

STUDY OF TRADITIONAL WORSHIPPING PLANT OF BORSAD TALUKA (GUJARAT) INDIA

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ABSTRACT

*Borsad is located at 22°25'N 72°54'E / 22.42°N 72.9°E. It has an average elevation of 30 meters (98 feet). It is located around 17 km from Anand. Borsad is rich in biodiversity, From the ancient time plants remain have played an important role in human civilization they played varied role ranging from food to Medicines the present study was carried out during 2011-12. The present study deals with role of trees in worshipping. One of the roles of plant worshipping has been common in the third or fourth millennium B.C. This paper highlights the importance of some plants known to be traditionally in Borsad taluka. Tree occupies the important place in the history of India. In ancient time kadamba tree is popular for lord Krishna, Pipal tree occupied a very important place during the Vedic period. The present taxonomic account is based on field survey in the Borsad taluka. The present paper deals with total 34 angiospermic plants like *Mangifera indica* L., *Ficus racemosa* L., *Ficus religiosa* L., etc. used by villagers of Borsad.*

Keywords: Worshipping, Traditional Uses, Angiospermic Plants, Festivals, Borsad Taluka

INTRODUCTION

Traditional use of plant and their parts during some festival occasion by local community. In India amongst Hindu many plant species are associated with religious function, rituals and also in celebration of festival. After being in contact with plants people come to know the great significance and benefits start to use them for medicines, food, textiles and other uses. Due to availability of plants this has given a place to such plants in our great Hindu cultures by worshipping them and one of the aims is to conserve them from being extinct. Such useful plants have been recorded in the religious books and knowledge transmitted from generation to generation.

This work attempts to identify plant species traditionally worshipped by local community and certain festival occasions in Borsad taluka of Anand district in Gujarat.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

Information of plant species used in a particular festival occasion, importance of the plant or its part in traditional use, beliefs and benefits were collected through personal interview with the head of the family in selected villages of Borsad taluk, Anand district in Gujarat state. Plant species or part used was collected from the person interviewed. Local name and location of specimen, is noted at the time of interview.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In many vratas observed by Hindu females such as Durva astmi, Vad savitri, Sitra satam trees are worshipped. The most important occasion of tree worship is during Holi festival (Such as Acacia sp., Aegle marmelos, Mengifera indica) are worshipped. In a number of regions of India certain trees are still worshipped different festival certain plants flowers and leaves are offered daily in the worship of God. There are very few ceremonies or festival of Hindu which can be completed without the help of the trees. The following is the list of plants worshipped gods. There are very few cases attempts mad to document traditional knowledge in Gujarat.

Traditional knowledge & Biodiversity conservation in Gujarat (Deepa Gavali and Diwakar Sharma. Jan-2004) reported briefly presents the extent of the traditional knowledge available in Gujarat its contribution in biodiversity conservation and the threats of its erosion under changing life- style.

In Arunachal Pradesh (R.C.Srivastava.April- 2009) worked on Traditional knowledge of Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh on plants, the paper throws light on different uses of 108 species of plants in day to day life of the people belonging to Adi ethnic community of Arunachal Pradesh.

Plants Traditional Worshipping (Neeraj Bhatla, Tapan and Gian-1984) reported and published, this article attempt to highlight the importance of some plants known to be traditionally worshipped in different part of India significance of these plants in different ceremonies and their role in festival has been discussed.

In this paper, I reported certain plant species or parts used in different festivals are tabulated in Table.It was observed that local people use 34 plant species belongings to 29 genera and 22 families during festival occasions. These species belonged to different growth and life forms. In most of the festivals flower is common. But fruits, whole plant and leaves are used, however occasionally.

Some Plants Used In Worshipping God



Holi Festival



Holi Festival



Holi Festival



Vadshavatri Festival



Shivratri Festival



Hanuman Jayanti

Table: 1

Botanical Name	Family	Common Name	Parts used	Festival
<i>Polyalthialongifolia</i> (Sonn.)Thw	Anonaceae	Asopalav	Wood	Diwali festival
<i>Capparis decides</i>	Capparidqceao	kerdo	Plant	Sitala satam
<i>Gossipium herbasium</i> L.	Malvaceae	Kapas	seed	All festival
<i>Hibiscus rosa sinensis</i> L.	Malvaceae	Jasud	Flower	Ganes puja
<i>Hibiscus schizopetalus</i> Hk. F.	Malvaceae	Latkan jasud	Flower	All festival
<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (l.)Con.	Rutaceae	Bili	Fruit leaves	Holi
<i>Citus medica</i> L.	Rutaceae	Bijoru	Fruit	
<i>Mengifera indica</i>	Anacardiaceae	mango	Whole Plant	Holi
<i>Butea monosparma</i> (Lam.)Taub.	Papiliniocae	Kesudo	Flower	Holi
<i>Acacia arebica</i>	Mimosaceae	Baval	Wood	Holi

Table: 1 (Contd....)

Botanical Name	Family	Common Name	Parts used	Festival
<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.)Del Subsp . <i>indica</i> (Bth.)Brenan	Mimosaceae	Baval	Wood	Holi
<i>Prosopis cineriria</i>	Mimosaceae	samdo	Wood/ flower	Holi
<i>Prosopis spicigera</i>	Mimosaceae	Khijdo	Wood	Holi
<i>Rosa alba</i>	Rosaceae	Rose	Flower	All festival
<i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duch.	Cucurbitaceae	Kolu	Fruit	Vastu Poojan
<i>Mimosops elengi</i>	Sapotaceae	Borsalli	Flower	All festival
<i>Jasminum flexile</i> vahi, symb.	Olenaceae	Jui	Flower	All festival
<i>Jasminum multiflorum</i> (Burn.f.)Andr	Olenaceae	Mogro	Flower	All festival
<i>Nyctanthus arbortristis</i> L.	Oleaceae	Parijat	Flower	All festival
<i>Nerium indicum</i>	Apocynaceae	Lal Karen	Flower	Ganes puja
<i>Plumeria rubra</i> forma <i>tricolor</i> (R&s.)Woodrow	Apocynaceae	Champo	Wood	All festival
<i>Xeronphis spinosa</i>	Apocynaceae	ganesgangadi	Flower	Ganes puja
<i>Calotropis prosara</i> (Ail)R.Br.	Asclepidiaceae	Akado	Flower	hanuma njayanti
<i>Datura innoxia</i> Mill.	Solanaceae	Datura	Flower	Sivratri
<i>Ocimum sanctum</i> l.	Lamiaceae	Tulsi	leaves	All festival
<i>Piper betel</i> L.	Piperaceae	Betel pepper	leaf	Ganes puja
<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	Moraceae	Vad	Whole Plant	Vad savitri
<i>Ficus relegiosa</i> L.	Moraceae	piplo	Whole Plant	Vad savitri
<i>Musa paradisiacal</i>	Musaceae	Kela	leaves	All festival
<i>Panocratium trifolorum</i>	Amaryllidaceae	Nagdamani	Flower	All festival
<i>Panadanus odoratissimus</i> L.	Pandanaceae	kevaro	Leaves	Kevada trij

Table: 1 (Contd....)

Botanical Name	Family	Common Name	Parts used	Festival
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.)Pers	poaceae	Dharo	Whole Plant	Dharo atham
<i>Areca catechu</i>	Areceaceae	Sopari	Fruit	Ganesh Poojan
<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	Areceaceae	Nariali	Fruit	All festival

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