

TRADITION OF DIVERSIFIED WILD EDIBLE FRUIT PLANTS IN ANANTHAGIRI RESERVE FOREST AREA OF VIKARABAD DISTRICT, TELANGANA

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ABSTRACT

The paper deals with 19 species of wild edible fruits eaten in various ways by the tribal and other people living in and around Ananthagiri reserve forest area and few of the recorded species are already known for their edible purpose, however the uses of some taxa are uncommon.

KEYWORDS: Ethno Botany, Wild Edible Fruits, Ananthagiri Reserve Forest, Telangana

INTRODUCTION

India is the second largest country in the world in respect to the human population. Over 600 communities are covered under 300 ethnic groups residing in about 6000 villages of India in different forests and vegetation types these ethnic communities have acquired good knowledge about play a significant role in the rural economy of India by providing nutrient food supplement and also generating side income for the poor people. Fruits collected by them from natural forests are often seen on sale in local markets. Many valuable fruits which are familiar to certain areas or communities are unknown to others. The cattle grazers, woodcutters, poachers and forest people generally use these fruits in the forests. The wild edible fruits of Ananthagiri forest remained unexplored. Efforts have been made to explore wild edible fruits of this region. During the investigations regarding uses of wild fruits. Data were collected from the tribals and other local people.

ENUMERATIONS

Table 1

Sl.No	Botanical Name	Family Name	Description	Flowing Fruitig
1	<i>Ampelocissus latifolia</i> (Roxb.) Planch	Ampelidaceae	Woody climbers, deep brown-red flower. Fruits black succulent berries, which are sweet and juicy	Fl: June-July Fr: Aug-October
2	<i>Bridelia stipularis</i> (L.) Bl.	Euphorbiaceae	Large woody climber, flowers monoecious, green. Fruits red	Fl: May-Oct Fr: Dec-Jan
3	<i>Buchanania lanzan</i> Spreng	Anacardiaceae	A small straight tree, flowers white	Fl: Jan-March Fr: Apr-May
4	<i>Capparis zeylanica</i> L.	Capparidaceae	Shrub with white or pink flowers, Fruits become red when ripe and are eaten	Fl: Mar-May Fr: Sept-Oct
5	<i>Clausena excavata</i> Burm	Rutaceae	An under shrub with alternate leaves, flowers green. Fruit ellipsoid and eaten when ripe	Fl: May-June Fr: July-Aug

Table 1 Contd.,

6	<i>Coccinia grandis</i> (L.) Voigt	Cucurbitaceae	Climbers with white flowers, fruits oblong, cylindrical. Raw fruits green, scarlet when ripe. Unripe fruits used as vegetables and pickled	Fl: Aug-Dec Fr: May-June
7	<i>Dillenia pentagyna</i> Roxb.	Dilleniaceae	Small trees, flowers white. Raw fruits are edible	Fl: March-April Fr: May
8	<i>D. indica</i> L.	Dilleniaceae	Tree, flowers white solitary. The large fleshy accrescent calyces which form the outer covering of the fruit are eaten before they are quite ripe, usually after cooking	Fl: May-June Fr: Sept-Feb
9	<i>Diospyros malabarica</i> (Desr.) Kostel	Ebenaceae	Handsome trees, flowers white fragrant, fruits globose. Fruits are edible	Fl: Mar-April Fr: ripen the following March-April
10	<i>D. melanoxylon</i> Roxb	Ebenaceae	Deciduous large tree, flowers white, fruits globose, yellow-brown when ripe and fragrant. Fruit pulp is sweet and eaten raw	Fl: April-May Fr: ripens the following May
11	<i>Erycibe paniculata</i> Roxb	Convolvulaceae	Climbing shrubs, flowers yellowish-white. Berry black with dark-purple flesh. The fruits are sweet and are eaten	Fl: May-June March-June
12	<i>Flacourtia jangomas</i> (Lour.) Raeusch	Flacourtiaceae	Small tree, flowers in glabrous racemes, Fruit purple when ripe and eaten.	Fl: June Fr: Oct-Jan
13	<i>Ficus racemosus</i> L.	Moraceae	Large trees, recepts are globose. The fruits are largely eaten	Fr: Mar-June
14	<i>Gardenia gummifera</i> L.f.	Rubiaceae	A handsome shrub, flowers large and white. Fruits ovoid with fleshy mesocarp and hard thin endocarp. The fruit is eaten.	Fl: March – May Fr: June-Aug
15	<i>Meyna spinosa</i> Roxb. Ex Link var. <i>pubescens</i> Robyns	Rubiaceae	A large shrub, flowers small green. Young leaves are eaten as a vegetable. The fruits are eaten	Fl: June-Aug.
16	<i>Phoenix acaulis</i> Buch. – Ham..ex Roxb.	Arecaceae	A common plant. Drupes are red, finally black. Ripe fruits are eaten.	Fl: March-april Fr: May-June
17	<i>Schleichera oleosa</i> (Lour.) Oken.	Sapindaceae	Deciduous tree, leaves leathery and dark green. Fruits ovoid with fleshy pulp. Yellow pulp is eaten when ripe, pleasant and acrid in taste. Fruits are pickled.	Fl: March Fr: June
18	<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i> L.f.	Ananacardiaceae	Small trees, flowers dullgreenish-yellow. Fruits are oblong ovoid drupes, finally, become black. The fruit is eaten when completely ripe.	Fl: June-Sept Fr: Nov-Dec
19	<i>Spondias pinnata</i> (L.f) Kurz	Anacardiaceae	Middle sized tree, flowers white. Fruits are large and become yellow when ripe. Fruit is eaten as a condiment and made into chutney and also eaten after ripening.	Fl: Feb-Mar Fr: August

DISCUSSIONS

Use of some little known wild fruit species like *Bridelia stipularis*, *Clausena excavata*, *Dillenia pentagyna*, *Erycibe paniculata*, *Gardenia gummifera*, *Meyna spinosa*, etc, as edible fruits is an interesting observation. The tribals and other rural people may be encouraged in their edible fruit plant species reported in this paper form a significant component of the economic life of locals. There is no doubt that the edible wild fruits influence the living of the tribal people. Attention needs to be paid for the collection and conservation of germplasm of such taxa which are being grown in the backyards of these tribals in remote forests areas since long. Additional studies about nutritional values and

public awareness regarding their edible potential are very much desired.

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