Uses of Plant Conservation by the Tribes of Amarkantak District, Madhya Pradesh, India

Girja Kumar Singh¹, Ramesh Kumar Ahirwar²

¹Department of Botany, Government Chandra Vijay College, Dindori-481880, India
²Department of Botany, Government College Birsinghpurpali, Umaria-484551, India

Abstract: The present paper deals with 30 plant species which are conserved by the tribes of Amarkantak district Anuppur Madhya Pradesh. Due to destruction of habitat, biotic interference and indiscriminate exploitation of natural plants, many valuable plant species of this area are fast disappearing. Aboriginals conserve these species by faiths, myths, taboos and religious aspects.

Keywords: Plant Conservation, Tribes, Amarkantak, Anuppur.

1. Introductions

Amarkantak plateau is one of the important tourists place in district Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh. This district is located in the central part of India. It is lying between 23˚ 15’ to 24˚ N Latitude and 81˚ 0’ to 81˚ 45’ E longitude. The total area of 3701 Sq. Km extends 80 Km. from east to west and 70 Km. from North to South. Several tribes as Gond, Kondar, Kol, Baiga, Bhard, etc. are maintaining their culture and traditions since these cultures are influenced by scientific and economic changes, it is therefore, essential to study and conserve them before they become extinct. Madhya Pradesh still has the aboriginal tribes living in the forest as well as in the remote villages inhabited by so called higher castes. Since they are distributed mostly in the areas previously occupied by thick forest, they have learnt to use these habitats better for their living.

A survey of literature indicates that Dwivedi (2003), Jain (1963, 1997), Khare (2001), Prajapati and Khare (2004), Saxena and Tripathi (1989, 1990), Shah and Singh (1990) and Singh et al (2004) has made important contribution in this field. The tribals do not have any well defined conservation strategy of the kind we understand in modern terms. But they do conserve plants that are medicinally, economically, socially and culturally significant to them. Their mode of conservation depends on faith and tradition.

2. Material and Methods

For the ethnobotanical study plant human interaction has to be observed carefully in the dynamic ecosystem in which they exist. The plants were collected by the investigator from the different study sites of Anuppur district during 2002-2003 by extensive field work. The queries were made as per plan suggested by Jain and Goel (1987) and the preservation methods were followed as prescribed by Agrawal (1983) and Ahirwar (2011).

Table 1: Uses of Plant Conservation by the Tribes of Amarkantak, District Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh, India

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Plant Name ( Local Name )</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Plant part uses</th>
<th>Reason for Conservations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Achyranthus aspera L.(Chirchita)</td>
<td>Amaranthaceae</td>
<td>Root and leaves</td>
<td>Roots are leaves are used in medicine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Adina cordifolia Benth. &amp; Hook (Haldu)</td>
<td>Rubiaceae</td>
<td>Wood</td>
<td>The wood is considered auspicious.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 3.    | Aeglemarmelos (L) Corr.(Bel) | Rutaceae | Leaf | Sacred plant, the leaves are used to worship ‘Lord Shiva’.
| 4.    | Annonasquamosa (Sitaphal) | Annonaceae | Fruit, seed | For fruits and medicine. |

Figure 1: Location Map of Madhya Pradesh and study site District Anuppur

Table 1: Uses of Plant Conservation by the Tribes of Amarkantak, District Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh, India
5. *Anthecephasus schinensis* (Lamk.) Rich. (Kadam)  
Rubiae  
Whole plant  
Sacred plant, fruits are edible.

6. *Azadirachta indica* Juss. (Neem)  
Meliaceae  
Leaf  
Plant is an abode of ‘Marhi Mata’ (The Goddess of small pox) Leaves are used in medicines and pest control.

7. *Boswelliaserrata* Colbr. (Salaiya)  
Burseraceae  
Wood  
The poles of wood are considered auspicious for wedding place.

8. *Buchanania lanzan* Spr. (Char)  
Anacardiaceae  
Fruits and seeds  
For fruits and seeds.

9. *Buteamonomosperma* (Lamk.) Taub. (Palias)  
Papilionaceae  
Leaves and flowers  
Leaves are used for thatches, and the flowers are used to worship ‘Lord Jagannath.

10. *Calotropis procera* Br. (Madar)  
Asclepiadaceae  
Flowers and fruits  
The flowers and fruits are used to worship ‘Lord Shiva’.

11. *Erythrina suberosa* Roxb. (Handua)  
Papilionaceae  
Wood  
The wood is considered auspicious for wedding place.

12. *Ficus bengalensis* L. (Bar)  
Moraceae  
Whole plant  
Sacred plant worshipped on ‘Bara Barsat’ festival.

13. *Ficus religiosa* L. (Pipal)  
Moraceae  
Whole plant  
The plant is considered on abode of ‘Barsat’ festival.

14. *Gymnema sylvestre* (Retz.) R. Br. (Gurmar)  
Asclepiadaceae  
Leaf  
The leaves are used in medicine.

15. *Holarrhena antidysenterica* Wall. (Dudhi)  
Apocynaceae  
Bark  
The bark is used for medicine.

16. *Holoptelea integrifolia* (Roxb.) Planch. (Chilrol)  
Ulmaceae  
Leaves and bark  
Leaves are used as fish poison and bark is used in medicine.

17. *Lawsonia inermis* L. (Mehndi)  
Lythraceae  
Leaf  
The leaves are used for dye.

18. *Madhuca longifolia* (Koen.) Mac. Br. (Mahua)  
Sapotaceae  
Whole plant  
Sacred plant, flowers used for liquor, and the wood is considered auspicious.

19. *Mangiferaindica* L. (Aam)  
Anacardiaceae  
Whole plant  
For wood, leaves and fruits. The inflorescences are offered to ‘Lord Shiva’ at Mahashivratri festival.

20. *Ocimum sanctum* L. (Tulsi)  
Lamiaceae  
Whole plant  
Sacred plant, worshipped by girls for good groom.

21. *Phoenix sylvestris* Roxb. (Khajri)  
Arecaceae  
Leaf, fruit  
The fruits are edible and leaves are used to make headgear and brooms.

22. *Emblecofficinalis* L. (Amla)  
Euphorbiaceae  
Whole plant  
Sacred plant, worshipped on ‘AkhayaNavmi’, fruits are eaten and used in medicine.

23. *Sterculiaaulaens* Roxb. (Kuull)  
Sterculiaceae  
Whole plant  
The plant is conserved for gum, wood and medicine use.

24. *Sterculia villosa* Roxb. (Udar)  
Sterculiaceae  
Root  
The root is taken as a medicine.

25. *Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels. (Jamun)  
Myrtaceae  
Fruits  
Fruits are edible.

Combretaceae  
Whole plant  
Sacred plant, bark is used in medicine.

27. *Terminaliabellerica* (Gaertn.) Roxb. (Bahera)  
Combretaceae  
Fruits  
The fruits are eaten with of Amla as a medicine.

28. *Terminaliachelbela* Retz. (Harra)  
Combretaceae  
Fruits  
Roasted fruits are eaten as a medicine.

29. *Terminaliamentosa* Wt. & Arn (Saja)  
Combretaceae  
Whole plant  
Sacred plant, dwelling place of ‘Bara Dev’.

30. *Wodfordiafruticosa* (L.) Kurz. (Dhwa)  
Lythraceae  
Flowers  
Flowers used in medicine.

3. Results and Discussion

During study period is reported with 30 plant species, which are conserved by the tribes of Anuppur district for obvious reasons. These tribes organise various occasions and worship plants time to propitiate their gods and goddess. These traditions encouraged us to know their beliefs and ethnobotanical importance behind it. The botanical name of plants are alphabetically arranged, followed by their local name. All the data obtained as a sequence of present study has been reported. (Table 1)

4. Acknowledgements

The authors are thankful to tribal of this district in providing information about the plant species conserved by them. We express our gratitude to the Principal of Govt. P.G. College, Shahdol (M.P.) for helpful suggestions and encouragement.

References


