


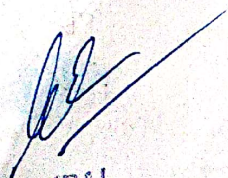
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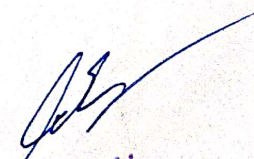
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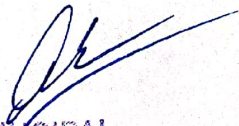
  
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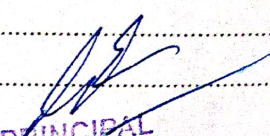
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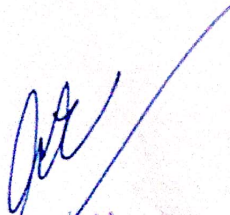
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# Ethnomedicinal Plants Used for the Treatment of Gynecological Problems in Mahur Range Forest of Nanded District, Maharashtra, India.

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## Abstract

The ethnomedicinal plants play an important role in the treatment of gynecological problems. In the present paper ethnomedicinal plants used by the tribals and medicinal practitioner for the treatment of gynecological problems in Mahur range forest. In this study 11 plant belonging to 11 genera and 11 families were used in the treatment of gynecological problems. The medicinal information collected through semi-structured interviews. The root was the most frequently used; medicines were prepared in the form of extract, powder and administered orally. The result of present study showed that leucorrhoea was the most common problem of women in this area.

- **Key Words:** Ethnomedicinal Plants, Tribals, Leucorrhoea, Mahur forest and Maharashtra

## Introduction

The tribal and local people who reside in rural and forest area fully depend upon the medicinal herb. The medicinal practitioners are practicing the use of medicinal plants for the common people in a low expense (Das, *et.al.*, 2015). World health organization estimates over 80% of people in developing countries depends on traditional medicines for the treatment of different diseases (Padir, *et.al.*, 2020). Peoples of study area are fully depends on medicinal plants for the treatment of diseases. The gynecological problems are more common in womens of this area. Unhygiene during menstrual period, stress, anxiety, insufficient diet, rest deficiency and lack of awareness are the main causes of gynecological problems in this area. From medicinal plants different preparation are prepared by tribals and medicinal practitioner for the treatment of gynecological problems. The preservation of traditional





knowledge can be effectively documented by the pervasive participation of local herbal-healers (Shete, 2022).

## Materials and Methods

### Topography:

Mahur taluka is a thick forested area of Nanded District. The main river is Penganga which flows from the South to North direction. Mahur taluka is located in northern part of Nanded district. It is bounded North and South by Yavatamal district. East part by Andhra Pradesh and West by Pusad taluka of Vidarbha region.

Geographically the Mahur taluka is situated between 19°04' to 19°08' North latitude and 77°01' to 77°05' East longitude. The total geographical area of taluka is 52160 hectares of which 14397.39 hectares area covered with forest and 37762.61 hectares are non-forested area and its population is 86782 (Census-2001), out of this 15.5 percent is inhabited by tribal population of aborigines like Andh, Kolam, Gond, Naikede and Pradhan (Pawade et al., 2008).

### Methods of Collection:

Ethnobotanical data was collected between 2006-2011; the information was mainly gathered through semi structured interview. Most of the interviews and discussions were held in Mahur Taluka. In this study knowledgeable elders (between the ages of 45 to 65) chosen with the assistance of local administrators and community leaders who served as key informants. During the course of the study each informant was visited three times in order to verify the reliability of the obtained data. Repeated visits also helped to get some additional information that was not mentioned during the earlier interviews.

The collected plants were identified with help of standard floras (Naik, (1979); Naik *et al.*, (1998) and Yadav and Sirdesai (2002). The plants were enumerated alphabetically along with botanical name, family, Local name, Part used and uses.

### Enumeration

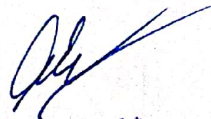
- The plants were enumerated alphabetically along with botanical name, family, Part(s) used and vernacular name.
- 01. *Abrus precatorius* L.
- Family: Fabaceae. Local Name: Lalgunj. Part(s) used: Root

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- **Ethnobotanical Uses:**
- -A spoonful extract of root is given twice a day for three days to cure white discharge (Dumane).
- **02. *Ailanthus excelsa* Roxb.**
- **Family:** Simaroubaceae. **Local Name:** Maharaka or maharuk.
- **Part(s) used:** Stem bark.
- **Ethnobotanical Uses:**
- -One cup juice of stem bark is given two times in a day for three days to control leucorrhoea (Perchake).
- **03. *Asparagus racemosus* Willd.**
- **Family:** Liliaceae. **Local Name:** Shatawari, **Part(s) used:** Root.
- **Ethnobotanical Uses:**
- -Two-spoonful root powder is given twice a day for seven days to cure leucorrhoea (Gangaram).
- **04. *Capparis zeylanica* L.**
- **Family:** Capparaceae. **Local Name:** Waghata.
- **Part(s) used:** Root.
- **Ethnobotanical Uses:**
- -About spoonful extract of root is drunk twice a day to cure or regularize menstrual cycle (Perchake).
- **05. *Ficus racemosa* L.**
- **Family:** Moraceae. **Local Name:** Umbar.
- **Part(s) used:** Root.
- **Ethnobotanical Uses:**
- About half cup extract of root is taken thrice a day for three days to cure leucorrhoea (Perchake).
- **06. *Hybanthus enneaspermus* (L.) F. Muell**

  
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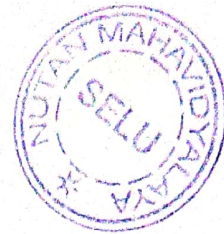




- Family: Violaceae. Local Name: Ratan puruash.
- Part(s) used: Entire plant.
- Ethnobotanical Uses:
  - -About spoonful, powder of root is given twice a day for three days to cure leucorrhoea (Doheli).
- 07. *Mangifera indica* L.
- Family: Anacardiaceae. Local Name: Amba.
- Part(s) used: Stem bark.
- Ethnobotanical Uses:
  - -Two spoonful powder of stem bark is consumed orally along with water thrice a day for two days to cure leucorrhoea (Perchake).
- 08. *Melothria maderaspatana* (L.) Cogn.
- Family: Cucurbitaceae. Local Name: Kamuni.
- Part(s) used: Root.
- Ethnobotanical Uses:
  - -About spoonful extract of root is drunk two times in a day for five days to regularize menstrual cycle (Gite).
- 09. *Nymphaea pubescens* Willd.
- Family: Nymphaeaceae. Local Name: Kamal. Part(s) used: Rhizome.
- Ethnobotanical Uses:
  - -A spoonful powder of rhizome with sugar is consumed twice a day for three days to cure leucorrhoea (Raut).
- 10. *Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels
- Family: Myrtaceae. Local Name: Jambulan.
- Part(s) used: root bark.
- Ethnobotanical Uses:
  - -Half cup decoction of root bark is taken thrice a day for three days to control leucorrhoea (Bathod).

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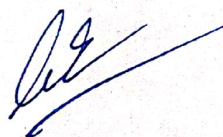
- 11. *Woodfordia fruticosa* (L.) Kurz
- Family: Lythraceae. Local Name: Ghyati.
- Part(s) used : Flowers.
- Ethnobotanical Uses:
  - -About one spoonful powder of flowers is given two times in a day for three days to cure red discharge.

### ➤ Discussion

The women in Mahur range forest are suffered from gynecological diseases, leucorrhoea is very common in this area. A total of 11 angiosperms plant species under 11 genera belongs to 11 families collected from study area. During survey information collected from men of different ages (45-65). All informants are rich in ethnomedicinal knowledge. The preparation prepared by tribals and medicinal practitioner do not caused any side effects. The study showed that mode of preparation of drugs, doses and mode of application are different in different gynecological diseases. Stem bark, root, rhizome, root bark, flowers are used in the preparation medicinal drugs. The drugs are prepared in the form of powder, decoction extract. Medicine are taken orally, directly or mixed with water, milk, honey and black paper (Das, et.al., 2015). The present study also suggested that the ethnomedicinal plants used in the treatment of gynecological diseases by tribals and medicinal practitioner may be used for phytochemical and pharmacological study in future for the development of new drug.

### ➤ Acknowledgements

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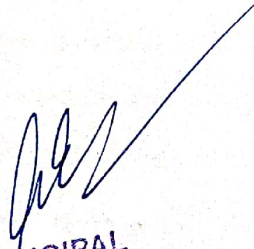
  
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