

# Ethnobotanical Importance of Some Weeds of Sri Ganganagar District of Rajasthan

## Abstract

The present paper deals with some useful weeds of Sri Ganganagar district. The plant species that is unwanted can be termed as weeds. They are in general harmful to the crops but tribal and traditional communities used them for treatment of different diseases. Here 20 plants are described with their uses. The data presented here are given with their botanical name, family, local name, parts used and medicinal uses.

**Keywords:** Ethnobotany, Weeds, Medicinal Uses.

## Introduction

Any plant that is unwanted can be termed as weed. Weeds are in general harmful to the main crops. Weeds generally spread in field over the crops. These plant species are generally controlled from crop field and destroyed. The tribal and traditional communities of Rajasthan state used them for treatment of various diseases. Rajasthan include 12.6% of tribal population. Medicinally important weeds can be collected from field and use for cure the diseases. Weeds are also played an important role in Ayurveda medicine.. Quite a number of plants considered as weeds in modern science have significant value in ethno botany.

Swami and Gupta (1996) gave a note on 20 commonly occurring medicinal weeds of Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. According to Saika and Hussain (2005) weeds are highly efficacious as medicine against some common diseases and other health problems of man. Role of weeds in ayurvedic medicine was described by Govindiah (1981). In 1996 Bhattacharyya gave some medicinal uses of weeds of Saurashtra.

On the traditional uses of weeds a little work has been carried out in India. The medicinal plants of Rajasthan have been studied for their ethnobotanical accept by many workers such as Kapoor and Ranga (2005) have discussed about the protection and conservation of medicinal plants wealth of Rajasthan. Kapoor and Prajapat (2010) studied the medicinal trees of Shekhawati region of Rajasthan used in folk and herbal medicines. Sharma and Kumar (2011) described about the ethnobotanical studies on medicinal plants of Rajasthan.

## Aim of the Study

This paper provides information on some medicinal weeds of Sri Ganganagar district used in the treatment of various health disorders.

## Study Area

The Sriganganagar is a northern most district of Rajasthan state of western India between 28.4 to 30.6 N Latitude and 72.2 to 75.3 E longitude. It constitutes a part of the great Indian desert. It is spreading over 11,154.66 sq km. It is surrounded by on the east by Hanumangarh district. On the south by Bikaner district and on the west by. Bahawal Nagar district of Pakistani Punjab and on north by Punjab. The average annual temperature is 24.9° C. The average annual rainfall is 261 mm. Sriganganagar district is considered as irrigated desert and is dominated by agriculture and agriculture based industries.

## Methodology

The weeds plants were collected from field of Sri Ganganagar district. The plants were collected in fruiting and flowering stage. Collected plant specimens were preserved in the form of herbarium sheets. The plants specimens were identified with the help of Flora of Rajasthan by Singh & Shetty (1993). The medicinal value of weeds was gained by the personal contact of local people, aged rural folks, traditional ayurvedic practitioners, local herbal drug sellers.



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**Result and Discussion**

Study revealed that 20 weed species of Sri Ganganagar district are useful as source of medicines. The result are tabulated in the form of

botanical name, family, local name, parts used and medicinal uses of weeds.

**Table**  
**A List of Medicinal Plants Used For Various Diseases Along With Part Used**

S. No.	Botanical Name	Family	Local Name	Part/Parts used	Medicinal uses
1	Ageratum conyzoides	Asteraceae	Goat weed/ Chick weeds	Root, Leaves	Stomachache, wound healing and heal broken bones.
2	Argemone mexicana L.	Papaveraceae	Satyanashi	Latex, Root, Seeds	Jaundice, Expectorant, Stomachache, Skin diseases, Blood purifier
3	Asphodelus tenuifolius	Liliaceae	Piazi	Whole plant, Roots, Seeds, Juices	The powder of seeds is given with milk of cow to cure piles. The paste of leaves is applied to scorpion bite. The juice obtained from root and leaves is given in Jaundice.
4	Chenopodium album L.	Chenopodiaceae	Bathua	Whole Plant	Leaves and tender twigs are consumed as vegetable in kidney stone problem.
5	Cleome viscosa L.	Cleomaceae	Bhangra	Leaves seeds	Fever, Dysentery, Headache Earache
6	Convolvulus arvensis L.	Convolvulaceae	Hiranpagi	Vegetative parts	The whole plant is dried under shade and made into powder (Phakki) and is given to domestic animals to increase appetite.
7	Convolvulus microphyllus	Convolvulaceae	Santari	Whole plant	Laxative Brain Tonic
8	Corchorus olitorius L.	Tiliaceae	Chamghas	Leaves, Seeds	Fever, Dysentery Appetiser, Skin disorders.
9	Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers	Poaceae	Doob, Dubghas	Inflorescence, Fruits	Piles, Dysentery, Wounds, Coolant Pain reliever Skin disorders.
10	Cyperus rotundus L.	Cyperaceae	Motha	Bulb, Root, Rhizome	Dysentery Jaundice, Urinary complaints, Tonsillitis
11	Fumaria indica	Fumariaceae	Pitpara	Root, Stem, leaves	laxative, diuretic and also effective in skin diseases, body pain
12	Launea procumbens	Asteraceae	Vangobi, Jungli gobi	Entire Plant	Skin diseases, Jaundice, Gonorrhoea, Liver disorders
13	Melilotus indica	Fabaceae	Banmethi	Seeds	Seeds used in bowel complaints & infantile diarrhoea.
14	Oxalis corniculata	Oxalidiaceae	Khati-butti	Leaves, flowers	cooling medicines especially in dysentery.
15	Ranunculus scleratus	Ranunculaceae	Jaldhania	Seeds	Asthma, Pneumonia, Rheumatism
16	Ricinus communis L.	Euphorbiaceae	Arand/Erandi	Whole plant	Oil is extracted from the seeds which has many uses as illuminant, Purgative. used in

					Rheumatism and joint pain.
17	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Makao	Leaves, Fruits	Leaves are used for enlargement of liver in children. Fruits are used in fever, diarrhoea, eye diseases.
18	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Asteraceae	Sowthistle	Stem, leaves	Used in the treatment of headaches, general pain, diarrhoea, menstrual problem fever hepatitis, liver infections
19	<i>Tribullus terrestris</i> L.	Zygophyllaceae	Gokhru	Plant extract, seeds	Urinary stone tonic
20	<i>Xanthium Strumarium</i> L.	Asteraceae	Gutputna	Root, leaves, Seeds	Fever, malarial fever, diuretic skin diseases, blood purifier

**Conclusion**

It may be concluded that the tribal population of the studied area used weeds for different purposes such as medicinal and edible purpose. Generally weeds are unwanted in the place and being ignored and thrown away. Weeds compete crops for their requirements such as light water, nutrients, space etc. However weeds have negative impact on crops but if weeds grow properly they can be useful for human being.

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