

## **A BRIEF SURVEY OF SOME MEDICINAL WEEDS FROM AURANGABAD DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA.**

**Sangeeta S. Sutar, Chitra Bagmar**

Dept. of Botany, Sir Sayyed College, Aurangabad.

Dept. of Microbiology, Sir Sayyed College, Aurangabad.

### **Abstract**

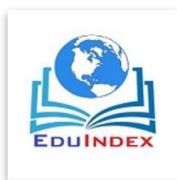
In Ayurveda and Unani system of medicine, a number of plants are used for the treatment of diseases. A keen observation at these plants has shown that a number to them are weeds (an unwanted plant in a particular area) considered by agriculturist, we could also find such weeds in a numbers of places in our city Aurangabad. A brief review of literature for their medicinal uses was carried out. We also collected the plants so as to know its dominance in a particular area.

The objective of the present study was to make the people aware of the medicinal uses of these weeds which otherwise stand neglected. We collected a total of twenty weeds and studied their medicinal uses. It could also provide a source of additional income to some of the farmers if they understand its benefit.

**Key words:** - Medicinal uses, weeds

### **Introduction :-**

The term weed generally has a negative sense, many plants are known as weeds the plant growing where it is not wanted is considered as weed, weeds are unnecessary plants because they drop the yield of crop by competing with crop plant. The weeds are generally considered as not useful hence they are controlled but some weeds have beneficial properties and are mentioned in several ancient ayurvedic and unani medicinal books and used for curing various diseases.



The present study deals with the study of some common weeds in fields, bare places, road sides of Aurangabad dist. Twenty weeds from different localities were collected and studied in the form of morphology, botanical name, family, common name, parts used and medicinal uses.

Earlier studies on medicinal weeds were carried out by Iqbal and Biradar (2011), Muley and Sharma (2013), A.H.M. Manbubur Rahman (2014) and Gambhire and Biradar (2016).

### Materials and Methods :-

Medicinal weeds were collected from different localities of Aurangabad district, twenty plant species were collected and authenticated with the help of the flora of Marathwada. (Naik 1998)

The plant parts with either flower and fruits were collected and preserved using traditional herbarium technique.

### Result and Discussion: -

The present study reveal that twenty weed species of Aurangabad district are useful as a source of medicine. The result of these species in the form of Botanical name, family, common name, parts used and medicinal uses can be summarized as follows:

1) *Abutilon indicum* (L.) Sweet belonging to family Malvaceae commonly called as Petari,

Parts used – whole plant.

Distribution – common weed along road sides and waste land.

Uses – tooth ache, tuberculosis, ulcers, bleeding disorder, leaves are locally applied on boils, fever, diabetes, nerve tonic, It is diuretic and expectorant.

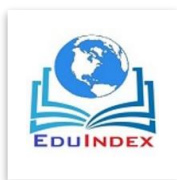
2) *Acalypha indica* L. belonging to the family Euphorbiaceae.

commonly called as Haritmanjiri.

Parts used – whole plant.

Distribution – common weed along road side and waste land

Uses- Asthma, skin diseases, ulcers, pneumonia, leaves used in scabies. It is diuretic and expectorant.



3) *Achyranthus aspera* L. belonging to family Amaranthaceae, It is commonly known as Aghada

Parts used: whole plant.

Distribution : Common weed along roadside and waste land.

Uses – Diabetes, diuretic, cardiogenic, cough asthma, bronchitis and general debility.

4) *Adhatoda vesica* L. It belongs to family Acanthaceae. It is commonly called as Adulsa.

Part used – whole plant.

Distribution – commonly occur near roadsides near Daulatabad fort.

Uses – Bronchitis, respiratory disorder especially asthma,

bleeding disorder, leaf poultice used in rheumatism, flowers in ophthalmia, leaf juice taken orally in fever and cough.

5) *Alternanthera sessilis* (L.) R.Br. It belongs to family

Amaranthaceae, It is commonly called as Kanchari.

Parts used – Whole plant

Distribution – commonly occurs along road side and waste land.

Uses – Poultice used for boils, stem and leaves used in eye trouble, dysuria, haemorrhoids, diuretic, cooling and is used in

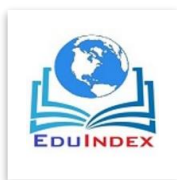
making medicine for hair oil.

6) *Bacopa monnieri* (L.) Pennell belonging to family

Scrophulariaceae and commonly called Brahmi.

Parts used – leaves

Distribution – Near marshy places.



Uses – It has been used in traditional medicine for longevity and cognitive enhancement strengthens memory, skin disorders,

reduces anxiety, digestive, cardiotoxic, bronchodilator and diuretic.

7) *Calotropis procera* (Ail) R.Br. belonging to family Asclepiadaceae

and commonly called as Rui.

Distribution – waste lands.

parts used – whole plant

uses- Asthma and cough, dried leaves smoked to cure asthma and cough. The latex is used for ring worm, scorpion sting, skin

diseases.

8) *Cassia tora* (L.) belonging to the family Caesalpiniaceae and

commonly called as Tarota.

Parts used - root, leaves and seeds.

Distribution – common weed along road sides and waste land.

Used - leaves and seeds are laxative, cardio tonic and expectorant. The leaves and seeds are used in leprosy, ring worm dyspepsia, constipation cough, bronchitis and cardiac disorders.

Paste of roots with lemon juice is applied externally over ringworm.

9) *Euphorbia hirta* (L.) belonging to the family Euphorbiaceae.

commonly called as Duthi.

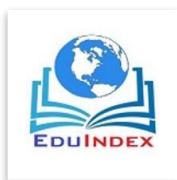
Part used – Entire plant

Distribution – common weed along road sides and waste land.

Uses - The leaves and latex used against intestinal diseases, ulcers and bronchitis and latex is also used for conjunctivitis, wound healing and skin disorders.

10) *Eclipta alba* (L.) Hassk. belonging to the family Asteraceae,

commonly called as Bhringraj



Parts used – marshy waste fields

Distribution – waste fields.

Uses – It is mainly used in hair oils It may be used to prevent habitual abortion, decoction of leaves used in uterine hemorrhage, leaf juice with honey & castor oil used in worms, piles, skin disorders, and Jaundice.

11) *Evolvulus alsinoides* (L.) belonging to the family Convolvulaceae

commonly called as vishnukanta.

Parts used - Whole plant

Distribution - waste lands of fields.

Uses – It is used extensively as a febrifuge and tonic, with cumin and milk is used for fever, nervous disability and loss of memory, bronchitis, bowel complaint and dysentery .

12) *Kickxia ramosissima* (wall.) Janchen belonging to the family

Scrophulariaceae is commonly called as Banvel (cancer wort)

Distribution – common weed on old walls.

Parts used – whole plant

Uses – It is traditionally used for the treatment of inflammatory disorders such as rheumatism, diabetes, Jaundice and for activation of immune system.

13) *Oxalis corniculata* L. belonging to the family Oxalidaceec

commonly called as Ambushi.

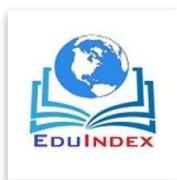
Parts used: Whole plant

Distribution – common weed along road sides and open plots.

It is used in the treatment of influenzas, fever, urinary tract infection, diarrhea and poisonous snake bites. The plant is good source of Vitamin C. The juice of plant mixed with butter

applied on muscular swelling. The leaves are used as an antidote to poisoning by seeds of *Datura* Spp. The juice is applied to insect bites, burns and skin diseases.

14) *Portulaca oleracea* (L.) is belonging to the family Portulacaceae



is commonly called as ‘ghol’ (purslane)

Distribution - common weed in field crops and lawns.

Parts used - Stems and leaves.

Uses – Plant is used as vegetables as a source of omega -3 fatty acid. The antioxidant content and nutritional value of purslane are important for human consumption. It is used in the treatment of burns, headache, diseases related to intestine, liver, stomach, cough, arthritis and osteoporosis.

15) *Boerhavia diffusa* L. is belonging to the family Nyctaginaceae is commonly called as ‘Punarnava’.

Distribution – common weed along road sides and fields.

Parts used – whole plant

Uses – It possess properties like antiaging, reestablishing youth strengthening life and brain power, useful for cardiac related diseases, anemia, reducing swelling, skin disorder and kidney stone.

16) *Tribulus terrestris* - belonging to the family zygophyllaceae is commonly called as ‘Gokhru’.

Distribution – common weed along road sides and waste land.

Parts Used – Whole plants.

Uses – It is used for kidney problems, urinary tract infection and skin disorders.

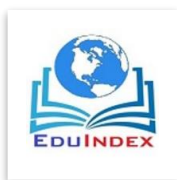
17) *Tridax procumbens*- belonging to the family Asteraceae is commonly called as ‘Tantani’ (coat button).

Distribution – common weed along road sides and field.

Parts used – whole plant

Uses – It is useful in jaundice, bronchial catarrh, diarrhoea, dysentery, inflammation, ulcers, leaf juice can be used to cure wound, to stop bleeding, and liver disorders.

18) *Tephrosia purpurea* (L.) Pers. belonging to the family



Papilionaceae is commonly called as 'unhali'.

Distribution – common weed along road sides and waste land.

Parts used – whole plant

Uses – Diuretic, used in the treatment of bronchitis. It

recommended as blood purifier, used in the treatment of boils, pimples and cardiac treatment A decoction of the fruit is given in the treatment of intestinal worms, roots are useful in

inflammation, skin diseases.

19) *Verbascrum chinense* (L.) Santapau belonging to the family

Scrophulariaceae. It is commonly called as kutki

Parts of used – whole plant

Distribution – waste land

Uses – Decoction of roots used in tooth ache, the leaves and flowers are anti-inflammatory, antiseptic, astringent and diuretic.

20) *Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal belonging to the family

Solanaceae is commonly called as 'Ashwagandha'.

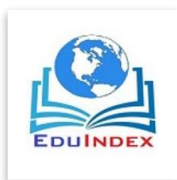
Parts used – whole plant

Distribution – common weed along road sides and waste lands.

Uses -The leaves are astringent, bitter, stimulant, diuretic and tonic. It is used in vata, leucoderma, constipation, insomnia and mental disorder.

### Conclusion:

In the present paper twenty Angiospermic weeds from Aurangabad dist. were studied. Most of these weeds show medicinal properties and used in the treatment of various common diseases like cough, cold, dysentery, diarrhoea, diabetes, fever, jaundice Asthama, urinal disorders, and kidney stone etc. Their use can cure various diseases without causing side effects. The present study will be useful for the botanist, ethno-botanist and the most interesting part is to the farmers. Farmers will get additional benefit if they cultivate them with traditional crops.



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