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Wild Edible Plants in Karjat Tahsil of Ahmednagar District, Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT: Wild edible plants are gaining worldwide recognition for their high nutraceutical value and health advantages, as well as for their potential to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, food security, nutrition, dietary diversity, and income generation. Literature on wild edible plants from the research area was limited. The current study aimed to identify and categorize Wild Edible Plants in the Karjat Tahsil in the Ahmednagar district to compile a database of the wild edible plants of this area. During the summer of 2022, fieldwork and visits were carried out in rural areas of Karjat such Rashin, Kombhali, Kangudwadi, and Koregaon. A literature search, frequent inquiries, and talks with experts are all part of the technique. Interviews and observation techniques were also used to gather primary data. To gather wild edible plants, field trips were made to meet with tribal members. Flora images were captured in several locations. The information is represented in the tabulated form as botanical name, local name, edible parts, family, and uses of the plants. The present study revealed that during the field survey, a total of 56 Wild Edible Plant species belonging to 47 genera and 31 families were reported in the Karjat Tahsil of the Ahmednagar district. Most dominant Wild Edible Plants were recorded from the family Amaranthaceae and Fabaceae (6 species each), followed by Rutaceae (4 species), then Asteraceae, Cucurbitaceae, and Convolvulaceae (3 species each). It has been also observed that leaves (18 species) and fruits (13 species) were the most used part for medicinal purposes, followed by roots (10 species), whole plant (9 species), and seeds (9 species). This traditional knowledge has never been reported before from selected area. As a result, this is the first investigation of exploring Wild Edible Plants in the Karjat area of the Ahmednagar district. This research can be useful as a foundation for information on wild edible plants for the study area.

Keywords: Wild Edible Plants, Nutraceutical, Medicinal use, Biodiversity, Traditional knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

Global food deficiency is rising as a result of the population's fast increase. To solve this problem, food production must be increased to meet the demands of the expanding population (Noor and Satapathy 2022). It was reported that 815 million people around the world were food and nutritionally-insecure in 2016, up from 777 million in 2015. These statistics show that one of the most pressing problems facing humanity right now is a lack of food. Currently, wild edible plants provide a considerable contribution to the world's food supply (Ojelel *et al.*, 2019). About 20000 species are known to be edible in the wild out of the over 42 2000 plant taxa that have been recorded globally. For their daily caloric needs, more than 85% of the world's population relies on less than 20 plant species. 553 different tribal people use around 9500 wild plants in the Indian subcontinent alone for food, medicine, and other uses (Doni and Gajurel 2020). Although they are neither domesticated nor grown, wild edible plants can still be found in their natural habitat and are a source of food (Kidane and Kejela 2021). Wild edible plants are now acknowledged on a global basis for their potential to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity, food security, nutrition, dietary diversity, and revenue production due to their high nutritional and nutraceutical properties. Sadly, because their value is still unclear, their utilization is still limited compared to their economic potential (Huang *et al.,* 2016). According to multiple ethnopharmacological research, recent studies have concentrated on the use of wild edible plants as a food and medicine source for the treatment of various illnesses like diabetes, jaundice, wounds, and cancer, among others (Datta *et al.*, 2019). Yangdon *et al.* (2022) documented the species diversity of Wild Edible Plants and their uses in eastern Bhutan and listed 52 species of Wild Edible Plants from 35 different families. The results indicated that 42% of people were found to regularly consume Wild Edible Plants content. Additionally, districts, age groups, and degrees of indigenous knowledge all strongly influenced differences in Wild Edible Plants consumption. They concluded that Bhutan should prioritize domesticating and agriculturally processing Wild Edible Plants to make use of their nutritional value and possible economic advantages to improve food security there. Ridwane *et*

al., (2022) evaluated the nutritional value and chemical composition of six wild edible plants which were commonly consumed in the Al-Haouz region of Morocco. It was found that these wild edible plants are rich sources of carbohydrates and proteins with low amounts of fats. They further emphasized that these Wild Edible Plants were significant nutritional resources that need to be acknowledged to support rural communities and protect the gene pool that domestication has placed at risk. Cheng *et al.* (2022) carried out an ethnobotanical study on Wild Edible Plants used by the Dulong people in northwestern Yunnan, China. They identified and listed 148 species of Wild Edible Plants belonging to 58 families. Out of these, wild vegetables (71), wild fruits (52), staple food substitutes (15), spices (7), nuts (4), tea substitutes (2), liquor-making materials (3), oils and fats (3), and culinary coagulants were consumed by the Dulong people. Al-Fatimi (2021) conducted an ethnobotanical survey on Wild Edible Plants in the Yemen region of Arabian Peninsula and reported a total of 58 plant species belonging to 37 genera and 21 families from the study region. According to the study, the fruit leaves and stems were the most commonly consumed edible portions. Herbs (31 species), shrubs (16 species), and trees (9) were identified as the most significant sources.

Aryal *et al.* (2018) studied the diversity and use of wild and non-cultivated edible plants in the Western Himalayas, India. They identified and recorded 99 Wild and none cultivated Edible Plants of 59 families. Out of which, ninety-six were angiosperms, one gymnosperm, and two pteridophytes. They further reported that 35 species of Wild and None cultivated Edible Plants were used in a variety of ways, forty as fruits and thirty-one used as vegetables. Khilari and Sharma (2016) evaluated the ascorbic acid content of 10 wild fruits from the Ahmednagar District in Maharashtra, India, and compared it to that of more widely consumed fruits. The results showed that the wild fruit's vitamin C capacity was good to outstanding for consumption, so it will be better to consume wild fruits as compared to vitamin C-rich supplements. Tapan (2014) assessed the antioxidant activities of seven Wild Edible Plants e.g. *Allium schoenoprasum*, *Carica papaya*, *Neptunia oleracea*, *Eurya acuminata*, *Hodgsonia heteroclita*, *Brassica nigra* and *Flacourtia jangomas* collected from Meghalaya state in India and suggested that these Wild Edible Plants can act as a natural antioxidant.

The tribal and rural population of Karjat Tahsil has a very long tradition of a close relationship with wild plants. They used a variety of wild edible plants to satisfy their dietary, medical, and economic needs. They can safely eat the leaves, shoots, tubers, fruits, seeds, and other portions of these plants. When a thorough literature survey has undertaken, it was observed a scarcity of literature on Wild Edible Plants from this study area. It is important to develop a database of Wild Edible Plants in this region of Ahmednagar district. Considering the above fact, the present study has been undertaken to identify and document Wild Edible Plants used by rural communities of Karjat Tahsil of Ahmednagar district, Maharashtra.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area. The Karjat Tahsil, which has a total size of 1,440 km^2 and is located in the southern part of the Ahmednagar district at latitudes 18019'86" to 18049'86" N and longitudes 74043'20" to 75013'20" E, was the site of the current study. The Karjat Tahsil is more vulnerable to drought conditions due to its below-average rainfall. With temperatures averaging between 38 and 45°C during the summer, conditions are hotter than typical. Wintertime lows typically range from 23 to 29°C. The selected area has a variety of vegetation, including the Rehekuri Blackbug Sanctuary (Palve *et al.*, 2020).

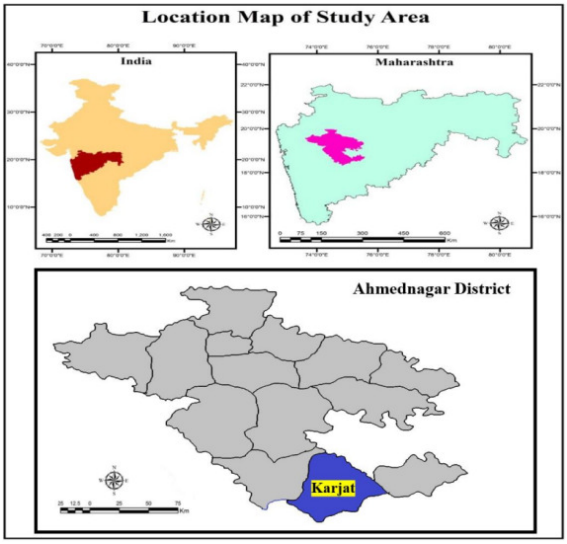


Fig. 1. Map of study area (Palve *et al.*, 2020).

METHODOLOGY

Field surveys and visits were conducted in rural areas of Karjat such as Rashin, Kombhali, Kangudwadi, Koregaon, etc. during the year 2022. The methodology will include a search of the literature, repeated inquiries, and discussions with the experts. To get primary data, interviews, and observation techniques were also employed. Field visits were made with tribal people to collect wild edible plants. Photographs of the plant species were taken from various localities. Based on morphological and reproductive characteristics, plant species were collected. The information gathered was tabulated and listed according to the plant's botanical name, local name, edible parts, family, and uses. Using information from the plant list, the scientific names of the various plant species were determined (http://www.theplantlist.org). With the help of The Flora of the Presidency of Bombay Vol. III T. Cooke (1908 and 1958, Repr. ed.), Hooker's Flora of British India (1875), Flora of Solapur District (2015) and the Department of Botany Dada Patil Mahavidyalaya, Karjat, list of Wild edible plants were identified and confirmed.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In the current research work, authors have identified and documented Wild Edible Plants from the Karjat Tahsil of the Ahmednagar district. The study revealed that during the field survey, a total of 56 species of Wild Edible Plants were reported in the study region. Information regarding their botanical name, local name, family, edible parts, and uses are listed in Table 1. These plants were belonging to 47 genera and 31 families. The two families Amaranthaceae and Fabaceae, each with six species, had the most common wild edible plants, followed by Rutaceae (4 species), Asteraceae, Cucurbitaceae, and Convolvulaceae (3 species each). Local people of Karjat Tahsil used these Wild Edible Plants to treat a variety of diseases of the cardiovascular system, hepatic system, respiratory system, urinary system, reproductive system, and cancer. Also, it has been noted that the majority of plant parts utilized for medicinal purposes were leaves (18 species), followed by various parts (15), fruits (13 species), roots (10 species), the whole plant (9 species) and seeds (9 species). A number of parts used for treating various ailments are represented in Fig. 2. The findings of the current study are in context with previous research work. Medisetti *et al.*, (2023) documented wild plants used by tribal people in Rampachodavaram Division, Alluri Sitaramaraju District, Andhra Pradesh. They reported a total of 50 Wild Plants belonging to 39 and 28 families used for different purposes. In the Lawat area of the Neelum Valley, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Ijaz *et al.* (2022) likewise reported 61 wild food plants. They further emphasized that all these species had either been consumed raw or cooked as vegetables or fruits, or both. There were 32 species utilized as vegetables, 13 species as fruits, 10 species as herbal tea, and 6 species as toppings. Similarly, Doni and Gajurel (2020) reported 125 Wild Edible Plants traditionally used by the Galo tribe of the Indian Eastern Himalayan state of Arunachal Pradesh. These plants were belonging to 99 genera and 54 families. These results showed that the majority of these species were used as green vegetables, fruits, medicines, spices, condiments, and a grain alternative. In another study, Kuvar and Shinde (2019) reported a total of 64 wild plant species belonging to 58 genera and 41 families used as food from Nashik district, Maharashtra. Various Wild Edible Plants in the form of botanical name, local name, family and edible parts and uses are listed below:

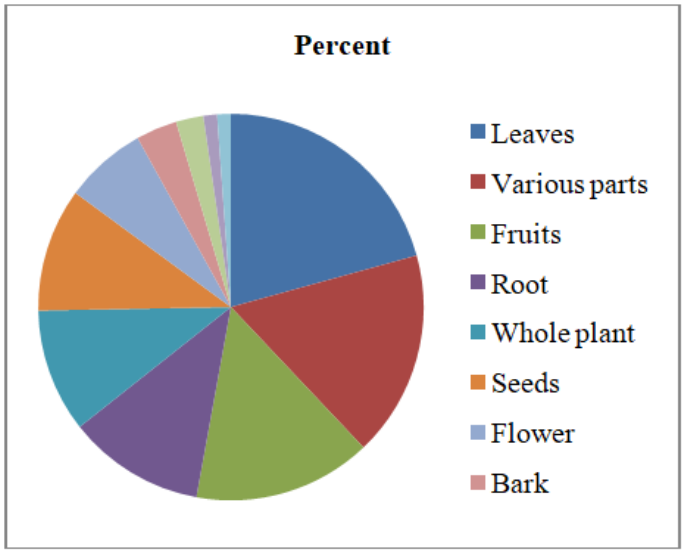


Fig. 2. Representation of number of parts used for medicinal purposes.

Table 1: List of Wild Edible Plants used by local communities of Karjat region.

Sr. No.	Botanical Name	Local Names	Family	Edible Parts	Uses	References
1.	*Achyranthus aspera* L.	Aghada	Amaranthaceae	Leaves	Ear infection	(Kshirsagar *et al*., 2018)
2.	*Aegle marmelos* L.	Bel	Rutaceae	Leaves, Fruits	Anti-diabetic, anti-diarrheal, anti-inflammatory, anti-ulcer	(Havaldar *et al*., 2020)
3.	*Amaranthus blitum* L.	Purple amaranth	Amaranthaceae	Root	Leucorrhea, gastric problems, boil, burns, nausea, menorrhagia	(Nehal *et al*., 2015)
				Whole plant	Cooling agent	
4.	*Amaranthus hypochondriacus* L.	Rajgira	Amaranthaceae	Seeds	Hepatoprotective	(Peter *et al*., 2017)
5.	*Amaranthus tricolor* L.	Tandulsa	Amaranthaceae	Whole plant	Anti-inflammatory and anti-diabetic	(Peter *et al*., 2017)
6.	*Amaranthus viridis* L.	Math	Amaranthaceae	Whole plant	Anti-pyretic	(Peter *et al*., 2017)
7.	*Annona squamosa* L.	Sitaphal	Annonaceae	Fruits	Anti-cancer, anti-oxidant, anti-diabetic, anti-hypertensive, hepatoprotective, anti-parasitic, anti-malarial, insecticidal, microbicidal and molluscicidal	(Ma *et al*., 2017)
8.	*Annona reticulata* L.	Ramphal	Annonaceae	Root	Anti-convulsant	(Kumar *et al*., 2021)
9.	*Boerhavia diffusa* L.	Punarnava	Nyctaginaceae	Whole Plant	Disorders of reproductive system, gastrointestinal system, respiratory system, urinary system, hepatic system or jaundice, cardiovascular system and cancer	(Mishra *et al*., 2014)
10.	*Boerhavia erecta* L.	Erect Boerhavia	Nyctaginaceae	Whole plant	Anti-Inflammatory	(Compaore *et al*., 2018)
11.	*Cassia tora* L.	Tarota	Fabaceae	Root, Leaves, seeds	Laxative, leprosy, ringworm infection, ophthalmic, skin diseases and liver disorders	(Pawar and D'mello 2011)
12.	*Carissa carandas* L.	Karvand	Apocynaceae	Whole plant	Leprosy, nerve diseases, anorexia, headache, chest complaints, rheumatism, edema, gonorrhea, syphilis, rabies	(Bhowmick *et al*., 2023)
13.	*Carthamus tinctorius* L.	Kardai	Asteraceae	Flowers	Enhancing hair growth, neuroprotective, hypotensive, antimicrobial	(Delshad *et al*., 2018)
				Fruit and Leaves	Vitiligo and black spots, psoriasis, mouth ulcers, pain relief, anti-poison (scorpion), treatment of numb limbs	
				Seeds	Laxative, semen improvement, rheumatism and paralysis	
14.	*Celosia argentea* L.	Kurdu	Amaranthaceae	Leaves and Seeds	Famine foods	(Fletcher, 2016)
15.	*Chenopodium album* L.	Chandan batava	Chenopodiaceae	Whole plant	Blood purifier, diuretic, sedative, hepatoprotective, anti-scorbutic laxative and as an anthelmentic against round and hookworms.	(Poonia and Upadhayay 2015)
16.	*Citrus medica* L.	Mahalungi	Rutaceae	Flowers	Anti-depressant, Astringent	(Rani and Gill 2021)
				Fruits	Stimulant, digestible, tonic, relieves leprosy, cure sore throat, cough, asthma,	
17.	*Cissus quadrangularis* L.	Khandvel	Vitaceae	Aerial parts	Analgesic, anti-inflammatory, anti-convulsant, anti-microbial, anti-cancer, anti-osteoporotic activity and other bone-related disorders	(Bafna *et al*., 2021)
18.	*Cleome gynandra* L.	Pandhri-Tilwan	Capparaceae	Whole plant	Anti-inflammatory, free radical scavenging, anti-cancerous, immunomodulator, and anti-diabetic	(Adhikari and Paul 2018)
19.	*Coccinia grandis* (L.) Voight	Tondli	Cucurbitaceae	Leaves	Wound healing	(Namchaiw *et al*., 2021)
				Fruits	Cell proliferative, anti-microbial, anti-oxidant	(Sakharkar and Chauhan 2017)
20.	*Colocasia esculenta* L. Schott	Alu	Araceae	Leaves	Asthma, arthritis, diarrhea, internal hemorrhage, neurological disorders and skin disorders.	(Sudhakar *et al*., 2020)
21.	*Commiphora wightii* (Engl.)	Guggul	Burseraceae	Various parts	Anti-microbial, anti-inflammatory, anti-carcinogenic, arthritis, hepatic anti-oxidant defense system	(Jasuja *et al*., 2012)

22.	*Convolvulus arvensis* L.	Chandvel	Convolvulaceae	Root and resin	Diuretic, laxative and purgative	(Azman *et al*., 2015)
				Flower	Laxative, wounds and fever	
23.	*Cordia dichotoma* Forst.F. Prodr.	Bhokar	Boraginaceae	Leaves, fruit, bark and seed	Anti-diabetic, anti-ulcer, anti-inflammatory, immune-modulator and analgesic	(Jamkhande *et al*., 2013)
24.	*Cucumis sativus* L.	Kakdi	Cucurbitaceae	Fruit	Glycemic lowering ability, anti-microbial, anti-oxidant	(Sharma *et al*., 2020)
25.	*Delonix regia* Boj.ex Hook.	Gulmohar	Fabaceae	Leaves	Cardioprotective	(Wang *et al*., 2016)
				Various parts	Constipation, inflammation, rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, pneumonia, and malaria, anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant, anti-microbial, anti-diarrhoeal, anti-diabetic, hepatopretective, wound healing and gastroprotective	
26.	*Euphorbia hypericifolia* L.	Kadehura	Euphorbiaceae	Various parts	Female disorders, respiratory ailments (cough, coryza, bronchitis, and asthma), worm infestations in children, dysentery, jaundice, pimples, gonorrhea, digestive problems and tumors.	(Kumar *et al*., 2010)
27.	*Euphorbia prostrate Ait. Hort.*	Gondan	Euphorbiaceae	Various parts	Snake bite remedy, anti-hemorrhoidal, anti-inflammatory, analgesic, hypolipidemic, anti-diabetic, anti-dirroheal, anti-asthmatic and for various skin diseases.	(Sharma *et al*., 2012)
28.	*Ficus racemosa* L.	Umbar	Moraceae	Leaves	Bilious infections, as a douche in dysmenorrhea, as a wash for wounds and ulcers, massaged on hair to prevent splitting, on boils, blisters and measles	(Ahmed and Urooj 2010)
				Fruit	Astringent, stomachic, carminative, diarrhea and constipation	
				Bark	Astringent	
				Latex	Aphrodisiac	
29.	*Ficus religiosa* L.	Pimpal	Moraceae	Various parts	Cure asthma, diabetes, diarrhea, epilepsy, gastric problems, inflammatory disorders, infectious disorders and sexual disorders	(Singh *et al*., 2011)
30.	*Hibiscus sabdariffa* L.	Lal-Ambadi	Malvaceae	Plant extract	Anti-bacterial, anti-oxidant, nephroprotective and hepatoprotective, diuretic effect, effects on lipid metabolism (anti-cholesterol), anti-diabetic and anti-hypertensive	(Da-Costa-Rocha *et al*., 2014)
31.	*Ipomoea batatas* L.	Ratale	Convolvulaceae	Various parts	Antioxidant, cardioprotective, anti-inflammatory, anti-cancer, anti-diabetic, antimicrobial, anti-obesity and prevention of vitamin A malnutrition	(Khairul Alam, 2021)
32.	*Ipomoea quamoclit* L.	Ganeshvel	Convolvulaceae	Whole plant	Antidiabetic	Paul and Sinha,2016
				Stem	Antimicrobial	
				Leaves	Anticancer	
33.	*Lactuca sativa* L.	Lettuce	Asteraceae	Leaves	Relieves pain, stomach problems and inflammation, and urinary tract infections, anti-microbial, anti-oxidant, neuroprotective, and hypnotic effects	(Noumedem *et al*., 2017)
34.	*Lantana camara* L.	Ghaneri	Verbenaceae	Leaves	Anti-ulcer, Anti-hyperglycemic, Wound healing, Anti-cancer and anti-proliferative	(Kalita *et al*., 2012)
				Flowers	Antibacterial	
35.	*Limonia acidissima* L.	Kavath	Rutaceae	Fruits	Liver and cardiac tonic.	(Murthy and Dalawai 2019)
36.	*Moringa oleifera* Lam.	Shevga	Moringaceae	Leaves and buds	Headache	(Anzano *et al*., 2021)
				Roots and root bark	Anti-scorbutic	
				Dried seeds	Used in ophthalmic preparation, venereal affection anti-inflammatory, purgative and as tonic.	

37.	*Murraya koenigii* L.	Kadhipatta	Rutaceae	Leaves	Treat Piles, inflammation, itching, fresh cuts, dysentery, bruises, and edema	(Balakrishnan *et al*., 2020)
				Roots	Purgative, stimulant, Body ache	
				Bark	Snakebites	
38.	*Pandanus odorifer*Forssk.	Kewda	Pandanaceae	Inflorescence	Headaches, ear-aches, rheumatic pains and several skin diseases	(Deo *et al*., 2019)
39.	*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.	Shravan Ghevada	Fabaceae	Beans	Helpful in diabetes and obesity	Loko*et al*., 2018
40.	*Phyllanthus acidus* L.	Rai Awla	Phyllanthaceae	Fruits	Inflammatory, rheumatism, bronchitis, asthma, respiratory disorder, hepatic diseases and diabetes	Tan *et al*., 2020
41.	*Pithecellobium dulce* (Roxb.) Benth.	Vilayati chinch	Fabaceae	Various parts	Ear ache, leprosy, peptic ulcer, toothache, venereal disease, emollient, abortifacient, anodyne and larvicides	(Murugesan *et al*., 2019)
42.	*Plumbago zeylanica* L.	Chitrak	Plumbaginaceae	Root	Anti-atherogenic, cardiotonic, hepatoprotective, neuroprotective	(Sung *et al*., 2012)
43.	*Portulaca oleracea* L.	Ghol	Portulacaceae	Various parts	Treats burns, headache, and diseases related to the intestine, liver, stomach, cough, shortness of breath, and arthritis, purgative, cardiac tonic, emollient, muscle relaxant, anti-inflammatory and diuretic treatment	(Uddin *et al*., 2014)
44.	*Portulaca quadrifida* L.	Chigal	Portulacaceae	Various parts	Anti-helminthic, stomach complaints and gonorrhea	(Patil *et al*., 2012)
45.	*Psidium guajava* L.	Peru	Myrtaceae	Various parts	Diarrhea, dysentery, gastroenteritis, hypertension, diabetes, pain reliever	(Naseer *et al*., 2018)
46.	*Raphanus sativus* L.	Mula	Brassicaceae	Roots	Jaundice, gallstone, liver diseases, rectal prolapse, indigestion, and other gastric pains	(Banihani, 2017)
47.	*Sesamum indicum* L.	Til	Pedaliaceae	Seeds	Hemorrhoids, dysentery, constipation, cough, amenorrhea, dysmenorrhea, ulcers, and hair loss, as a topical ointment, lactation agent, diuretic, tonic, and pain reliever.	(Wei *et al*., 2022)
48.	*Sesbania grandiflora* L.	Hadga	Fabaceae	Various parts	Hepatoprotective and cardioprotective	(Pajaniradje *et al*., 2014)
				Flowers	Anti-cancer, anti-microbial	
				Roots	Anti-tuberculosis activity	
49.	*Solanum melongena* L.	Vangi	Solanaceae	Fruits, various parts	Diabetes, leprosy, gonorrhea, cholera, bronchitis, dysuria, dysentery, asthenia and hemorrhoids	(Das and Barua 2013)
50.	*Sonchus asper* L.	Mhatara	Asteraceae	Leaves	Skin ailments	(Upadhyay *et al*., 2013)
51.	*Syzygium cumini* L.	Jambhul	Myrtaceae	Fruit	Anti-diabetic	(Ayyanar and Subash-Babu 2012)
52.	*Tinospora cordifolia* Willd.	Gulvel	Menispermaceae	Various parts	Leprosy, fever, asthma, anorexia, jaundice, gout, skin infections, diabetes, chronic diarrhea, dysentery,	(Upadhyay *et al*., 2010)
53.	*Tribulus terriestris* L.	Sarata	Zygophyllaceae	Various parts	Tonic, aphrodisiac, palliative, astringent, stomachic, anti-hypertensive, diuretic, lithotriptic, and urinary disinfectant	(Chhatre *et al*., 2014)
54.	*Trichosanthes anguina* L.	Padval	Cucurbitaceae	Root and stem	Cathartic	(Thakur and Kothale 2018)
				Leaves	Liver congestion	
				Seed	Stomach disorders	
55.	*Trigonella foenum-graecum* L.	Methi	Fabaceae	Leaves and Seeds	Diabetes, hypercholesterolemia, hepatoprotective, anti-cancer	(Goyal *et al*., 2016)
56.	*Ziziphus jujube Mill.*	Bor	Rhamnaceae	Fruits	Emollient, laxative, and maturative, purify blood and improve blood circulation, relieve internal heat and reduce inflammation	(Sobhani *et al*., 2020)

Cordia dichotoma

Tribulus terrestris

Portulaca quadrifolia

Pandanus amaryllifolius

Amaranthus hypochondriacus

Trigonella foenum-graecum

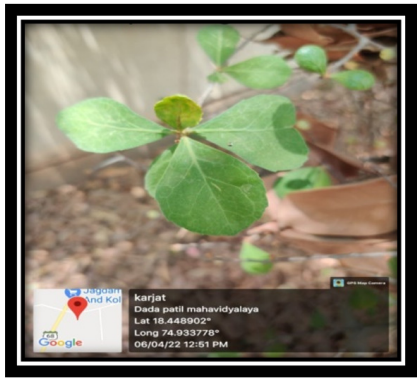
Lactuca serriola

Chenopodium vulvaria

Sonchus oleraceus

Carthamus tinctorius

Phaseolus vulgaris



Commiphora glandulosa

Plate 1

Ipomoea quamoclit

Cleome gynandra

Pithecellobium dulce

Aegle marmelos

Citrus medica

Delonix regia

Phyllanthus acidus

Raphanus sativus

Carissa carandas

Amaranthus blitum

Coccinia grandis

Plumbago zeylanica

Plate 2

CONCLUSIONS

Overall, the current study is significant for understanding the Wild Edible Plants in Karjat Tahsil of the Ahmednagar district because it offers a preliminary list of plants. From the current research work, it can be concluded that the Wild Edible Plant variety is abundant in the Karjat region. The present study identified 56 Wild Edible Plants that were used by the local people of Karjat Tahsil to fulfill their dietary, medical, and economic needs. This is the first report documenting Wild Edible Plants in the Karjat Tahsil of the Ahmednagar district. It is crucial to research and preserve such important knowledge before it entirely disappears due to environmental changes, the lack of interest among younger generations in traditional wisdom, and the urbanization of natural forests. More research should be done to confirm the nutritional composition and pharmacological potential of Wild Edible Plants to increase public appreciation for them. Further research should be done on Wild Edible Plants that are under threat of extinction but have significant nutraceutical and medicinal potential for biodiversity preservation, medicine development, and sustainable use.

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Conflict of interest. None.

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