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Wild Edible Fruits from Aurangabad District, Maharashtra, India.

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ABSTRACT:

Aurangabad District is blessed with great history and nature having 2882.78 sq.km forest cover which accounted for 9% of the total geographical area of the district. The district is famous for Ajanta and Ellora caves. Aurangabad district having some tribal community in rural area. They know the importance of the wild edible plants. the present study deals with the identification, documentation and ethnobotanical exploration with respect to food value of wild edible fruits from Aurangabad district. It reveals information about various edible fruits from 29 plant species. collection and utilization of wild fruits provide seasonal security and become source of income to the local people.

Keywords: Ajanta caves, Edible wild fruits, tribal people ,food security.

Introduction: Fruits and seeds are an important group of edibles, which contributes to the rural and tribal communities, nutritional requirements from ancient time.

The. wild edible fruits which have multiple uses such as food additives and medicines, contribute to the food security and livelihood improvement of the local communities.south and Southeast Asia are home to more than 500 fruit species. Unfortunately, there is no authentic data regarding production and trade of wild tropical fruits produced worldwide (Hegde 2016).Now in modern era we obtain our food through agricultural practices. Before evolution of agriculture, all the food plants were discovered from their natural resources time to time. In rural area which is hilly and having forest they fulfill nutritional requirement from wild resources.The wild food contain different seasonal fruits having great nutritional value and good source of food for local people.(Deshmukh et al2010). There are many workers carried out research on wild edible fruits like Sinha et al (2005)., Deshmukh et al (2010)., Rashid et al (2008).in this study much focus on locally available wild edible fruits from different area of the district. Therefore present study has been conducted to document the ethno botanical survey of wild edible fruits.

Aurangabad city is located in West Central Maharashtra at 19.88˚ N 75. 32˚ E. It has elevation of 568 metres. The total forest area of the Aurangabad circle is 2888.78 sq.km. out of this 173. 63 square kilometre is now under the control of FDCM. The tribal community of district are Bhill,Mahadevkoli, Dongarkoli, and pardhi.These Tribes lives in rural area of district such as Ajanta, Soygaon, kannad and PaithanTahsil. The rural tribes are labour and farmers. The major river of Aurangabad district is Godavari besides that, Purna, Shivana and Kham river. The district is with great flora.

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Methodology: several field visits were undertaken in hilly and forest area of district such as villages which are located near forest area commonly in kannad, Ajanta and SoygaonTahsil.To assess the traditional knowledge on wild edible fruits, frequent interactions and discussion were made with the local people, which include farmers, tribal people like Bhill, Mahadevkoli,TadviBhill and Pardhi.The indigenous knowledge of these people were observed and plants collected by them were noted down the same plants collected from the field and available photographs shown to them for local identification.The wild fruits plants were preserved and identified with the help of Flora of Marathwada.

Table-1

Wild Edible Fruits

Sr.no.	Botanical Name	Local Name	Family	Uses
1.	*Aegle marmelos(Linn.)Corr*	Bel	Rutaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
2.	*Annona reticulata Linn*	Ramphal	Annonaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
3.	*Annona sqaumosa Linn*	Sitaphal	Annonaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
4.	*Azadirachtaindica A. Juss*	Kadunimb	Meliaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
5.	*BuchananiaCochichinensislanzanSpreng.*	Charoli	Anacardiaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
6.	*Canthiumpariflorum Lam*	Katbor	Rubiaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
7.	*Cassia carandus (Linn) Mant*	Karvand	Apocynaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
8.	*Cocciniagrandis (Linn) Voigt*	Junglikundru	Cucurbitaceae	Cooked as vegetable or eaten as raw
9.	*Cordiadichotoma Linn*	Bhokar	Boraginaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
10.	*Cucumismelosssp.agrestri*	Shendode	cucurbitaceae	Unripe fruit cooked as vegetable
11.	*DiospyrosmelanoxylonRoxb*	Tembhurni	Ebenaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
12.	*EmblicaoffcinalisGaertn*	Awala	Euphorbiaceae	eaten raw,jams and pickle
13.	*Ficusbenghalensis Linn*	Wad	Moraceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
14.	*Ficus racemose Linn*	Umber	Moraceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw&cooked as

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				vegetable
15.	*Lantana camara Linn*	Ghaneri	Verbenaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
16.	*Limoniaacidissima Linn*	Kawat	Rutaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw & cooked as chatni
17.	*Manikarahexandre (Roxb) Pub*	Khirani	Sapotacue	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
18.	*Mangiferaindica*	Amba	Anacardiaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw& Pickle and jams
19.	*Musa balbisianacolla 1820*	Rankeli	Musaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
20.	*Opuntiaelaitar Mill*	Nivdung	Cactaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
21.	Pheonixsylvestris (Linn). Roxb	Shindi	Areaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
22.	Pithecellobiumdulce (Roxb) Benth.(2)	Gorakhimli	Fabaceae	Ripe pulp of pod eaten as raw
23.	Semecarpusanacardium Linn	Bibba	Anacardiceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
24.	Solanum American Mill	Kanguli	Solanaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
25.	Syzygiumcumunii (Linn) Skeels	Jambhul	Myrtaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
26.	Tamarindusindica Linn	Chinch	Caesalpinacea e	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
27.	Ziziphusglaberrima (Sedgw)	Goti	Rhamnaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
28.	Ziziphusoenoplia	Chandbor	Rhamnaceae	Ripe Fruits eaten as raw
29.	ZiziphusmauritianaLamk	Bor	Rhamnaceae	

Observation and Discussion: The total 29 wild fruit plants are collected and stored with detailed information regarding botanical name, local name and their uses for future reference study.(Table 1.) Out of which 04 Species of Herb's, 9 species belongs to shrubs and 16 species belongs to trees. These species were collected by local people from forest, cultivated field and barren lands. Some species viz*EmblicaofficinalisGaertin, MangiferaindicaLinn,Syzigiumcumunii (Linn)Skeels.,Tamarindusindica Linn., Annona sqaumosaLinn.,AnnonareticulataLinn,Aeglemarmelos (Linn)Corr., and Zizipus*sp.are commercially cultivated due to their demands. While wild fruits such as *DiospyrousmelanoxylonRoxb, BachahanialanzanSpreng and Cassia carandus (Linn) Mant*.are collected and sold by local people, tribal people in villages and in local market.

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Conclusion: from 29 plant species the Unripe fruits of *Cucumismelos, ,Ficusracemosa, ,Mangiferaindica and Emblicaofficinalis* are used as vegetable and for pickles. Majority of fruits are eaten as raw when ripe. out of these most of the species have medicinal properties as such as *Emblicaofficinalis and Aegle marmelos,Syzygiumcumunii and Solanumnigrum* with good source of vitamin C, Mineral and antioxidant. It is very necessary to give attention towards the importance of edible fruits so further phytochemical and nutritional studies of the plant species may provide better alternative source of nutrition in future.

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