

Plants Used In Hartalika Teej: A Major Festival of Chhattisgarh

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ABSTRACT

India is a diverse country. Every region of India has different cultures and celebrates various regional festivals. While celebrating these festivals we use different plant parts as pooja essential (pujan samagri). Chhattisgarh is a land of rich cultural heritage, history and tribes. Various festivals are celebrated here which are regionally restricted. The ancient people by this means explain the importance of plant and motivate us for its conservation. In the modern world as we are urbanizing availability of all the pujan samagri are becoming very difficult day by day. The aim of this study is to document those plants and all the precious information inherited by our ancestors. Data were collected using question are and interview method.

INTRODUCTION

Chhattisgarh is located in the central region of India. Chhattisgarh also known as herbal state has rich cultural diversity. Different tribes resides here. State has a forest cover of 46%. Various local festivals and rituals are celebrated and performed here. One of such festival is "Hartalika Teej" on Bhadrapada month according to hindu calendar. Bhadrapada or bhado falls on August or September of the year. This festival is mainly celebrated by women. Women fast for the long life and for the bright future of their husband.

During the festival, various types of plant materials and parts are used which are offered to the diety during different rituals. This study surveys and documents plants sources from which this Pooja samagris are obtained. All the plants contain some medicinal properties, some are aesthetics, and other are of ethnobotanical use. This festival is celebrated since a long period of time and therefore there is a necessity to enlist the plants and plant parts for the future reference.

METHODOLOGY

The data collected during this study was obtained via questionnaire and interview method. About 50 elderly people especially women were interviewed for the study. The local names and general morphological characters told by them were noted down and later were confirmed using photographs. Flora of British India by Hooker and flora of Madhya Pradesh were taken as reference for literature. All the plants were confirmed using these floras.

Observation Table

Plants used in this festival are as follows:

S.No.	Local Name	Botanical Name	Family	Habit	Plant Part Used
1	Bael	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> L.	Rutaceae	Tree	Leaves
2	Supari	<i>Areca Catechu</i> L.	Arecaceae	Tree	Fruit
3	Sindoor	<i>Bixa orellana</i>	Bixaceae	Shrub	Seeds
4	Kapoor	<i>Camphora officinarum</i> (L.) J Presl.	Lauraceae	Tree	wood
5	Pan	<i>Piper betle</i> L.	Piperaceae	Climber	Leaves

6	Doob	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> L. (Pers)	Poaceae	Grass	Leaves
7	Chawal	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.	Poaceae	Grass	Seeds
8	Haldi	<i>Curcuma longa</i> L.	Zingiberaceae	Herb	Rhizome
9	Nariyal	<i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.	Arecaceae	Tree	Fruit
10	Kela	<i>Musa paradisiaca</i> L.	Musaceae	Tree	Fruits, Leaves
11	Chandan	<i>Santalum album</i> L.	Santalaceae	Tree	Wood
12	Kapaas	<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i> L.	Malvaceae	Shrub	Seed hair fibres
13	Mehendi	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i> L.	Lythraceae	Shrub	Leaves
14	Aam	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Leaves
15	Datura	<i>Datura metel</i> L.	Solanaceae	Shrub	Flower, Fruit
16	Madar	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Ait) R. Br.	Asclepidiaceae	Shrub	Flower
17	Baans	<i>Bambusa</i> sps	Poaceae	Tree	Stem
18	Shami	<i>Prosopis cineraria</i> (L.) Druce	Fabaceae	Shrub	Leaves, flower
19	Tikhur	<i>Curcuma angustifolia</i> Roxb.	Zingiberaceae	Herb	Rhizome
20	Singhada	<i>Trapa bispinosa</i> Roxb	Trapaceae	Aquatic	Fruit
21	Tulsi	<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i>	Lamiaceae	Herb	leaves
22	Kheera	<i>Cucumis sativus</i> L.	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	fruit
23	Gehun	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	Poaceae	Grass	Seeds
24	Ganna	<i>Saccharum officinarum</i> L.	Poaceae	Grass	Stem
25	Chana	<i>Cicer arietinum</i> L.	Fabaceae	Herb	Seeds
26	Gurhal	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> L.	Malvaceae	Shrub	Flower
27	Ber	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lam.	Rhamnaceae	Tree	Fruit
28	Jau	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.	Poaceae	Grass	Seeds
29	Mustard	<i>Brassica campestris</i> L.	Brassicaceae	Herb	Seeds
30	Bhang	<i>Cannabis sativa</i> L.	Cannabinaceae	Herb	Leaves
31	Laung	<i>Syzygium aromaticum</i> (L.) Merrill & Perry	Myrtaceae	Herb	Bud
32	Jaiphal	<i>Myristica fragrans</i> Hutt.	Myristicaceae	Tree	Fruit
33	Sarfonk	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i> (L.) Pers.	Fabaceae	Herb	Stem
34	Kamalgatta	<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> Gaertn.	Nelumbonaceae	Aquatic	Flower and Root
35	Kesar	<i>Crocus sativus</i> L.	Iridaceae	Herb	Stamen

36	Neem	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Meliaceae	Tree	Twig
37	Chirchita	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Herb	Twig
38	Makkai	<i>Zea mays</i> L.	Poaceae	Shrub	Seeds

RESULT & DISCUSSION

During the study, total 38 plant species were found to be used in this festival. Out of which 11 trees, 8 shrub, 10 herb, 5 grass species, 2 climber and 2 aquatic plant. Maximum 7 species belongs to the family Poaceae followed by Fabaceae - 3 species and Arecaceae - 2 species. 29 Dicot species and 9 Monocot plant species were identified during the studies. Some of the plant species so reported are wild while some are cultivated.

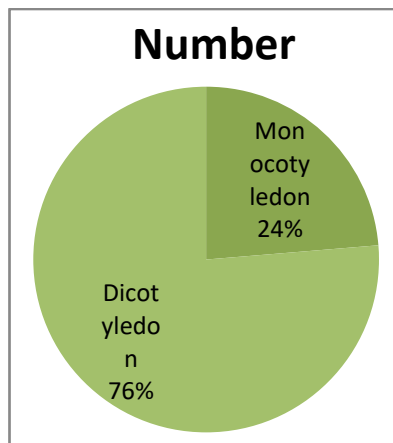


Fig.1: Pie chart showing monocot and dicot ratio

Table.1: Showing the ratio of monocot and dicot ratio

<u>Group</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Monocotyledon	9	23.68421
Dicotyledon	29	76.31579

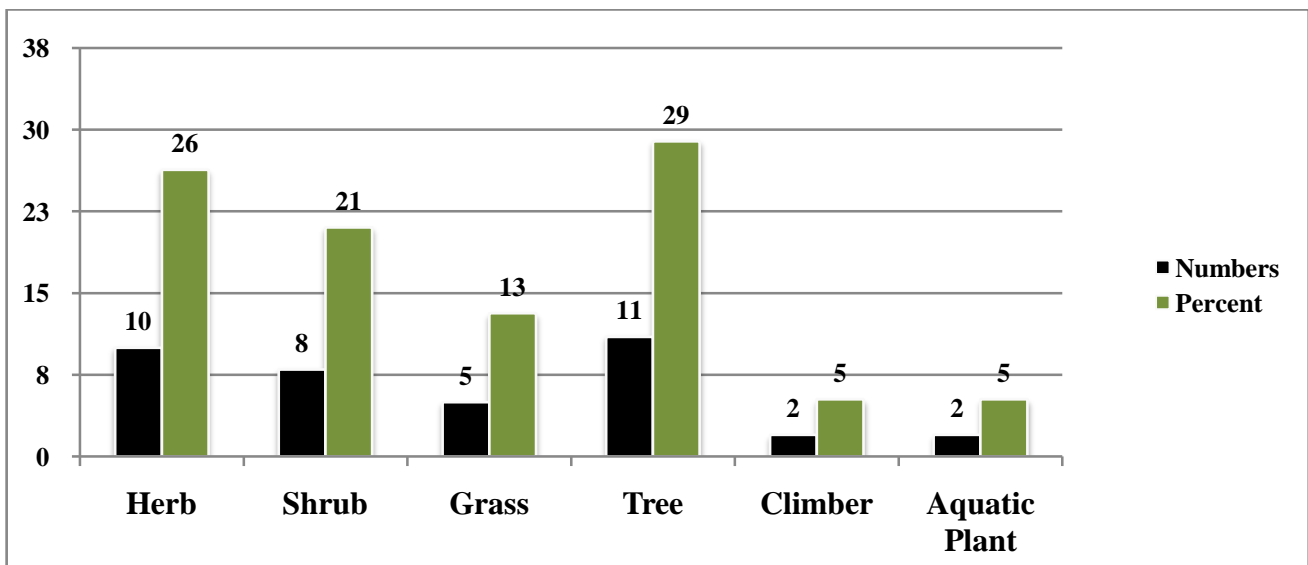


Fig.2 (a)

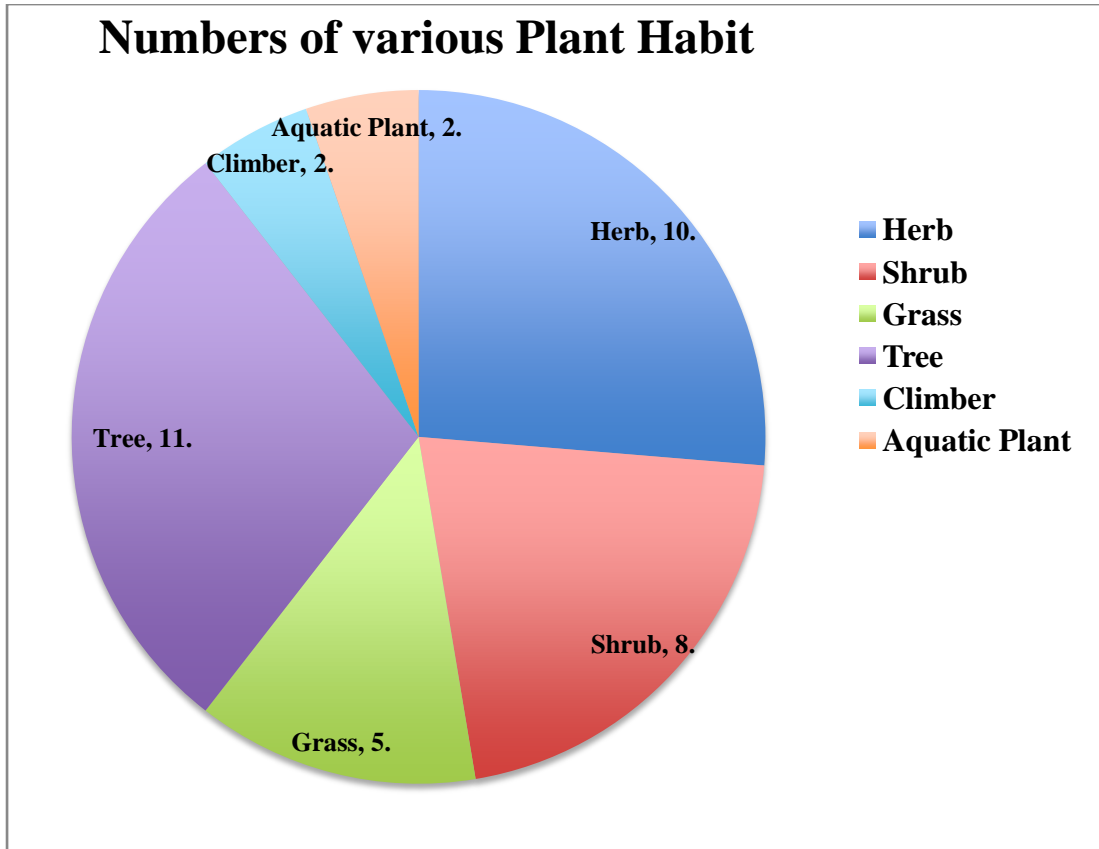


Fig.2 (b)

Fig.2 (a) & (b): Graph and Pie chart showing No. and Percentage of various plant habit.

CONCLUSION

During the study we found that many plant species are used in this festival for different rituals. This study aims to document all the plants used in Teej. Many of the plant species enlisted above contains important medicinal properties like Tulsi, Bael, Neem, Laung, Haladi, Tikhoor etc. species of neem and achyathus are used in cleaning tooth (datun). Some plants like kesar, Chandan is widely used in cosmetic industries. Red and orange dye is extracted from the plants of Bixa (Sidoor). These types of festivals encourages us to conserve the plant species. This type of documentation may be useful for future reference.

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