliflora</i>	Gando-baval		Pods are used as an astringent and demulcent. Leaf paste is useful in wounds and swellings.
52	Leguminosae	<i>Prosopis stephaniana</i> Kunth	Pat-khijado		Leaf paste is useful in wounds and swellings.
53	Liliaceae	<i>Aloe barbadensis</i> Mill.	Kunvar-pathu		Dried or fresh juice of herb is useful in burns, dermatitis and other skin disorders.
54	Liliaceae	<i>Asphodelus tenuifolius</i> Cav.	Dungro		Seeds are used as diuretic.
55	Malvaceae	<i>Sida cordifolia</i> Linn.	Bal-buvaro		Decoction of roots are diuretic, diaphoretic and astringent.
56	Malvaceae	<i>Sida humilis</i> Cav.	Pat bal-buvaro, Bhoi-bala		Leaves are used as tonic. Root-bark is used in treatment of painful micturition and gonorrhoea. Poultice of leaves are applied to burns.
57	Salvadoraceae	<i>Salvadora oleoides</i>	Mithi-jar, Mitha-		Paste of bark and leaves were applied externally in

		Decne.	pilu	rheumatism. Decoction of leaves are used as an expectorant, given in asthma. Fruits are purgative.
58	Salvadoraceae	<i>Salvadora persica</i> Linn.	Khari-jar	Decoction of leaves are used as an expectorant, given in asthma. Fruits are purgative.
59	Sterculiaceae	<i>Byttneria herbacea</i> Roxb.	Hanju, Vagdau-bal-buvaro	Root stock is used in swellings. Decoction of leaves are used for expulsion of dead fetus in cattle's.
60	Sterculiaceae	<i>Melhanian futteyporensis</i> Munro ex Masters	Hunj, khapto	Leaves are used as an anti-inflammatory. Decoction of leaves are used for expulsion of dead fetus in cattle's.
61	Tamaricaceae	<i>Tamarix gallica</i> Dyer.	Rati-lai	Plant is used as an astringent in diarrhea.
62	Tiliaceae	<i>Corchorus antichorus</i> Raeusch.	Mundheri, Munderi, Bahuphali	Plant is used as diuretic, mild laxative and also used in the treatment of acidity.
63	Tiliaceae	<i>Corchorus trilocularis</i> Linn.	Lambi-chhuchh	Seeds are antipyretic, bitter tonic, antispasmodic and antifatulant.
64	Tiliaceae	<i>Grewia populifolia</i> Vahl	Gangi, Gangeti	Roots are antidiabetic. Leaves possess galactagogue property.
65	Verbenaceae	<i>Clerodendrum phlomidis</i> Linn. f.	Arani, Tankaro	Roots are aromatic and astringent.
66	Zygophyllaceae	<i>Fagonia arabica</i> Linn.	Dhamaso, Dhraga	Herb is used as an astringent, tonic and laxative. Bark is used in scabies.
67	Zygophyllaceae	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> Linn.	Mitha-gokharu	Fruits and roots were diuretic and used in painful micturition and kidney stones.

CONCLUSION

India has had a rich, vibrant and diverse cultural history. An important component of this culture and tradition is that of health and healing. Thus, there is a large health and healing related knowledge base present in all ethnic communities across the diverse ecosystems. However, over the last few centuries, this knowledge base has been diluted with increased influences from the mainstream culture, which is derisive of local health traditions. It is important to urgently put in place effective documentation and assessment programs to revitalize local health traditions otherwise this great people's health culture will be irretrievably lost.

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The traditional system of medicine, which exists as a superstructure, effectively serves as a remedy for the people of a specific region for curing different diseases; further, the traditional drugs are easy to administer and are economical. The advantages of indigenous knowledge can be offered to the vast majority of population by establishing its appropriate medicinal usage for specific ailment. The present study provides information about some ethnomedicinal value of various plant species belonging to different families. Since the uses are based on empirical knowledge, the scientific study of all these medicinal plants is highly desirable to establish their efficacy and safety.