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Review Article

**MEDICINAL PLANT CONSERVATION IN SACRED GROVES G
HANTESWARI, SAMBALPUR, ODISHA**

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Nuapada, Odisha, India²Dept. of Pharmacology, Batakrushna College of Pharmacy, Nuapada, Odisha, India³Dept. of Botany, Govt. Women's College, Sambalpur, Odisha, India**Article Received:** July 2022**Accepted:** August 2022**Published:** September 2022**Abstract:**

A sacred grove, sometimes known as a sacred forest, is a collection of natural vegetation that can range in size from a few trees to several acres. Due to their religious beliefs and long-standing customs, the local communities have vowed to maintain the areas of these sacred woods. An effort was undertaken in this survey to catalogue the medical uses of plants discovered in the Sacred Groves Ghanteswari in Sambalpur, Odisha. The investigation in the Maa Ghanteswari Sacred Groves led to the discovery of 20 species from 16 groups that are significant for medicine. These plants have spiritual significance in addition to their therapeutic value. The natives protect these plants because they hold them in high regard.

Key Words: - Sacred groves, Medicinal Plants, Biodiversity conservation, Maa Ghanteswari Sacred Groves

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INTRODUCTION:

The natives defend and preserve the pristine forests known as "Sacred Groves" by leaving them unspoiled because of their culture and religious beliefs. Sacred groves are traces of a past dominated by plants. In addition to acting as the final holdout for the rich culture and customs of the indigenous people, they also act as the main storage areas for our rich biodiversity. Around 2166 sacred groves are thought to exist in the state of Odisha, mostly in tribal areas. These areas had a wide variety of plants. The plants in sacred groves have significant medical value. Ethnomedicinal importance of plants well studied by Sahu et.al (2022) [1]& Gardia et.al (2022) [2] in Nuapada district, Mishra et.al (2022) [3] in Sambalpur District. Ethnomedicinal importance Of Sacred groves plants reported by Rao et al, (2011) [4], Adeniyi et al, (2018) [5], Singh et al, (2014) [6]. In this survey, an effort was made to document the medicinal applications of plants found in the Sacred Groves Ghanteswari in Sambalpur, Odisha.

MATERIAL & METHOD:**STUDY AREA**

In Sambalpur, Maa Ghanteswari Temple is among the most revered and stunning locations. Bells (Ghanti), as the name suggests, are present

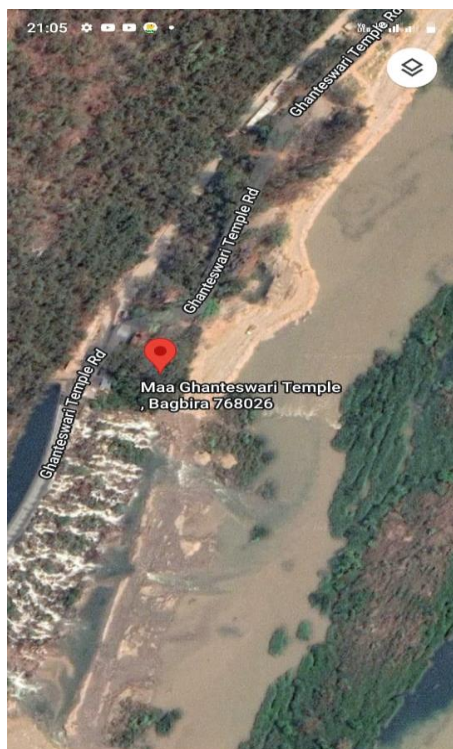
everywhere. Following the realisation of their wishes, people present Maa with bells. On the banks of the Mahanadi River, 33 kilometres south-west of Sambalpur, is where you'll find the Ghanteswari Temple. The navigators were made aware of this tremorous site and avoided it because there used to be some large bells on this location that were producing a loud sound with the help of the wind. It has a wide variety of plants.

During April to July 2022, a survey was conducted to gather data on the medicinal plants that could be found at the study site. The current data was compiled using pre-designed questionnaires, in-depth interviews, and regular fieldwork with local vaidyas and indigenous peoples from nearby villages. Some of the common plants found in the area were immediately identified during the study. In order to assure appropriate identification, unidentified plants were photographed and their flowering twigs were carried to the lab. There, they were recognized and validated using botanical keys found in the regional standard flora book Saxena and Brahaman (1996) [7].

RESULTS:etails of medicinal plants found in Maa Ghanteswari Sacred Groves given in Table no-1

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Sl. No.	Local Name	Botanical Name	Family	Part Used	Application
1	Tentuli	<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	<i>Fabaceae</i>	Seed	Used to check Menstrual Bleeding
2	Duba	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	<i>Poaceae</i>	leaf	Used for treatment of skin problem.
3	Bar	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	<i>Moraceae</i>	Bark, Leaf, Seed,	Used in treatment of skin disorder, diarrhoea, wound and burn.
4	Dumer	<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	<i>Moraceae</i>	All part	Used in liver disoder, diarrhoea diabetes
5	Pipal	<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	<i>Moraceae</i>	Leaves	Used as anti ulcer, antibacteria
6	Ramjada	<i>Jatropha curcas</i>	<i>Euphorbiaceae</i>	Latex and Leaves	Use for treatment of diarrhoea,dysentery etc
7	Benjati	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i>	<i>Lythraceae</i>	All part	Used as Antioxidant,Hypogycemic agent
8	Baul	<i>Mimusops elengi</i>	<i>Sapotaceae</i>	flower,bark	Used as Cardiotonic,Braintonic
9	Sahaj	<i>Terminali tomentosa</i>	<i>Combretaceae</i>	Bark	Used as Antifungal agent
10	Buro	<i>Zizyphus mauritiana</i>	<i>Rhamnaceae</i>	Bark,Fruit	Used to Improve muscle strength
11	Bhuinleam	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	<i>Acanthaceae</i>	All part	Use in diabetes and ulcer
12	Aphamarga	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	<i>Amaranthaceae</i>	Whole plant	Cough,jundice,Anemia
13	Aparajita	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	<i>Fabaceae</i>	Root and seed	Used in Jundice and Hairfall
14	Neem	<i>Azadirecta indica</i>	<i>Meliaceae</i>	Leaf	Used in Diabetic skin problem
15	Sitafal	<i>Annona squamosa</i>	<i>Annonaceae</i>	Seed, Fruit, Leaf	Used to abolish lice, treatment of ulcer etc.
16	Jam	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	<i>Myrtaceae</i>	Fruit	Used as Anti diabetic
17	Dumer	<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	<i>Moraceae</i>	All part	Used in diarrhea and diabetes
18	Bel	<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	<i>Rutaceae</i>	Leaf	Used in High BP
19	kendu	<i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i>	<i>Ebenaceae</i>	Fruit	Used in High BP
20	Gheekunri	<i>Aloe vera</i>	<i>Asphodelaceae</i>	Leaf	Used for controlling High blood sugar, skin and dental care



Satellite view of Maa Ghanteswari sacred groves
Source-Google map



CONCLUSION

20 species from 16 families that are important for medicine were discovered throughout the course of the inquiry in the Maa Ghanteswari Sacred Groves. The therapeutic benefit of these plants is important, but they also have spiritual significance. Due to their religious beliefs, the locals safeguard these plants. These studies demonstrate that sacred woods are the habitat of numerous therapeutic plants that have historically been preserved by ethnic groups.

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