



Medicinal Weeds of Jowar and Pomegranate Fields from Solapur District, Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

Solapur district largely depends on agriculture. sixty six per cent population of the district is directly or indirectly depends on agriculture. Pomegranate is one of the fruit yielding crops, while Jowar is main grain crop. In Kharip and Rabbi crops, the weeds are major problems for the farmers. The present paper deals with medicinal potential of weeds found in Jowar and pomegranate fields. The information about their potential uses in medicine was collected from the interviews with local people and literature of different medicinal systems. The study revealed that about 42 species of weeds in crop fields of Solapur district possess medicinal properties. The study suggests that there is not only the scope of utilization of these weeds as medicinal plants but also an additional income to the farmers, which will also solve the problem of weed control.

INTRODUCTION

Weeds are unwanted plants which grow among the crops, and absorb nutrients from the soil more efficiently than main crops. They compete with the crops and reduce the yield of crops. Weeds are harmful to the crops, but some weeds have medicinal values and used by the local people for curing various diseases and disorders. Pharmaceutical firms require such medicinal weeds as a raw material for Aurvedic preparations. So it is important to identify such medicinal weeds from the region and made known to the farmers. By such ethnobotanical knowledge, farmers may arrange to collect the medicinal weeds from fields and able to get additional income. For this purpose the first necessary step is to identify and

document the medicinal weeds of the region.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

For the present work frequent excursions were made to the various localities of Solapur district. The identification has done with Gazetteers of India (1961), Kolhe (2004), Naik (1998), Panigrahi et al. (2000), Pullaiah (2002), and Yadav & Sardesai, (2002). The identified weeds were further studied for their medicinal values. Ayurvedacharyas, Vaidyas and local people were interviewed to know the medicinal importance of these weeds and documented in the present paper. However, there is a need for detailed study for the wider application of the medicinal plants.

Table 1: Weeds of medicinal value from jowar and pomegranate fields.

S.N.	Botanical Name	Family	Local Name	Parts Used	Medicinal Uses
1	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Fabaceae	Gunj	Leaves, Roots, Seeds	Seeds used for Cleaning of eyeballs and to avoid pregnancy
2	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> (L.) Sweet ssp, <i>indicum</i>	Malvaceae	Mudra, Petari	All	Decoction of whole plant used on boils, Nerve tonic, leaf poltis used on rheumatism, seeds used for laxative in piles,
3	<i>Acalypha indica</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Khajoti, Khokali	Herb, Leaves	Leaves used in Tooth ache, snake bite, A paste of leaves is applied to burns, fresh leaves on scabies and other skin infections.
4	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Aghada	Entire Plant	Leaves used for dissolve kidney stone, on stomach ache, Piles and skin eruption. Plant decoction used in pneumonia and renal dropsy, dysentery.
5	<i>Aerva lanata</i> (L.)	Amaranthaceae Juss. Ex Sch.	Kapur-Madhura, Mhatari	Inflorescence	Inflorescence used on removal of kidney stone, roots used on headache.

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6	<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> L.) R. Br. ex DC.	Amaranthaceae	Kanchari	Entire Plant	Leaf decoction on burning sensation, diarrhea, lep rosy, skin diseases, night blindness, dyspepsia and fever.
7	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Kantemat	Entire Plant	Leaves used as vegetables for mineral content, diuretic, purgative, and stomach troubles. Piles.
8	<i>Argemone maxicana</i> L.	Solanaceae	Pivala Dhotra	Leaves, Roots, Seeds	Roots used in skin diseases and leaves in wounds, ulcers,
9	<i>Aristolochia bracteolata</i> Lam.	Aristolochiaceae	Kidamar, Didamar	Entire Plant	Root decoction used to expel round worms.
10	<i>Boerhavia repens</i> L. var. <i>diffusa</i> (L.) Hook. f.	Nyctaginaceae	Raktavasu, Punernava	Entire Plant	Leaf decoction used in Insect bite, cuts and wounds, vaginal cleaning to bear children.
11	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (L.) Ait.	Asclepiadaceae	Ak, Akra, Madar, Rui	Roots	Root bark useful in Bleeding teeth, scorpion sting, rheumatism,
12	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Ait) R. Br.	Asclepiadaceae	Ak, Akdo, Akro, Rui	Roots	Root bark used on ulcers and leaves on gastric trouble in Childs, flower are used to remove worms.
13	<i>Caralluma adscendens</i> Var. <i>fimbriata</i> (Wall.)	Asclepiadaceae	Makadshing, Shingoli	Stems	Stems used in stomach disorders and abdominal pains.
14	<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i> L.	Sapindaceae	Kanphuti, Kapalphodi,	Entire Plant	Crushed leaves used on scorpion sting, rheumatism,
15	<i>Catharanthus pusillus</i> (Murr.) G. Don.	Apocynaceae	Tiloni	Entire Plant	The plant possesses on colytic (tumor resolving) properties. A decoction of the dried plant boiled in oil used in the treatment of lumbago. Whole plant used in paralysis, epilepsy and ulcers.
16	<i>Centella asiatica</i> (L.) Urban.	Apiaceae	Brahmi	Entire Plant	Entire plant used as remedy for skin diseases, chronic nervous disorders and rheumatism. Leaf powder mixed with milk and given in mental weakness and to improve memory.
17	<i>Citrullus colocynthis</i> (L.) Schrad.	Cucurbitaceae	Kadu-indrayan	Fruits	Fruit pulp and rind given for Fevers, Piles, gargle and mouths wash.
18	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i> L.	Commelinaceae	Kanjula	Leaves	Plant juice given in dysentery and paste applied on body swelling and ache.
19	<i>Croton bonplandianum</i> ~ Baill.	Euphorbiaceae	~	Leaves	Leaves used in skin disease, cuts and wounds.
20	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers.	Poaceae	Darb, Durva, Harali, Doob,	Entire Plant	Root taken in fever and in internal injury. Decoction of root taken as diuretic, in hysteria, epilepsy and secondary syphilis.
21	<i>Datura innoxia</i> Mill.	Solanaceae	Dhotra, Dhatura	Leaves, Flowers, Seeds	Seeds useful in Prevention of motion sickness.
22	<i>Datura metal</i> L.	Solanaceae	-Kala-Dhotra	Leaves, Flowers, Seeds	Seeds and Leaves useful in Bronchitis or asthma.
23	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Dudhi,	Entire Plant, Mothidudhi	Useful in removing worms in children, in bowel complaints, asthma and cough. Root stops vomiting.
24	<i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> (L.) L.	Convolvulaceae	Vishnukranta	Entire Plant	Decoction of whole plant used as general tonic.
25	<i>Fagonia schweinfurthii</i> (Hadidi)	Zygophyllaceae	Dhamasa, Dumaso	Leaves, Bark	Decoction of entire pant useful in Antiseptic, abscesses, wounds, small pox, bark in scabies.
26	<i>Leonotis nepatiifolia</i> (L.) R.Br.	Lamiaceae	Dipmal	Entire Plant	Decoction of leaves and fruits used on Skin affection, fever,
27	<i>Lepidagathis cristata</i> Willd.	Acanthaceae	Bhuitarada	Entire Plant	Entire plant useful for Skin affection, fever,
28	<i>Leucas aspera</i> (Willd.) Link,	Lamiaceae	Kumba,	Leaves,	Leaves juice externally used For psoriasis, chronic skin eruptions, swelling,
29	<i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i> L. Garcke	Malvaceae	~	Entire Plant	Entire plant useful for Anti-inflammatory, antidyenteric, jaundice, ulcers. Leaves applied on wounds, cooling and healing.
30	<i>Merremia gangetica</i> (L.) Cuford.	Convolvulaceae	UndirKani	Entire Plant	Rat bite
31	<i>Ocimum americanaum</i> L.	Lamiaceae	~	Leaves	Leaves used for dysentery, bronchitis, Cough, cold, toothache,
32	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L.var. <i>corniculata</i> .	Oxalidaceae	Ambushi, Ambuti, Anjati, Bhinsarpati	Entire Plant	It possesses astringent, vermifuge, emmenagogue and antiseptic. Fresh juice on piles, anemia and timpanists. Leaves used in fevers, dysentery, scurvy and biliousness.

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33	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i> Schum. & Thonn.	Euphorbiaceae	Bhuivali, Bhui awala	Entire Plant	Decoction of leaves and fruits used on Jaundice, appetite, urino-genital diseases.
34	<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> L.	Portulacaceae	Bhuigoli, Ghol	Entire Plant	Decoction of leaves and fruits used on Earache, toothache, burns, swelling,
35	<i>Sida cordata</i> Burm. f.	Malvaceae	Bala	Leaves, Stem	Whole plant used in skin troubles.
36	<i>Solanum virginianum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Bhui ringani, Guiri, Kate-ringni	Leaves, Stem Roots	Ingredient of well-known Aurvedic medicine Dasamula. Used in cough, asthma and pains in chest. Stem, flowers and fruits for relief in burning sensation. Fruits useful in sore throat, bronchitis, muscular pains, fevers etc.
37	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i> (L.) Pers.	Fabaceae	Udhadi, Sirapakha,	Unhali	Entire Plant, Leaves used in jaundice.
38	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.	Zygophyllaceae	Sharatte, Sarata,	Seeds	Seeds are used kidney stone, in afflictions of urinary discharges and impotency,
39	<i>Trichodesma indicum</i> Lehm.	Boraginaceae	Chotoa kalpa Ghhotaphulva, Lahankalpa	Entire Plant	Used in Expulsion of dead fetus.
40	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> L.	Asteraceae	Dagadi pala,	Leaves	Leaf juice used as antiseptic, antifungal and insect repellent.
41	<i>Withania somnifera</i> (L.) Dunal	Solanaceae	Aswagandha, Kanchuki,	Roots	Roots used in leucoderma, nervous breakdown, sex stimulant
42	<i>Xanthium indicum</i> Koen.	Asteraceae (Compositae)	Landaga, Shankasur, Vinchu	Leaves, Roots	Its decoction is recommended in chronic malaria, leucorrhoea and urinary diseases. The leaves are reported to possess astringent, alternative, antisiphilitic and diuretic properties.

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