

# Documentation of Sacred-Medicinal Plants From Painganga Forest Range Umarched, District- Yavatmal, Maharashtra

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## Abstract

Sacred natural sites are part of a broader set of cultural values that different social groups, traditions, beliefs or value systems attach to places and which 'fulfil humankind's need to understand, and connect in meaningful ways, to the environment of its origin and to nature'. The study was conducted in Painganga forest Umarched, Dist. Yavatmal, Maharashtra. Survey was done during year 2017. In order to achieve authentic information, an extensive dialogue with the inhabitants of Villages around sacred forests conducted using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools. The present study compiles 20 religious plant species belonging to 14 families.

Within the documented species tree (53%) cover the maximum number of species followed by shrubs (29%) and Herbs (18%).

**Keywords:** Sacred, Medicinal plants, Painganga forest, Maharashtra.

## INTRODUCTION:

The dependence of man on his environment is well understood since the beginning of our civilization. Early man's inquisitiveness about plants was necessitated by his inherent desire and instinct to seek food and medicine for his survival<sup>1</sup>. Thus, plants played a vital role in the progress and evolution of civilization. In India, all the religions adore plants or make use of their parts in several ways to fulfil their socio-religious ceremonies<sup>2</sup>. The traditional worship practices exhibit the symbiotic connection of human beings and nature. Ancient scriptures like Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda and Atharvaveda also implicate the importance of worshipping of plants and trees as a part of Indian tradition since 1500 BC<sup>3</sup>. Sacred trees establish a principal portion of the ecological heritage of India<sup>4</sup>. Apart from, there is credence that the plants which are holy or being worshipped have medicinal potential too. The scientific documentation of these sacred plant species having ethnomedicinal importance is essential for widening the horizon of research in this field<sup>5</sup>. The present review is an attempt to give a brief description on the importance of certain plants mainly seen in Painganga forest, which are having a significant role in rites and rituals dealing with cultural heritage, festivals and religious ceremonies standing from birth till death in Indian tradition along with a small enlightenment on their medicinal importance<sup>6</sup>. The study attempts to bring out the rationale of their cultivation enlightening on the important role these plants in human life for their well-known ethnomedicinal values, rather than seeing their cultivation as a mere ritual practice.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The survey was carried out during the month of January 2017 to December 2017. Sacred plants recorded from Painganga forest region. During the survey it was observed that different sacred plants were used for overcoming the various problems in day to day life.

### RESULT:

Documentation of 20 sacred plants belonging 14 families , most of the plants used by Hindus as holy plants or for offering to the god are used by tribal people in the same way.

Sr.no.	Botanical name	Local Name	Family	Medicinal Use	Beliefs and taboos
1	<i>Aegel marmelos(L)</i>	Bel	Rutaceae	Stomach pain	For success
2	<i>Achyranthus aspera L.</i>	Aghada	Amaranthaceae	Cough,dog bite	Used in pooja
3	<i>Bauhinia racemos aLam.</i>	Aapta	Fabaceae	Fever,blood dysentry	Fascination
4	<i>Boswellia serret aRoxb.</i>	Sali	Bruseraceae	Joint pain	to remove evil sprite
5	<i>Butea monosperma(Lam)</i>	Palas	Fabaceae	piles,kidney stone	To remove depression
6	<i>Calotropis procera(Aiton)</i>	Ruchki	Apocynaceae	Sinus,skin disease	Fascination, offered to god Hanuman
7	<i>Careya arborea Roxb</i>	Kumbha	Lecythidaceae	Ulcers	To increase sexual vigour
8	<i>Cochlospermum religiosum(L)</i>	Ganeri	Cochospermum	Jaundice, cough	Repeles nakes & carnivorous animals
9	<i>Cordia gharaf Lam.</i>	Gondani	Boraginaceae	Dyspepsia, ringworm	used to make marriage pendals,
10	<i>Cynodon dactylon(L)</i>	Harali	Poaceae	Diarrhea,headache	21 shoots of offered to lord Ganesha
11	<i>Dichrostachys sineraria Wight</i>	Devbabul	Fabaceae	Endema, urinar yinfection	To avoid bad dreams
12	<i>Ficus amplissim aRees.</i>	Piparee	Moraceae	Diabetes	To increas eoptimism

13	<i>Ficus benghalensis L.</i>	Vad	Moraceae	Nervous disorder	Pious
14	<i>Ficus racemosa L.</i>	Umbar	Moraceae	Respiratory and urinary diseases	To ward off evil spirit
15	<i>Ficus religiosa L.</i>	Pimpal	Moraceae	Gonorrhoea, antiulcer	to cure many diseases
16	<i>Mangifera indica L.</i>	Amba	Anacardiaceae	Anaemia, asthma	used in any pooja
17	<i>Prosopis specigera L.</i>	Shemi	Fabaceae	Gastrointestinal diseases	Keeps mental balance
18	<i>Santalum album L.</i>	Chandan	Santalaceae	Antiinflammatory	Used in pooja
19	<i>Syzygium cumini (L)</i>	Jambhul	Myrtaceae	Bronchitis, dysentery	Keeps mental balance
20	<i>Tectona grandis Lf.</i>	Sag	Lamiaceae	Typhoid fever	worship as a god

### CONCLUSION:

The majority of plants or trees are accepted as sacred in different religion and hence worshiped. The fallen parts of the sacred trees are used but the cutting of sacred trees is totally prohibited. Such sacred practices play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity and natural habitat of animals. The plants that are on the verge of extinction are also safely preserved in temples. The religious ceremonies and rituals act as a protective factor for saving floral diversity. It preserves and promotes the conservation of biodiversity and nature. The study elucidates that religious activities associated with sacred plants enhance the protection and conservation of the biodiversity.

### References

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