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## REVIEW ARTICLE

### USE OF SOME INDIAN PLANTS IN FOLK MEDICINES OF MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

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#### ABSTRACT

Information about ethnomedicinal uses of *Achyranthus aspera* L (Amranthaceae) 'Apamrga' and *Canscora decussata* (Gentianaceae) recorded from tribals of maharashtra has been dealt with in this communication. It has been observed that the uses recorded for the treatment of fever, skin diseases, diabetes Asthema, Indigestion, Migraine etc. so that this herb used in large scale.

#### Key words:

Traditional uses, *Achyranthus aspera* L.  
*Canscora decussata* Roxb, Maharashtra.

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## INTRODUCTION

Maharashtra State lying between 72<sup>0</sup>6' – 80<sup>0</sup>9' E longitude and 17° - 160 N Latitude covers an area of 3,07,762 sq Km. with altitude ranging from sea level to 1646m above msl. It has 8.7 % tribal's sharing 8 % of total tribal population. Author collected information from Mahur, Daheli, Saradgaon, Loni, Kinwat, Tuppa Parali-Vajinath, Nanded. The ethno medicinal uses of *Achyranthus aspera* L. And *Cansocora decussate* Roxb. Which are found to be interesting The aim of study to disseminate this knowledge for benefit of poor people.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out in the year 2008. The areas inhabited by different ethnic communities were surveyed Author visited places such as, Parli vajinath, Kinwat, Mahur, Nanded, Saradgaon, Loni, Tuppa etc. Author collected and documented all the ethno botanical data from field observation. Through oral communication with the local folks as well as from literature and documented all. The description, phenology, vernacular names (s) ecology, distribution, ethno medicinal and other uses. Although some ethno medicinal uses given in (Dastur 1964, vermgil 1970) Botanical Discription *Achyranthus aspera* L. It is erect, perennial much branched green coloured herb. It has peculiar type of thorns, on its branches. Leaves green velvety tomatoes', opposite and entire. Flowers bisexual, in long spikes, reaching up to the height 45 cm. bracts spines cent, and persistent.

## Phenology

Flowering and fruiting – August to December vernacular names of *Achyranthus aspera* L. It is known as Lat jeera, onga, puthkunda (Hindi), Prickly chaff (English), Apamarga (Sanskrit) Safed Aghado (Gujrati), Apamarga (Telgu), Shirukandadoi (Tamil) and Kadalads (malgalam). Indian Names of *Canscora decussate* Roxb. Shankhapuspi, Shankhavali, Vishnukraantaa, Shuamakranta. Sanskrit - Sankhapuspi, visnukranta, Nilapuspi, Visnugandi.

## Botanical Discription

A very small perennial prostrate herb. Annual erect herb, stem is 4 winged. Leaves sessile, ovate lanceolate, 1.5-3.0x0.6-1.0 cm. Flowers in leafy, cymes pedicellate, calyx lobes ovate lanceolate, Corolla white, Lobes oblong, Capsule oblong, Linear, Ca. 6 mm long.

## Ethno medicinal uses



*Achyranthus aspera* L.

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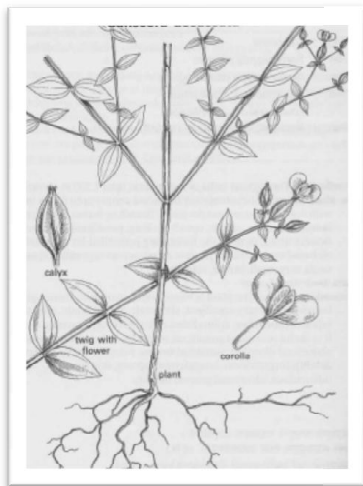
## Ecological distribution

Both herbs found commonly in mixed deciduous forest road sides, forest edges in west land area up to the height of 3000 feet on mountain and also in plains.

### 1. *Achyranthus aspera* L.

Ailment	Mode of administration
Asthma	Dried root powder 5 gm with warm water given orally orally to patient. 20 gm leaf rabbed with 2 gm black pepper, pills are prepared & given orally with water for 7 days.
Sterility	Decoction of root is given to ladies after conception with cow's milk in cases of sterility.
Ear diseases	Spike made in to pills is taken with title sugar in case of dabid dog bite. Plant ash mixed with seasum oil used for treatment of ear diseases.
Indigestion	Seeds are soaked in butter milk and ground in to emulsion taken orally.
Migraine	Powder of seeds with warm water taken orally
Swelling of joints	Leaves crushed, heated and tied on the swollen area
Fever	Leaves, black pepper and garlic are ground pills are made with this. Pill's taken orally.
Dysentery	Leaf juice taken orally.
Cough	One to two spoonful root ash given twice a day for 5 days.
Snakebite	5 ml fresh juice dropped on snakebite spot. Also 5 ml juice given orally to eradicate poison.

### 2. *Canscora decussate* Roxb. (Gentianaceae)



### *Canscora decussate* Roxb. (Gentianaceae)

Fever	Juice of whole plant given orally with warm water
Skin diseases	The residue of plant material after filtration is made in to paste which is applied locally whereas in offseason when fresh material is not available the plants are boiled in water and the residue is dried and powdered. This powder when required is soaked in water and applied against skin diseases.
Diabetes	Decoction of whole plant prepared & given orally once a day
Fever	Root powder 5 gm with warm water given orally
Brain Power	Leaf juice given orally one tea spoonful orally increases brain power
Constipation	Fresh Leaf juice given orally
Bronchitis	Leaves made in to cigarettes are smoked in chronic bronchitis.
Insanity	Whole plant and leaf juice extract given orally

## Conclusion

The present study indicates that the study areas are rich in piscicidal plants. The documented ethno botanical information may be valuable for economic development inhabitants of the villages so it must be preserved and protected for future generation.

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