

PUBLISHED ON 29TH FEB 2012



**INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE ON PLANTS USED IN WOUNDS AND CUTS BY
PEOPLE OF NORTH GUJARAT
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ABSTRACT:

Some plant used for traditional treatment of Wounds and Cuts by the tribal and rural people of North Gujarat are recorded in this paper.

People of North Gujarat residing in remote areas. They often sustain injuries like wounds and cuts, being far away from the modern medical facilities they utilize local medicinal plants for treatment of wounds and cuts and boils successfully.

In this present paper, we have listed 37 plants species used in wounds and cuts. All the listed plants species belonging to 35 genera and 23 families.

KEY WORDS: *Indigenous knowledge, Plants, Wounds, Cuts, North Gujarat.*

INTRODUCTION:

Gujarat state geographically is divided into five regions *i.e.* North Gujarat, Central Gujarat, South Gujarat, Saurashtra and Kutchh. North Gujarat has 4 Districts *i.e.* Patan, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha and Mehsana. People of North Gujarat are mainly farmers, with tribals called Koli, Deviputra, Maldhari, Adivasi etc.

Floristic works have been carried out in Gujarat among them Cooke (1903-08), Thaker (1910), Sexton & Sedgwick (1918), Bole and Pathak (1988). Ethnobotanical work is carried out in Gujarat among them Jain(1968), Thaker(1926), Jain(1991), Shah *et. all* (1981), Bhattacharya(1968), Nurani(1997), Nurani(1997), Punjani(1998), Mitaliya(1998), Bhatt and Mitaliya(1999).

Majority of people live in rural areas and scattered. Clusters of dwelling houses and hutments called 'MUVADAS' The only source of earning their livelihood is agricultural and allied activities. They often sustain injuries like wounds and cuts of various kinds and often they suffer from boils. Being far away from the modern facilities, the only alternative open to them is to avail the local facilities *i.e.* natural herbal remedies. Through the experience of generations these people have acquired immense knowledge of local medicinal plants. This knowledge is passed on from one generation to another. These people have employed their knowledge of medicinal qualities of plants for healing the wounds and cuts that they come across very often.

The knowledge about the plants used for healing wounds and cuts is a traditional knowledge, which is not found in any printed books. This knowledge offers cheaper and viable alternative for treatments of wounds and cuts. As such it is necessary to carry out intensive survey and interaction with local elderly people for documentation of these medicinal qualities of plants.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The present paper is an effort to gather and record the information about medicinal plants used by people of North Gujarat for healing of wounds and cuts for this purpose field trips were resorted to and elderly people and local practitioners were contacted and information about different plants and the method of using these plants for healing wounds and cuts was collected. The plants are identified with the help of local flora. The local names of the plant and their botanical names, family genera, species are also recorded.

OBSERVATION:

***Aloe vera* L. (Kuwarpathu, Agavaceae)**

Juice of leaves or boiled leaves is applied over wounds and skin eruptions.

***Achayranthus aspera* L. (Anghedi, Amaranthaceae)**

Fresh leaves crushed and applied over wounds.

***Bidens pilosa* L. (Samarak okdi, Asteraceae)**

Crushed leaves cure the wounds and kawath of root and leaves used to wash bedsore, old cuts and wounds.

***Barleria prionitis* L. (Pilo kantaseliyo, Acanthaceae)**

Ash of leaves with ghee applied over wounds and cuts.

***Cassia auriculata* L. (Aval, Caesalpinaceae)**

Bark extract applied over wounds.

***Cassia oxidentalis* L. (Kasundro, Caesalpinaceae)**

Fresh leaves crushed and applied over wounds.

***Canvalia ensiformis* DC. (Tarvadi, Fabaceae)**

Fresh leaves crushed and applied over wounds.

***Coldenia procumbens* (Okharad, Boraginaceae)**

Ash of plant with castor oil applied over cuts and wounds.

***Cuscuta reflexa* Roxb. (Amavel, Convolvulaceae)**

Crushed whole plant applied over wounds and cuts.

***Digera arvensis* Farsk. (kanjaro, Amaranthaceae)**

Fresh leaves crushed and applied over wounds and cuts.

***Ficus benghalensis* L. (Vad, Moraceae)**

Latex applied over wounds.

***Holoptelia integrifolia* Roxb. (Kanjo, Ulmaceae)**

Leaf paste applied over cuts and wounds.

***Kalanchoe pinnata* Pers. (Panfuti, Crassulaceae)**

Fresh leaves crushed and applied over cuts and wounds.

***Lindenbergia urticifolia* L. (Patharchatti, Scrophulariaceae)**

Fresh leaves crushed and applied over cuts and wounds.

***Lapidagathis trinervis* Pers. (Harancharo, Acanthaceae)**

Ash of plant with ghee applied over wounds.

***Lipia nodiflora* Michx. (Ratvelio, Verbenaceae)**

Whole plant crushed and applied over cuts wounds.

***Mucana pruriens* D.C. (Kuvech, Fabaceae)**

Crushed leaves used in rashes.

***Sonchus oleraceus* L. (Dudhali sonaki, Asteraceae)**

Fresh crushed leaves applied over cuts and wounds.

***Sida cordifolia* L. (Bala, Malvaceae)**

Fresh crushed leaves applied over cuts and wounds.

***Trianthema monogyna* L. (Satodo, Ficoideae)**

Fresh crushed leaves applied over cuts and wounds.

***Thespesia populnea* Soland. (Paraspiplo, Malvaceae)**

Fresh crushed leaves applied over cuts and wounds.

***Trigonella foenum graecum* L. (Methi, Fabaceae)**

Fresh crushed leaves applied over cuts and wounds.

***Tamarandus indicus* L. (Amali, Caesalpinaceae)**

Fresh crushed leaves applied over cuts and wounds.

***Tridax procumbens* L. (Pardesi bhangro, Asteraceae)**

Fresh crushed leaves past applied over wounds and cuts for quick relief.

***Trichodesma indicum* R. br. (undhafuli, Boraginaceae)**

Fresh crushed leaves applied over cuts and wounds.

***Trichosanthes cucumerina* L. (Cucurbitaceae)**

Decoction of dry leaves is used to wash wounds for fast healing.

***Vitis trifoliata* L. (Khat khatumbo, Vitaceae)**

Root paste applied over ripe, unripe wounds.

***Vitex negundo* L. (Nagod, Verbenaceae)**

Leaves are used as antiseptic for wounds.

***Withania somnifera* Dunal. (Aswagantha, Solanaceae)**

Fresh crushed leaves are applied over cuts and wounds.

RESULT:

In the present study, we have enlisted 37 plant species used for treatment of wounds and cuts by the local people. These species belong to 35 genera and 23 families as under.

This is primary effect immense research work is required to gather and document the district wise information about the qualities of different medicinal plants, which will have the way to viable and cheaper health care of people.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

We are indebted to H.K. Patel and Dr. D.C.Bhatt for giving valuable suggestions.

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