

# Ethno Botanical Significance of Hedge Plants among the Tribals of Bastar District (CG), India

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## Abstract

The present paper is based on the survey of hedge plants. It is presenting a medicinal significance of hedge plants and protection against many diseases. An attempt has been made to include the most familiar hedge plants which are used by the tribal of Bastar district to protect the house and fields from animal and wind. All together 10 plants have been presented with their botanical name and family, diagnostic characters and details of medicinal uses, obtained tribal and rural people of Bastar region.

**Keywords:** Tribal, Diseases, Resources, Medicine, Plants.

## Introduction

Chhattisgarh is one of the richest resources state of India, in which Bastar is one of its important district. The Bastar region make a shape of triangle with Indravati National Park, Kanger Ghati National Park and Amravati Forest range. Bastar district headquarter is in Jagdalpur.

The district is located 260 KM from the capital Raipur. The district is regarded as the home of many tribals who mostly live in dense forest and rural areas and represents an ethno botanical treasure house. The region of Chhattisgarh has been considered very rich in ethno botanical information, 26.76 percent of the approximately population of state of CG includes Bhatra, Gond, Rajgond, Abhuj, Maria, Bison, Horn, Maria, Shaheria & Dhruva. The district of Bastar is divided into seven administrative districts and surrounded by Narayanpur, Kanker, Kondagaon, Dantewada, Bijapur and Sukma. The tribes live in forest areas and mostly depend on agriculture. From the time immemorial, shelter from the weather and as protection against natural enemy; have been felt too much utilize of hedge plants. In this respect the hedge plants have been of service to mankind from the beginning to the present days. The hedge plants are used for protection of agriculture crops and pet animals, for making courtyard, as well as for secure from wild animals.

**Table – 01: Listed of Some Common Hedge Plants and Their Ethno Botanical Significance**

S. No.	Botanical name (family)	Ethno botanical Significance of plants	Diagnostic Characters
1.	Abrus precatorius L. (Fabaceae)	Seeds – Sacred garland is made. Root – Used in cough.	An annual. Wild shrubby climber,
2.	Acacia leucophloea (Roxb.) Wild. (Mimosaceae)	Wood – As fuel. Leaves – As fodder.	Medium sized grey-tomatoes spiny tree.
3.	Acacia nilotica L. Del. (Fabaceae)	Stem twig – as tooth stick. Gum – as tonic. Bark – used in steatitis and toothache. Seeds – oil used for washing soap.	A perennial, medium size tree.
4.	Capparis aphylla Roth. (Capparidaceae)	Flower and fruit – used as vegetable and also pickled.	A densely branched glabrous shrub.



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5.	Carissa carandas L. (Apocynaceae)	Fruits – for making chutney and pickled.	A perennial, spiny shrub.
6.	Clerodendrum inerme L. (Lamaceae)	Flower – used in religious activities.	Slightly woody shrub.
7.	Dendrocalamus strictus (Poaceae)	Wood – for timber and protection. Shoot – Young shoot edible as vegetable.	A perennial, evergreen plant.
8.	Ipomea fistulosa (Convolvulaceae)	Wood – as fuel and for protection.	An evergreen shrub.
9.	Jatropha curcas L. (Euphorbiaceae)	Leaves – a warm poultice of the leaves in galactagogue it is applied to the breast of nursing mothers. Seeds – for fuel.	A large deciduous soft wooded shrub.
10.	Lawsonia inermis L. (Lythraceae)	Leaves – the paste of leaves is applied for dyeing palm, soles and hair.	A perennial, much branched deciduous shrub.

### Review the Literature

Review the literature reveals that many workers explored the ethno botanical significance of plants (Ant and Patel, 2000; Jain S K, 1963, 1965; Khan et al, 2000, a and b 2003, Singh et al, 2004; Verma 1995.)

### Methods and Materials

Periodic expensive surveys have been made from 2016 to 2018. Collection of plants specimens were made from various localities of Bastar district, viz.; Koraput, Kondagaon, Amravati forest office, Benglur, Aasan and Chamiya. Information regarding plants used in hedges by the tribal and rural folk in their daily needs of these regions was noted.

### Aim of the Study

The main objective of this paper is to study the medicinal values of hedge plants. These plants are planted in houses based on their medicinal properties and according to folk medicinal experts treat many diseases. Because allopathic medicines are very expensive and doctors are not available in the villages of dense forests. Hence they treat various diseases with medicinal plants.

### Results and Discussion

The collection data of hedge plants have been arranged alphabetically followed by their family, diagnostic characters and medicinal significance as reported by the tribals are presented in table - 01. The study was incorporated with 10 plant species, which are being used as hedges and for making boundaries in various tribal's areas. These plants species having certain characteristics such as, they are thorny,

dense, woody and unpalatable to animals, mythological beliefs and socio-religious of plants and also uses as medicine.

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