

Phytotoponymic study of Malegaon region of Nashik District (M.S.)

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Abstract

Toponymy, taxonomic abstraction of Place, village or town -names, based on etymological, historical, and bounded information. A Village-name is a chat or words acclimated to indicate, denote, or analyse a vegetation of the region. In this unavoidable process of naming people naturally intercalated name of plant in his ambience and culture. In this work, authors enlighten some example of naming some villages and towns in Malegaon tehsil in Nasik district Maharashtra. In present work names of 32 villages from this region analysing ethnobotanically. The socio-economic and cultural aspect behind nameng of villages are point out through this work.

Keywords: Toponymy, villages, ethnobotany, Malegaon

Introduction

Plants are an accepted toponymic source. Plants are one of the best important sources for toponyms. In many countries villages and town names are acquired from plant names, including, for example, the United States of America, England, South Africa, China and India. Evidently, plants are highly intertwined with the landscape and place naming practices. In present paper here we evaluate the geographic distribution of phyto-toponyms, places named after a native local flora, Nasik (M.S.). We created the concept of toponymic species (topo-species) for groups of places named after a plant taxon. Topo-species richness and diversity were significantly correlated with the studied factors. We conclude that place names of natural elements depict human's interaction with the environment. They are stable, spatially-explicit elements that may be used as indicators of bio-cultural diversity. In addition, they represent an intangible cultural heritage that should also be preserved.

Methodology

The methodology that we have adopted for the present analysis is largely based on gathering as much data as possible on the toponyms of a particular area to then compare and analyse them with those of other areas. (Chattopadhyaya,1990; Pawar and Patil, 2012; Patil, *et al.* 2016) [8, 6, 9]. Thus, the information that geographical studies can provide are of great importance, since at least some of the details that toponimists can glean from such studies refer to the natural features of land that cannot change. Ethnomedicinal data was gathered from local inhabitants, farmers, tribal heads and elder medicinemen. Repeated queries were made to confirm the data. Voucher plant specimens are identified using: various floras [Cooke, 1958, Naik, 1998, Patil 2003, Kshiragar and Patil 2008, Diwakar and Sharma 2000,] [1, 2, 3, 4, 7]. Present authors noticed some name of villages based on some plant species these have been critically analyze and studied revealing some useful hidden facts of local society and nature.

Table 1

Sr. No.	Name of village name indicating plant name	Tehsil	Equivalent scientific plant name	Family	Perception
1.	Chandanpuri	Malegaon	Santalum album	Santalaceae	Tree planted for timber, also used to prepare cosmetics.
2.	Vadgaon	Malegaon	Ficus benghalensis	Moraceae	Wild tree having religious importance
3.	Nimgaon	Malegaon	Azadiracta indica	Moraceae	Tree planted for timber, also used medicinally
4.	Pimpalgaon	Malegaon	Ficus Religiosa	Moraceae	Wild tree having religious importance
5.	Nimbait	Malegaon	Azadiracta indica	Meliaceae	Tree planted for timber, also used medicinally
6.	Umrane	Malegaon	Ficus recemosa	Moraceae	Wild tree having religious importance
7.	Chinchgavhan	Malegaon	Tamarindus indica	Fabaceae	Tree planted for timber and edible fruits.
8.	Chichave	Malegaon	Tamarindus indica	Fabaceae	Tree planted for timber and edible fruits.
9.	Erandgaon	Malegaon	Ricinus communis	Euphorbiaceae	Planted for oil seeds
10.	Nimgule	Malegaon	Azadiracta indica	Meliaceae	Tree planted for timber, also used medicinally
11.	Vadner	Malegaon	Ficus benghalensis	Moraceae	Wild tree having religious importance
12.	Vadel	Malegaon	Ficus benghalensis	Moraceae	Wild tree having religious importance
13.	Kapashi	Malegaon	Gossypium herbacium	Malvaceae	Cultivated for cotton fibers
14.	Pimparkhed	Malegaon	Ficus Religiosa	Moraceae	Wild tree having religious importance
15.	Pimparkhed	Malegaon	Ficus Religiosa	Moraceae	Wild tree having religious importance
16.	Tandulwadi	Malegaon	Amaranthus spinosus	Amaranthaceae	Wild shrubs, leaves used as vegetable
17.	Ambegaon	Malegaon	Mangifera indica	Anacardiaceae	Tree planted for edible fruits.
18.	Babhulgaon	Malegaon	Vachellia nilotica	Fabaceae	Wild tree, timber used to make agricultural

					equipment.
19.	Chichodi	Malegaon	Tamarindus indica	Fabaceae	Tree planted for timber and edible fruits.
20.	Belbare	Malegaon	Aegle marmelos	Rutaceae	Wild tree having religious importance. Fruits having medicinal value.
21.	Bendipada	Malegaon	Abelmoschus esculentus	Malvaceae	Cultivated as vegetables
22.	Bordaivat	Malegaon	Ziziphus mauritiana	Rhamnaceae	Tree planted for edible fruits.
23.	Chinchore	Malegaon	Tamarindus indica	Fabaceae	Tree planted for timber and edible fruits.
24.	Jamale	Malegaon	Syzygium cumini	Myrtaceae	Tree planted for edible fruits.
25.	Pimple	Malegaon	Ficus Religiosa	Moraceae	Wild tree having religious importance
26.	Ambapur	Malegaon	Mangifera indica	Anacardaceae	Tree planted for edible fruits.
27.	Ambasan	Malegaon	Mangifera indica	Rutaceae	Tree planted for edible fruits.
28.	Pimpaldar	Malegaon	Ficus Religiosa	Moraceae	Wild tree having religious importance
29.	Babhulane	Malegaon	Vachellia nilotica	Fabaceae	Wild tree, timber used to make agricultural equipment

Discussion and conclusion

During this phytotoponymic study authors coined toponymic villages of Malegaon region. The data represents name of villages belongs to presence and abundance of specific plant group nearby. This study includes 29 villages relates to toponymic relations with 14 plants species belong to 11 genera and 10 families. Out of these 25 species are wild while 04 species are cultivated.

Toponymic investigation of plant species helps to know social, economic, religious aspects of the region (Pawar and Patil 2012) [6]. These species are used by the local peoples for various purpose such as, medicinal, edible fruits, fuel, gum, religious etc. These species also contributes in economy of the region. Some species are contributes as major agriculture crops of the region. Toponymy in respect to plant species also helps to socio-cultural importance of the villages and hamlets.

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