



**ETHNOBOTANICAL USES OF MADHUCA INDICA IN THANEPADA AREA
OF NANDURBAR DISTRICT –KEYNOTE**



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ABSTRACT

Madhuca indica is popularly known as Mahuwa or Mahu in Thanepada village of Nandurbar. The collection of mahu flower and fruit is not only economically important but also it having glorious history of ethnobotanical uses of the plant. Deciduous large tree of *Madhuca indica* is like a blessing for tribal people as it is a good source of ethnomedicine applied on large spectrum of diseases. Traditional practice of this plant as an ethnomedicine is forming the bridge between ethnobotany and culture and life style of the tribal's of Thanepada. In this survey report we tried out to focus on the

*ethnomedicinal properties of **Madhuca indica** which is helping in treatment of variety of diseases.*

KEYWORDS

Ethnomedicines, Madhuca indica, Thanepada village

RESEARCH PAPER

Introduction:

Thanepada village is situated in Nandurbar District of Maharashtra, located 14 km towards south. The total geographical area of village is 1848 hectares. Thanepada has a total population of 3,488 peoples. There are about 722 houses in Thanepada village. Nandurbar is nearest town to Thanepada which is approximately 16km away. Nearby villages to Thanepada are Asthe, Nandarkheda, Bhone, Waghale, Tilali and Dudhale, Ajepur, Ghoghalgaon, Gangapur, Lakkad Kot, Hiraphali, Khokarwada, Kareghat, Gokul nagar, Sutare etc. Thanepada is surrounded by dense vegetation having many economically important plant species like *Azadiracta indica*, *Cassia fistula*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Tictona grandis*, *Synzigium cumini*, and *Madhuca indica*. Thanepada belong to various cultural groups such as Kokani, Bhill, Mauchi, Pawara and Gaur banjara etc. *Madhuca indica* play important role in the cultural activities of such tribes (as liquor made up of Mahu used to drink in celebration of cultural glimpses. In real sense Mahuwa is called as kalpavriksha of tribal as its all parts such as Leaf, Bark, Flowers, Fruits, Seed, and Timber etc. all are beneficial and useful. (Patel Madhumita, Naik SN Bina S Siddiqui, Shazia Khan, Behl P.N., Sriwasrawa G.S) *Madhuca indica* is a plant of Indian origin having tremendous therapeutic potential but is not fully utilized. It has several pharmacological activity and potential to provide health to the society. (Pushpendra k.Patel) The ethnomedicinal use of Mahuwa is restricted only to the functional niche of some tribal ethnomedicine practitioner of Thanepada village of Nandurbar district.

Madhuca tree becomes the Kalpvriksha for the tribal as it provide economical support and stability to their lifestyle in the form of money making tree. If *Madhuca* tree cultivated in farm then its flower and fruits belongs to the farmer for collection and selling. But forest trees were not belonging to any person for ownership as it is blessing for all the tribal's seeking jobs. Tribal women mainly used to collect the flowers and seeds.

Methodology

Thanepada area frequently visited during January 2016 to January 2017, with the help of semi structured questionnaire and local dilect, information related ethnomedicinal uses of each part of the *Madhuca indica* is collected. Discussions with local healers, Bhagats, Boharies and Maharaj of particular region helps lot for

collecting important data for present survey based report. Ethnomedicinal uses of *Madhuca indica* combining its morphological characters along with Taxonomical classification which are as follows

Classification of *Madhuca indica*:

- KINGDOM :- Plantae
- DIVISION :- Magnoliophyta
- CLASS :- Magnoliopsida
- ORDER :- Ericales
- FAMILY :- Sapotaceae
- GENUS :- *Madhuca*
- SPECIES :- *indica*
(syn. *Bassia latifolia*) long

Morphological characteristics:

- Habit- Large deciduous trees.
- Habitat- Common in forest area .
- Stem- Bark black, grayish –black or ash colored , longitudinally fissured.
- Leave-Coriaceous, elliptic or elliptic – obvoate, obtuse or subaccuminate .
- Flowers- Creamy –white, tomentose, in dense, axillary clusters at the end of the branches.
- Fruits- Berries ovoid, fleshy, yellow when ripe.
- Seeds-1-4 seeded, seeds ovoid, smooth, shining, brownish-black.
- Flowering- March-June.

Table 1: Ethnomedicinal uses of *Madhuca indica*

Parts used of <i>madhuca indica</i>	Ethnomedicinal uses
LEAF	1) Leaf is used to treat eczema. 2) Leaf paste is applied over wound to cure it. 3) Leaf bandage made up of leaf paste spreading on cloth is used on burns. 4) Leaf tied over site of fractures of bones.
BARK	1) Bark powder is used to treat ulcers. 2) Burnt bark ash is used to cure wounds. 3) Bark is also used in fermentation process to make liquor. 4) Bark powder mixed with water and consumed to cure Diabetes. 5) Bark powder is used in treatment of Cancer.

	6) Milky juice of bark externally applied in rheumatism.
FLOWER	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Dried flower are cooked and kept on cloth and tied on joints for a night to cure joint pain.2) Dried flower roasted on medium flame and eaten to cure prolonged cough.3) Dried flowers roasted on medium flame and daily given to lactating mother to increase lactation.4) Powder of dried flowers mixed with deshi gud (juaguuary) and purees prepared and given to lactating mother.5) Dried flowers chemical constitution using fermentation process converted into liquor which is used as alcoholic base for various ethnomedicinal preparations.6) Roasted flowers eaten with roasted pea nut to increase Appetite.7) Dried flowers roasted and taken with honey as a tonic to treat anemia.
FRUIT	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Raw fruit is used as a vegetable called as Tolami in Thanepada area.
SEED	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Pale yellow seed oil is applied over joint and muscle pain.2) Seed oil is used for cooking purposes and extracted at home from collected seed.3) External application of oil in case of Piles.4) Large spectrum of skin diseases treated using application of seed oil.5) Mahuwa butter is alternative for ghee for tribal and used in cooking and frying.

Result and Discussion:

Madhuca indica are huge trees found at Thanepada village of Nandurbar district. Villagers used to collect flowers and fruits due to their economic importance. *Madhuca indica* tree plays important role in and as specially ethnogynaecological problems tackle with this miraculous ethnomedicine. All the part of this tree is useful as an ethnomedicine. Timber is used for construction, for making furniture's and other household utilities. Bark is used mainly in Diabetes. Bark powder is used in various disease treatments. Flower is used for various purposes. Collection of flowers in season provides a great job to women. Sweet syrup is prepared from fresh flowers and mixed with wheat flour to prepare sweet purees and served to lactating mothers after delivery to increase lactation. Dried roasted flowers are used in cough mixed with pea or roasted gram seeds. This property of cough resistance can be used to prepare cough syrups In spite of its edible uses the oil is also applicable in Piles, Rheumatism etc.



Figure 1 – Huge Tree of Maduca indica



Figure 2- Buds of Madhuca.

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