CHAPTER: 9

METHODOLOGY
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Literature study: Went through regional and local floras and herbarium of Botanical Survey of India Western Circle, Pune (BSI), before starting actual fieldwork, for becoming familiar with the flora of the present area.

For literature on Ethnobiology, library was of great use to chalk out actual plan of study work. After a careful consideration the following format was prepared for using in the data collection during field survey.

INFORMATION ON PLANTS USED BY TRIBAL PEOPLE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Places</th>
<th>Collection No:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recorded by</td>
<td>Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Informer’s name</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Name</td>
<td>Age:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parts Used</td>
<td>Sex:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation &amp; Uses:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cult. / Wild</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fieldwork: Present work is the out-come of several field exploration tours conducted since January 2000. Efforts were made to cover maximum portion of the study area in each tour. Duration of each exploration tour was of 03 - 05 days.

Initially, efforts were made to become familiar & mix-up with the tribal people. For the purpose, their hospitality, in any form was readily accepted and as best as possible was reciprocated during the field study. Those persons who accompanied were given some eatable items, bidis and cigarettes and helping
economically for their favorite drinks which were purchased by me during the field survey of different localities.

Frequently, it was seen that tribal community made known their secrets for example their ethnobiological knowledge, cleverly by telling medicaments knowledge in presence of fellow tribal men because their unique knowledge yields them some sort of status in their community. Nowadays, Govt. and various NGOs are working speedily for their socio-economic development under different schemes and projects viz. Tribal Research & Training Institute (TRTI) and Foundation for Revitalization of Local Health Traditions (FRLHT), Bangalore, etc. The individuals busy workings in these NGOs are very dear to tribal community as they are working for their welfare for long. Some tribal get togethers arranged by Non Government Organisations were also attended. During this tribal medicament discussion, they freely talk about the matter and listen to each other carefully to enrich their own knowledge to get more exposure. One medicine man Mr. Basant from Kune village revealed much of his unique knowledge, which is very useful in ethno-bio-science.

All tribal hamlets are situated inside the forests or very near to forests. Hence, every medicine man was taken to the forest for on the spot collection of voucher specimens, which helped in writing field notes and occurrence of plants and wild animals. Some times, they were ignorant of the name of plant but were fully aware of efficacy of the same. Another thing also noticed was that as soon as they see a plant, and animal or their products, they are able to tell its therapeutic values. Therefore, it was felt indispensable to take these medicinemen to the forests.

**Herbarium methodology**: An effort was made to collect all ethnobiologically important plants, either in flowering or fruiting condition. However, the plants, which could not be collected in flowering or fruiting, field numbers from BSI herbaria belonging to the collections from the same area are given. The collected
specimens were dried in blotters, poisoned, mounted on herbarium sheets by following the standard methodology, as also described by Jain & Rao (1987).

Identification: Every specimen was provisionally identified with Hooker’s Flora of British India, Cooke’s Flora of Bombay Presidency and other recent regional floras e.g. Flora of Raigarh by Kothari and Moorthy (1999) and the Flora of Maharashtra (1996, 2000, 2001) and so also other monographs and latest floras. The identifications were later confirmed by matching the specimens with the authentic specimens of Western Circle, BSI Pune. All the collected specimens are deposited in the herbarium of Western Circle, BSI, Pune. All these specimens are collected by myself and so belong to VSC & hence it is not repeated as such, except otherwise stated.

Systematic enumeration: For easy identification, all families are arranged according to Bentham and Hooker’s system of classification (1862-63) with some adjustment according to their present delimitation. A key to all families, genera and species are mentioned. The enumeration starts with key to the families at the beginning, followed by treatment of each family. Each family is provided with key to the genera and genera are treated alphabetically. For each genus, if it has more than one species, key to species is provided and the species are arranged alphabetically. For each species, the correct nomenclature, with citation and important synonyms are provided. Citation for FBI and important ethnobotanical works are provided. Every possible effort was made to update the nomenclature by following recent floras, certain monographs and as per the International code of Botanical Nomenclature (1992).

Citation: The correct valid name is provided first along with authority and its original place of publication. Then the aforementioned Flora’s reference (i.e. Flora of the British India, Flora of Bombay Presidency and Flora of Maharashtra) is furnished followed by reference of Jain’s Dictionary of Indian Folk Medicine &
Ethnobotany, which is followed by local name within single inverted comma and separated from the citations by 2-3 spaces.

**Description & details:** A brief description of the plant is provided, followed by chemical constituents if known, flowering and fruiting period, reference to illustration in literature, distribution, locality and field numbers.

**Important uses & literature:** In order to get a proper idea regarding uses, the ailment for which the plant is being used is given firstly. Then, information including plant part used, method of recipe, doses etc. are provided. Lastly, reference to important literature is furnished. Here possible efforts were made to scrutinize available literature thoroughly to find out unpublished uses of plants and wild animals; new uses are marked by an asterisk (*).

Besides, Botanical Survey of India Library the following institutions were visited for scrutiny of literature.

Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune  
Central council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha (CCRAS), New Delhi  
Central Council for Research in Homeopathy (CCRH), New Delhi  
Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow  
Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Pusa, New Delhi  
National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow  
National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Pune  
Regional Tribal Research Institute (RTRI), Pune  
University of Delhi (UoD)  
University of Pune (UoP)  
Zoological Survey of India (Western Regional Station), Pune