

Traditional Practices of *Ziziphus* Mill in Haroti Plateau, Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT

Ziziphus Mill belong to family Rhamnaceae. The present paper deals with traditional practices of *Ziziphus* Mill in Haroti plateau, south east Rajasthan. Edible, religious belief and medicinal values of the plant species in this area are considered in this communication.

Key word: Deciduous; Plateau; Sacred; Traditional; *Ziziphus*.

INTRODUCTION

Two species of *Ziziphus* Mill occurring in the area are *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam and *Z. nummularia* (Burm.F.) Wight & Arm. *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam is a medium sized tree or under shrub while *Ziziphus nummularia* (Burm.F.) Wight & Arm is spiny shrub in habit. These two species of *Ziziphus* Mill widely distributed in gravel plains, foot hills, open field, hill-slopes, scrub forest, pasture land, waste land and deciduous forest of the Haroti region.

The main tree and shrub associate species of *Ziziphus* Mill in the area are *Prosopis juliflora*, *Calotropis procera*, *Capparis decidua*, *Tephrosia purpurea*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, and secondary off shoot of *Anogeissus pendula*. The climate of the area favours the growth of dry deciduous forests. Traditional practices of *Ziziphus* Mill species by local community of the area have been pointed out in this study.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Haroti plateau is situated at the edge of the Malwa plateau at 23⁰45' to 25⁰53'N latitude and 75⁰9' to 77⁰26'E longitude in the south eastern corner of Rajasthan. A considerable amount of work on the floristics in different part of India has appeared^{1,2,3,4,5,6}.

A survey of the area was carried out during 2014-16 The information regarding the present work was noted. In present work general traditional practices of *Ziziphus* Mill species in area is communicated. Relevant photographs of the fruit product of plant species are given in this paper.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Systematic Enumeration:

Ziziphus mauritiana Lam a evergreen much branched tree or large shrubs, branches down when young. Leaves ovate-elliptic to suborbicular ovate, rounded at both the ends, denticulate, strongly 3-nerved from the base, petioles upto 1.5 cm long, Prickles in pairs.

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Flowers in axillary clusters, greenish yellow, drupes globose to ovoid, fleshy, smooth, yellow or orange when ripe, edible, stones 1-2 celled.

Flowering and fruiting : September – February

Common name : Bada bor / Pemlibor

Ziziphus nummularia (Burm.F.) Wight & Arm
a much branched thorny erect or straggling bushy shrubs, branches zigzag bark ashy-grey

leaves orbicular or ovate rounded at both the ends, densely woolly beneath, stipular spines paired, flowers in axillary, sessile, pubescent cymes, greenish yellow, drupes, globose, glabrous, red when ripe, edible.

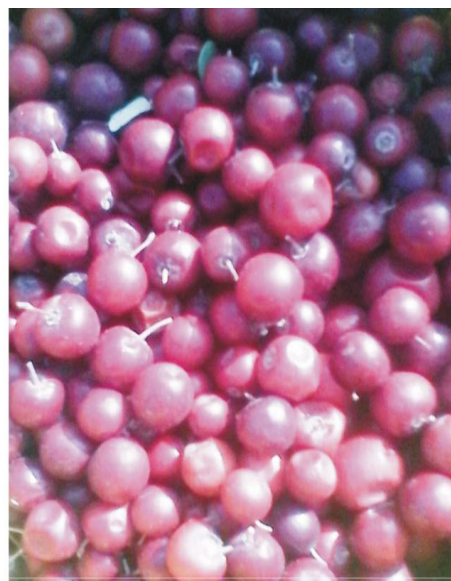
Flowering : August-September

Fruiting : October-January

Common name : Bordi



Fruits of *Ziziphus mauritiana*



Fruits of *Ziziphus nummularia*

The present study is an addition to the knowledge of *Ziziphus* Mill plant species, utilized by local people of the area. This paper communicates information about general practices, traditional, sacred belief and economic uses of both species of *Ziziphus* Mill in Haroti plateau, south, east Rajasthan.

Fruits of the both species of *Ziziphus* has highly nutritious value. The fruits of *Z. mauritiana* and *Z. nummularia* is a perennial features of the local fruits market of Haroti region. Traditional practices of both species of *Ziziphus* Mill are given below:

Ziziphus mauritiana.

Medicinal use : Leaves are taken to cure diarrhoea, cough and mouth ulcers. Seeds are sedative and relieve abdominal pain during pregnancy. Fruits are cooling anodyne and used as tonic, digestive and blood purifier.

Edible : Fruits are eaten

Sacred belief : This species is important component of some sacred groves of the area.

Ziziphus nummularia

Medicinal use : Bark is used in dysentery, acidity, leucorrhoea and anemia. Dried leaves are applied in cough and cold paste of leaves is prescribed for healing cuts.

Edible : Fruits are eaten.

Sacred belief : Fruits are used in worship of goddess laxmi, it comprise an important part of laxmipuja during Deepawali. The plant and fruits is worshiped also on the day of 'Dev Uthani Gyaras'.

Fodder uses : The grazing communities uses the leaves of this species to feed their cattle. It is considered to be highly beneficial for the goats and the goats thrive on it.

Plants and their parts are associate with faith and tradition. Plant species have become an integral part of tribal and rural life

and culture. Over grazing, human settlement, encroachment and deforestation have disturbed habitat of *Ziziphus* species particularly in the last decads.

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