


Biodiversity and its relationships with toponymy in Dhule and Nandurbar districts (Maharashtra: India)

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ABSTRACT

Man was/is a watchful observer of the surrounding nature what it could offer him. Apart from concrete material use, he also tried the elements of biodiversity for developing abstract relationships like worships, songs, tales, proverbs, etc. The art of communication has its origin at the dawn of civilization. Man coined words for communication. Toponymy is one such way of communication about places, villages, cities, etc. The present author, in this paper, intends to promote dissemination of knowledge encoded in the names of villages or localities of forests in Dhule and Nandurbar districts of Maharashtra. It sheds light on 26 plant species and 12 animal species employed for coining their names. It also seeks utility of toponymic information from socio-economic, phytogeographical and cultural aspects of the said region. Toponymy of a region is thus indicative of local biodiversity.

Key Words: Toponymy, Biodiversity, Dhule-Nandurbar Districts.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Relationship of biodiversity

Biodiversity has its bearing on relationships on civilization, whether the relationships *inter se* is concrete or abstract. Naming of objects, whether plants, animals or localities is, an human instinct. It aids in communication locally as well as internationally.

1.2. Earlier research

Names of places, villages, cities, countries or forests have been also based on elements of biodiversity, either plants or animals (Trivedi, 1993; Mohanty and Tripathy, 2011). Present author endeavored to divulge such bases of nomenclature of some villages, localities or cities in northern part of Maharashtra (Pawar and Patil, 2012 a,b; Tayade and Patil, 2012 a,b). The present paper re-focuses toponymy in the said region intending addition of some hidden information hitherto untapped.

2. METHODOLOGY

During botanisation in the last decade, author came across some interesting names of villages, forest localities, etc. based on plants or animals in Dhule and Nandurbar districts of Maharashtra. Further enquiries were made consulting seniors or heads of villages or hamlets and knowledgeable individuals inhabiting the region. Names of villages are also availed from the erstwhile Dhule District Gazetteer (1974). Dhule district is presently divided into Dhule (proper) and Nandurbar districts. Perceptions received from different informants coupled with personal observations from the standpoint of origin of names were noted. The scientific names of plants/animals, root word of locality, their family, etc. were searched out consulting scientific literature (Patil, 2003; Anonymous, 1974). The information accrued during different visits is provided in Table I, II and III.

3. OBSERVATIONS

Biodiversity has impact on abstract relationship of mankind. This paper attempts to reveal nomenclature of villages and other places based on plant and animal species. Names of villages, hamlets and forest localities were noted during field surveys. These are presented in the Tables 1-3.

4. DISCUSSION

4.1. Relationship of biodiversity and past work

Mankind is intimately connected with his ambient biodiversity in view of his daily sustenance. He developed relationships with it, both concrete and abstract. In latter case, although he does not use and exhaust the material world; he is benefitted through communications, feelings and satisfaction. He always felt a need to name some objects, whether plants, animals or places. Names of plants and animals have been coined based on various sources (Patil, 2007, 2008, 2009, 1998). However; names of places, localities, villages, hamlets, etc. have not been studied satisfactorily. There are very few records of researches related to their toponymy. Present author have tried to bring them under limelight (Tayade and Patil, 2012 a,b). Dhule and Nandurbar districts were studied earlier on this line (Pawar and Patil, 2012). The present account is on the similar line in these districts with some more information.

4.2. Analysis of present work based on plant species

This paper accounts for both plant and animal species employed to coin names of villages or localities in forest areas. Earlier, Pawar and Patil (2012) reported 47 species belonging to 39 genera and 25 families of angiosperms from this region. This paper includes 26 plant species belonging to 22 genera and 21 families of angiosperms (Table 1 & 3). Of these, tree species (18) are more frequently picked up while coining names of villages. Herbs (03) and shrubs/lianas (03) find lesser chances. Indigenous wild 20 species appeared selected for toponymy, whereas, exclusively cultivated/planted species are reported by five species. Few species are both wild as well as cultivated e.g. *Ficus religiosa*, *F. benghalensis*, *Pongamiapinnata*, *Madhuca longifolia*, *Limonia acidissima*, *Azadirachta indica* and *Tamarindus indica*. It appears that the plant species which are dominant as compared to other species have been generally favoured while coining village names. However, few species economically important have been also selected e.g. *Cajanus cajan* (a pulse), *Psidium guajava* (edible fruit yielder), *Ziziphus mauritiana* (edible fruit yielder) and *Chlorophytum tuberosum* (root tubers medicinally important). Some species thought locally religious in Hindus also find place e.g. *Ficus religiosa*, *F. benghalensis*. It is worth to note that few plant species find more places in naming villages e.g. *Ziziphus mauritiana*, *Psidium guajava*, *Ficus benghalensis*, etc. Thus local plant diversity is denoted in toponymy of villages or localities. Toponymy thus reflects phytogeographical distribution of plants, agricultural and economic significance of an area, besides religious aspect of the local people. Generally, the plant species which thrive better are selected and therefore, these plant species should be given priority in afforestation programmes or arboriculture. The local plant names are suffixed or prefixed by some other words e.g. kund, pata, pur, kadava, khuto, pada, khede, kathi, bari, etc. Forest areas are also marked out by dominant plant species if they are named after a some plant species (Table 3). Such toponymy mostly helps locally.

4.3. Analysis of present work based on animal species

This paper also accounts for animal species used for coining village names. Total 12 species belonging 12 genera and 12 families find places in toponymy of villages. Majority of them are indigenous species. However, camel and 'sarang' do not belong to this region. They are mammals, reptiles or birds. This is also indicative of the knowledge of local inhabitants about fauna of the region. In present times, although rarity of some these is noted but it suggests that once they were common.

5. CONCLUSION

In this report, 26 plant species and 12 animal species are found integrated with names of various localities in Dhule and Nandurbar districts (India). Still more plant and animal species may be linked with toponymy in other districts. These studies are in order. Similar investigation will reveal association of elements of biodiversity with toponymy. It should be undertaken as it informs on phytogeography and socio-economic aspects, besides cultural aspect. The present author attempted at revealing past association of plants and animals in this region. Such attempts may help benefit about environmental problems, planning and management of biota locally.

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Table 1

Plant Based Names of Villages

Sr. No.	Village Name	Tehsil	Root Name suggesting local plant name	Botanical Name and Family
1.	Kalambir	Sakri	Kalam	Mitragynaparvifolia (Roxb.) Korth. Rubiaceae
2.	Borkund	Dhule	Bor	ZiziphusmauritianaLamk. Rhamnaceae
3.	Borzar	Navapur	Bor	ZiziphusmauritianaLamk. Rhamnaceae
4.	Umarpata	Sakri	Umar, Umbar	Ficusracemosa L. Moraceae
5.	Vadkhalambi	Navapur	Wad	Ficusbenghalensis L. Moraceae
6.	Kakadada		Kakad	GarugapinnataRoxb. Burseraceae
7.	Balamrai	Nandurbar	Aam	Mangiferaindica L. Anacardiaceae
8.	Kalamba	Nandurbar	Amba	Mangiferaindica L. Anacardiaceae
9.	Karajve	Nandurbar	Karanj	Pongamiapinnata (L.) Pierre Fabaceae
10.	Wadzakan	Nandurbar	Wad	Ficusbenghalensis L. Moraceae
11.	Devmogra	Nandurbar	Mogra	Jasminumsambae (L.) Ait. Oleaceae
12.	Borchak	Navapur	Bor	ZiziphusmauritianaLamk. Rhamnaceae
13.	Borad	Taloda	Bor	ZiziphusmauritianaLamk. Rhamnaceae
14.	Gavhali	Akkalkuwa	Gahu	Triticumaestivum L. Poaceae
15.	Hingani	Shahada	Hingan	Balanitesaegyptiaca (L.) Del. Balanitaceae
16.	Hingane	Dhule	Hingan	Balanitesaegyptiaca (L.) Del. Balanitaceae
17.	Jam	Shahada	Jam	Psidiumguajava L. Myrtaceae
18.	Jamkhel	Sakri	Jam	Psidiumguajava L. Myrtaceae
19.	Jamaki	Sakri	Jam	Psidiumguajava L. Myrtaceae
20.	Jamali	Akkalkuwa	Jam	Psidiumumguajava L. Myrtaceae
21.	Jirapur	Sakri	Jira	Cuminumcuminum Linn. Apiaceae
22.	Junanagarmutha	Akkalkuwa	Nagarmutha	Cyperusrotundus L. Cyperaceae

Table 1

Plant Based Names of Villages

Sr. No.	Village Name	Tehsil	Root Name suggesting local plant name	Botanical Name and Family
23.	Kadavamahu	Akkalkuwa	Mahu	Madhuca longifolia (Koen.) Macbr. Sapotaceae
24.	Kakarde	Shahada	Kakad	Garugapinnata Roxb. Burseraceae
25.	Kalamsare	Shirpur, Taloda	Kalam	Mitragynaparvifolia (Roxb.) Korth Rubiaceae
26.	Kalambe	Sakri	Kalam	Mitragynaparvifolia (Roxb.) Korth Rubiaceae
27.	Kalambhir	Sakri	Kalam	Mitragynaparvifolia (Roxb.) Korth Rubiaceae
28.	Kalambu	Shahada	Kalam	Mitragynaparvifolia (Roxb.) Korth Rubiaceae
29.	Kavathi	Dhule	Kavath	Limonia acidissima L. Rutaceae
30.	Kavathe	Sakri	Kavath	Limonia acidissima L. Rutaceae
31.	Nimkhedi	Dhule	Nim	Azadirachta indica A. Juss. Meliaceae
32.	Padalde	Dhule, Shahada	Padal	Stereospermum chelonoides DC. Bignoniaceae
33.	Padalpur	Taloda	Padal	Stereospermum chelonoides DC. Bignoniaceae
34.	Pimpalkhuta	Akkalkuwa	Pimpal	Ficus religiosa L. Moraceae
35.	Pimparpada	Taloda	Pimpali, Pimpar	Ficus amplissima J. E. Sm. Moraceae
36.	Pimpad	Shindkheda	Pimpri	Ficus amplissima J. E. Sm. Moraceae
37.	Pimpri	Shirpur	Pimpri	Ficus amplissima J. E. Sm. Moraceae
38.	Torkhede	Shahada	Tor	Cajanus cajan (L.) Millisp. Fabaceae
39.	Umarpata	Sakri	Umar	Ficus racemosa L. Moraceae
40.	Umarati	Shahada	Umar	Ficus racemosa L. Moraceae
41.	Umari	Taloda	Umar	Ficus racemosa L. Moraceae
42.	Vadchil	Shahada	Vad	Ficus benghalensis L. Moraceae
43.	Vadkhut	Navapur	Vad	Ficus benghalensis L. Moraceae
44.	Vadane	Dhule	Vad	Ficus benghalensis L. Moraceae
45.	Chinchkathi	Dhadgaon	Chinch	Tamarindus indica L. Caesalpinaceae

Table 1

Plant Based Names of Villages

Sr. No.	Village Name	Tehsil	Root Name suggesting local plant name	Botanical Name and Family
46.	Chilhare	Shirpur	Chilhar	Caesalpinidiacpetala (Roth) Alst. Caesalpiniceae
47.	Kakadmal	Shirpur	Kakad	GarugapinnataRoxb. Burseraceae
48.	Khairkhuti	Shirpur	Khair	Acacia leucophloea (Roxb.) Willd. Mimosaceae
49.	Kusumvari	Dhadgaon	Kusum	Schleicheraoleosa (Lour.) Oken
50.	Pimpalbari	Dhadgaon	Pimpal	Ficusreligiosa L. Moraceae

Table 2

Animal Based Names of Villages

Sr. No.	Village Name	Tehsil	Root Name suggesting local plant name	Botanical Name and Family
1.	Morkaranja	Sakri	Mor	Pavocristatus Linn. Phasianinae
2.	Manjari	Sakri	Manjar	FelisnigripesBurchell Felidae
3.	Nagziri	Navapur	Nag	Najanaja Linn. Elapidae
4.	Savar	Taloda	Savar	Zaglossusatteaboroughi Flannery & Groves Tachyglossidae
5.	Nagsar	Nandurbar	Nag	Najanaja Linn. Elapidae
6.	Waghshepa	Nandurbar	(Panther)	Pantheratigris Linn. Felidae
7.	Bilmanjare	Navapur	Manjar	FelisnigripesBurchell Felidae
8.	Dhamandhar	Sakri	Dhaman	Ptyas mucosa Linn. Columbrinae
9.	Dhamangav	Dhule	Dhaman	Ptyas mucosa Linn. Columbrinae
10.	Gidhade	Shirpur	Gidhad	Gyps africanusSalvadori Accipitridae
11.	Khekade	Navapur	Khekada	Pachygraspusmarmoratus Fabricius Graspidae
12.	Manjare	Nandurbar	Manjar	FelisnigripesBurchell Felidae
13.	Manjari	Sakri	Manjar	FelisnigripesBurchell Felidae

Table 2

Animal Based Names of Villages

Sr. No.	Village Name	Tehsil	Root Name suggesting local plant name	Botanical Name and Family
14.	Manjarod	Shirpur	Manjar	FelisnigripesBurchell Felidae
15.	Sarangkheda	Shahada	Sarang	EphippiorynchusasiaticusLattam Ciconiidae
16.	Untavad	Shirpur Shahada	Unt	Camelusbactrianus Linn. Camelidae
17.	Vaghadi	Shirpur Sindkheda	Vagh	Pantheratigris Linn.
18.	Vaghode	Nandurbar Sindkheda	Vagh	Pantheratigris Linn.
19.	Vinchur	Dhule	Vinchu	Leirusquinquestriatus C.L. Koch. Buthidae
20.	Nagzhiri	Shahada	Nag	Najanaja Linn.
21.	Makadkund	Dhadgaon	Makad	Trachypithecusgeeikhajuria Homnidae

Table 3

Names of Localities in Forest Areas after Plants/Animals

Sr. No.	Village Name	Tehsil	Root Name suggesting local plant name	Botanical Name and Family
1.	PachyaAmba	Sakri	Amba	Mangiferaindica L. Anacardiaceae
2.	Umbarpani Zara	Sakri	Umbar	Ficusracemosa L. Moraceae
3.	MordhinaKada	Sakri	Mor	Pavocristatus Linn.
4.	KakodnaPathada	Sakri	Kakod, Kakad	GarugapinnataRoxb. Bursaraceae
5.	Dudhyagad	Sakri	Dudhi	Wrightiatinotoria R. Br. Apocynaceae
6.	BorunaDhur	Sakri	Boru	Sorghum helepense (L.) Pers. Poaceae
7.	Pimparbara	Sakri	Pimpar, Pimpal	Ficusracemosa L. Moraceae
8.	SadadaDhur	Sakri	Sadada	Terminaliacrenulata Roth Combretaceae
9.	Chilardand	Sakri	Chilar	Caesalpinidiacapetala (Roth) Alst. Caesalpinaceae
10.	Umbari	Sakri	Umbar	Ficusracemosa L. Moraceae
11.	Boranimali	Sakri	Bor	ZiziphusmauritanaLamk. Rhamnaceae
12.	Dombadkani	Sakri	Dombad, Dombali	Chlorophytumtuberosum (Roxb.) Baker Liliaceae

Table 3

Names of Localities in Forest Areas after Plants/Animals

Sr. No.	Village Name	Tehsil	Root Name suggesting local plant name	Botanical Name and Family
13.	Pimparidara	Sakri	Pimpari	Ficus amplissima J.E.Sm. Moraceae
14.	Khokadi	Sakri	Khokad	Lipocarcinus vernalis Linn. Portunidae