

Importance of local names of some useful plants in ethnobotanical study

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Plants are commonly known by their local names in every part of the world. These local names play a very important role in ethnobotanical study of a specific tribe or region. Local names given to plants by indigenous people in their local dialects often reflect a broad spectrum of information on their understanding of plants. Most often, the local names are given based on some salient features, e.g. appearance, shape, size, habit, habitat, smell, taste, colour, utility, and other peculiar character, etc of the plants. These practical, meaningful, easily understandable and rememberable local names are disappearing rapidly along with the culture and tradition of the tribal group of our country. Therefore, it must be recorded, preserved and documented before lost forever. In the paper, about 100 plants of Garhwal, Kumaun and Bhojar area of Uttarakhand have been given in alphabetical order with their family followed by local names including their meaning in English along with detail reason / basis for the naming of the plants.

Keywords: *Bhoxa, Garhwali, Kumauni*, Ethnobotany, Garhwal, Kumaun, Bhojar, Etymology, Uttaranchal

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The nomenclature of useful plants is an old and basic human urge. Local plant names are the manifestations of man's long standing association with his green surroundings. Names of plants or animals are of value in avoiding descriptive phrases to refer to objects and render communication easier. This information is often precise and helps infer certain character related details. Plants are generally known by their local names in every part of the world. However, Binomial Latin names for plants are used and accepted internationally in scientific literature. The linguists and anthropologists have provided fascinating examples of hierarchical plant taxonomies in the language of aboriginal or primitive human societies. At first, only few plants of immediate importance received attention of the primitive people and they gave name. The folk nomenclatures are concerned only with locally observed phenomena. The native names for taxa always comprise a segment of everyday vocabulary of a particular language. They are based on criteria, which may differ greatly from people to people, area to area and culture to culture¹. In folk nomenclature, there are no formal rules of the recognition or rejection of taxa, like scientific nomenclature rules.

Most of the communities have a definite system of nomenclature of the forest flora. In tribal communities, the name given to the plants conveyed

their characteristics which were common knowledge. These early naming were practical and determined largely by their culture importance²⁻⁶. Most often, the local names are given based on some salient features e.g. appearance, shape, size, habit, habitat, smell, taste, colour, utility and other peculiar character, etc of the plants. These local names reflect a broad spectrum of information on local uses, ecology, physiology, anatomy, pharmacognosy, chemistry and several other aspects. A local name often describes some characteristics feature of the plant or the plant parts, in which the communities are interested. The descriptive word to denote that character may be different in different languages or dialects and, hence, different names may assign to the same plant in different languages and region.

It is well known fact that most of the knowledge about plants as well as many native local languages are becoming extinct. Therefore, it is urgent and important that these must be preserved and properly documented before the information is lost forever. More than hundred plants from different parts of Uttaranchal are analysed for the origin and etymology of these local names of the plants. Some researchers have emphasized the importance and origin of the local names of plants from different region.

Uttarakhand comprising of 13 districts is bounded in the northwest by Himachal Pradesh, in the North

by Tibet, in the East by Nepal and in the South by Uttar Pradesh. The state covers an area of 53,485 km² with a wide elevation ranging from 210 m to 7,817 m. Uttarakhand is inhabited by tribes like *Bhotia*, *Raji* (*Ban Rawat*), *Jaunsari*, *Tharu* and *Bhoxa*. The inhabitants of Uttaranchal have also developed specific terms for naming the plants. Due to lack of any recognized language, people speak local dialects, called *Garhwali*, *Kumauni* and *Bhoxa* in Garhwal, Kumaun and Bhoxar, regions, respectively. These dialects are a combination of Hindi, Urdu and Sanskrit words. An attempt has been made to identify the origin of local names. Some interesting aspects of

these qualifying names were noted while working among the *Garhwali*, *Kumauni* and *Bhoxas* of Uttarakhand.

Enumeration

About 100 local names have been analysed etymologically on the basis of their appearance, shape, size, habit, habitat, smell, taste, colour, utility and other peculiar characters. These plants are arranged in alphabetical order with their family followed by the local names with their meaning in English and the etymology of the plant name (Table 1).

Table 1 — List of Etymological plants followed by local people in Uttarakhand

Plant name	Family	Local names & meaning	Etymology
<i>Abrus precatorius</i> Linn.	Fabaceae	<i>Ratti</i> (B) = jeweler's weights	Seeds are used for weighing the jewelry.
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> Linn.	Amaranthaceae	<i>Adhyaajharo</i> & <i>Ulta chadchita</i> (B) = to ward off evil spirits and reflexed bracts.	Plants are used to ward off evil spirits and plants having reflexed bracts.
<i>Aconitum ferox</i> Wall. ex Ser.	Ranunculaceae	<i>Vis</i> (G) = poison	Root acts as poison.
<i>Aconitum hetrophyllum</i> Wall. ex Royle	Ranunculaceae	<i>Atees</i> (G) = poison when consumed in excess dose	The roots act as poison when taken in excess dose.
<i>Acorus calamus</i> Linn.	Araceae	<i>Bach</i> (B) = speak	The roots are given to the victim suffering from speaking problem.
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i> Linn.	Adiantaceae	<i>Kaali-chhadee</i> (B) = black stipes	The stipes of the plants are usually black in colour.
<i>Adina cordifolia</i> (Roxb.) Benth. & Hook. f. ex Brandis	Rubiaceae	<i>Haldu</i> (B) = Turmeric	The woods are usually yellow colour like turmeric.
<i>Aerva lanata</i> (L.) Juss.	Amaranthaceae	<i>Keero kaa ghas</i> (B) = grass of worm	Plant decoction is used to kill worms in the infected hoof of cattle.
<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> Linn.	Asteraceae	<i>Fulania</i> (B) = in flowering	Plants remain in flowering in all the season.
<i>Allium auriculatum</i> Kunth	Alliaceae	<i>Farn</i> (G) & <i>Jambu</i> (K) = fry and J&K	Whole plant is dried and used to fry the vegetables and <i>dal</i> . It is mostly found at the height of J&K that is why known as <i>Jambu</i> .
<i>Alternanthera pungens</i> H. B. & K.	Amaranthaceae	<i>Chapdyaa</i> (B) = spreading	Plant is mostly spreaded on the land.
<i>Amaranthes spinosus</i> Linn.	Amaranthaceae	<i>Kantilee chauli</i> (B) = with spines	Plants have many spines.
<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm. f.) Wall. ex Nees	Acanthaceae	<i>Kaal Megh</i> (B) = black clouds	Stem and leaves are black in colour.
<i>Angelica glauca</i> Edgew.	Apiaceae	<i>Gandren</i> (K) = smell	The roots are contains a specific odour.
<i>Argemone mexicana</i> Linn.	Papaveraceae	<i>Peelee kataiya</i> (B) = yellow with spines	Flowers are yellow; plants are with spines.
<i>Ariseama jacquemontii</i> Bl.	Araceae	<i>Syaapak ghwag</i> (K) = maize of the snake	The fruits are like cob of maize and its spathe is like hood of snake.
<i>Arnebia benthamii</i> (Wall. ex G. Don) J.M. Johnston	Boraginaceae	<i>Baal-chhadee</i> (G) = root for hairs	The roots are kept in mustard oil and the red coloured oil is used for better growth of the hair.
<i>Artemisia nilagirica</i> (Clarke.) Pamp.	Asteraceae	<i>Paatee</i> (K) = sacred.	The plants are considered sacred and leaves are used in religious ceremonies.
<i>Arundo donax</i> Linn.	Poaceae	<i>Nalae</i> (B) = pipe	The culms of the plants are hollow and used as pipe.

Contd —

Table 1 — List of Etymological plants followed by local people in Uttarakhand — *Contd*

Plant name	Family	Local names & meaning	Etymology
<i>Bacopa monnieri</i> (Linn.) Pennell	Scrophulariaceae	<i>Jal neem</i> (B) = margosa on water	Plants are bitter in taste and grow near the water.
<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i> (Retz.) Willd.	Bambusaceae	<i>Kantela-bans</i> (B) = thorny bamboo	There are several thorns on the culms of the plant.
<i>Barleria cristata</i> Linn.	Acanthaceae	<i>Kaala- bansa</i> (B) = black bansa	The plants are black in colour.
<i>Barringtonia acutangula</i> (Linn.) Geartn.	Barringtoniaceae	<i>Prasut</i> (B) = weakness and fever after delivery	Leaves and bark are given to women suffering from weakness and fever after delivery.
<i>Benincasa hispida</i> (Thunb.) Cogn.	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Petha</i> (B) = name of a sweet	A sweet, <i>Petha</i> is made from the fruits of the plant.
<i>Berberis</i> spp.	Berberidaceae	<i>Kilmoda</i> (G) & <i>Daru haldi</i> (K) = sourly spines and turmeric like pith	Plants are full of spines and leaves are sour in taste. Woods including pith are yellow in colour.
<i>Bergenia ciliata</i> (Haw.) Sternb.	Saxifragaceae	<i>Seel-phoda</i> (G) & <i>Pasan-bhed</i> (K) = stone breaker and stone piercer	Plant roots are used in the treatment of stone in kidney or urinary tract. The plant usually grows on cracks of stones and rocky places.
<i>Betula utilis</i> D.Don	Betulaceae	<i>Bhoj-patra</i> (G) = Letter-paper of King <i>Bhoj</i>	Thin barks are used as letter paper for writing and invitation purposes.
<i>Bischofia javanica</i> Blume	Bischofiaceae	<i>Paniyala</i> (B) = near the water	It usually grows near water.
<i>Blumea lacera</i> (Burm.f.) DC.	Asteraceae	<i>Kukrondha</i> (B) = related to dog.	Leaves are used in the treatment of dog bite.
<i>Boenninghausenia albiflora</i> (Hook.) Meissn.	Rutaceae	<i>Upaniya jhad</i> (K) = bed bug shrub	The leaves are used to kill the bed bug.
<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> Linn.	Nyctaginaceae	<i>Paththar-chatta</i> (B) = grows on the wall of stones.	Plants often grow on walls of stones.
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i> (L.) Vent.	Moraceae	<i>Phool batan</i> (B) = flowers as button	The rounded flowers seem like buttons.
<i>Caesalpinia crista</i> Linn.	Caesalpinaceae	<i>Kantela</i> & <i>Karanjua</i> (B) = fruits with spines	There are several spines on the pods of the plant.
<i>Carissa carandas</i> Linn.	Apocynaceae	<i>Karondha</i> (B) = spines/thorns.	The plant bears several thorns.
<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> Linn.	Caesalpinaceae	<i>Babaseer</i> (B) = piles.	The leaves are used in the treatment of piles.
<i>Cheilanthes farinosa</i> (Forsk.) Kaulf.	Cheilanthaceae	<i>Chapalee</i> (B) = to imprint	The leaves imprint their impression on any object as the lower surface of the fronds is covered with white powder.
<i>Cissus repanda</i> Vahl	Vitaceae	<i>Jal bel</i> (B) = climber having potable water	Stem oozes potable water, whenever cuts obliquely.
<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (Linn.) Diels	Menispermaceae	<i>Jal jamni</i> (B) = coagulate on water	Leaf powder coagulates whenever kept in water.
<i>Crinum defixum</i> Ker-Gawl.	Amaryllidaceae	<i>Kan man</i> (B) = related to ear	The extract of the bulbs is poured in earache.
<i>Cryptolepis buchanani</i> Roem. & Schult.	Asclepiadaceae	<i>Dudhi</i> (B) = milk	The plant contains milk like latex.
<i>Curculigo orchioides</i> Gaertn.	Hypoxidaceae	<i>Kari musari</i> (B) = black musali	The roots are black in colour.
<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i> Roxb.	Cuscutaceae	<i>Sadak-bel</i> (B) = road sides climber	This parasitic climber grows on shrubs and trees along road side.
<i>Dactylorhiza hatagirea</i> (D.Don) Soo	Orchidaceae	<i>Hattha jadee</i> (G) = hand like roots	The roots are seems as palm with fingers.
<i>Diplazium esculentum</i> (Retz.) Sw.	Athyriaceae	<i>Linguda</i> (G) = turned-ling	The upper most part of the plant is rounded and circinate.
<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i> (L.) Jaffrey	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Shiv-lingi</i> (B) = <i>lingum</i> of lord Shiva	An impression of <i>lingum</i> of lord Shiva seems on the seeds of the plant.
<i>Drypetes roxburghii</i> (Wall.) Hurusawa	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Pitt-mar</i> (B) = to reduce allergic red pimples	Leaves are used to treat allergic red pimples on the bodies.

Table 1 — List of Etymological plants followed by local people in Uttarakhand — *Contd*

Plant name	Family	Local names & meaning	Etymology
<i>Eclipta prostrata</i> (Linn.) Linn.	Asteraceae	<i>Kala -bhangra</i> (B) = black <i>Bhangra</i>	The fruits of the plant are black in colour.
<i>Equisetum debile</i> Roxb.	Equisetaceae	<i>Had-jod</i> (B) & <i>Jod-tod</i> (G) = for bone fracture; detachable from joints	Plant paste is applied on fractured bone.
<i>Eranthemum pulchellum</i> Andr.	Acanthaceae	<i>Nili</i> (B) = blue	The plant bears blue flowers.
<i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i> Hook.	Myrtaceae	<i>Safeda</i> (B) = white.	The bark of the plant is white in colour.
<i>Euphorbia</i> spp.	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Dudhi</i> (B) = milk.	All species contain milk like latex.
<i>Flacourtia indica</i> (Burm.f. Merr.	Flacourtiaceae	<i>Kataiya</i> (B) = thorny	The plant bears several thorns.
<i>Fragaria vesca</i> Linn.	Rosaceae	<i>Bhunla</i> (G) = straggling on ground	The plants straggle on the ground.
<i>Fumaria indica</i> (Hassk.) Pugsley	Fumariaceae	<i>Gajar ghas</i> (B) = carrot- grass	The leaves of the plant resemble carrot leaves.
<i>Gloriosa superba</i> Linn.	Liliaceae	<i>Agni-shikha</i> (B) = top alike fire	Flowers are red in colour; looks as fire.
<i>Glycosmis mauritiana</i> (Lamk.) Tanaka	Rutaceae	<i>Pilu</i> (B) = yellow	The fruits of the plant are yellow in colour.
<i>Helicteres isora</i> Linn.	Sterculiaceae	<i>Maroda</i> (B) = spirally twisted	Fruits look like a screw; used in the treatment of griping pain and boils.
<i>Helminthostachys zeylanica</i> (Linn.) Hook.	Ophioglossaceae	<i>Ek dandi</i> (B) = single stalk	There is only one stalk in the plant.
<i>Holarrhena antidysenterica</i> (Linn.) Wall. ex DC.	Apocynaceae	<i>Indra jau</i> and <i>Dudhi</i> (B) = barley of lord <i>Indra</i> and milk	The seeds are like hordeum and plant contains milk like latex.
<i>Ichnocarpus frutescens</i> (Linn.) R.Br.	Apocynaceae	<i>Dudhi</i> (B) = milk	The plant contains milk like latex.
<i>Ipomea carnea</i> Jacq. subsp. <i>Fistulosa</i> (Mart. ex Choisy) Austin	Convolvulaceae	<i>Besharam / Behaya</i> (B) = shameless	Plant grows any where in moist, marshy and dry places.
<i>Leptodermis lanceolata</i> Wall.	Rubiaceae	<i>Padeda</i> (K) = foul smell	After crushing the leaves it gives foul smell.
<i>Leucas lanata</i> Benth.	Lamiaceae	<i>Peeb-sos</i> (K) = pus absorber	Leaves are used for absorbing pus from infected parts of the body.
<i>Lygodium flexuosum</i> (Linn.) Sw.	Lygodiaceae	<i>Kaali sinki</i> (B) = black dot	There are several black sori on the fronds of the plant.
<i>Martynia annua</i> Linn.	Martyniaceae	<i>Bagh-nakha</i> (B) = tiger's nail	Fruits tips are hooked as nail of the tiger.
<i>Mimosa pudica</i> Linn.	Mimosaceae	<i>Sharmili</i> (B) = shy	The leaf becomes shy by mere touching.
<i>Mucuna pruriens</i> (Linn.) DC.	Fabaceae	<i>Konch</i> (B) = Irritating hairs	Fruits are covered with several small hairs, which cause irritation and itching on the body.
<i>Murraya koenigii</i> (Linn.) Spreng.	Rutaceae	<i>Gandhi</i> (B) = smell	The leaf produces a special type of smell after crushing.
<i>Nardostachys grandiflora</i> DC.	Valerianaceae	<i>Jata-mansi</i> (G) = roots with long hairs	The scented roots are covered with long hairs like structure.
<i>Oroxylum indicum</i> (Linn.) Vent.	Bignoniaceae	<i>Ullu ki Phali</i> (B) = owl's fruit	The fruits (pods) are long with winged seeds.
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> Linn.	Oxalidaceae	<i>Chil-modi</i> (G) = very sour	The leaves are very sour in taste.
<i>Paeonia emodi</i> Wall. ex Royle	Paeoniaceae	<i>Chandra</i> (G) = moon	The flowers are round and white as moon.
<i>Panicum antidotale</i> Retz.	Poaceae	<i>Had-jod</i> (B) = bone-healer	The plant is used in the treatment of bone fracture.
<i>Parietaria debilis</i> Forst.	Urticaceae	<i>Chifaw-jadi</i> (K) = sticky/slimy root	Crushed slimy roots are used as soap by women for washing hairs.

Table 1 — List of Etymological plants followed by local people in Uttarakhand — *Contd*

Plant name	Family	Local names & meaning	Etymology
<i>Passiflora foetida</i> Linn.	Passifloraceae	<i>Ghud saar</i> (B) = horse-breath	Leaves are used in the treatment of breathing problem of horses.
<i>Pedilanthus tithymaloides</i> (Linn.) Poit.	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Nag daun</i> (B) = related to cobra/snakes	Leaves are used as anti-venom for cobra poison.
<i>Phyla nodiflora</i> (Linn.) Greene	Verbenaceae	<i>Jal peepar</i> (B) = aquatic <i>Peepal</i>	The plants are mostly found near water.
<i>Picrorrhiza scrophulariflora</i> Pennell	Scrophulariaceae	<i>Kaduyee</i> (G) = bitter.	The roots are very bitter in taste.
<i>Pithecellobium dulce</i> (Roxb.) Benth.	Mimosaceae	<i>Janglee-jalebee</i> (B) = rounded shape like <i>jalebee</i>	The rounded fruits are seems like a sweet called <i>jalebee</i> .
<i>Pogostemone benghalensis</i> (Burm.f.) Ktze.	Lamiaceae	<i>Masa-pindi</i> (B) = heap of flesh	Leaf paste is used for healing of deep wounds and considered the skin will get normal as earlier.
<i>Porana paniculata</i> Roxb.	Convolvulaceae	<i>Sufed-bel</i> (B) = white climber	The leaves are white in colour.
<i>Potentilla fulgens</i> Wall.ex Hook.	Rosaceae	<i>Bazra danti</i> (G) = strong teeth	Leaves are chewed for strengthening the tooth.
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i> Linn.	Ranunculaceae	<i>Jal-dhaniya</i> (G) = aquatic coriander	Leaves resemble with coriander and are found near water.
<i>Rauwolfia serpentina</i> (Linn.) Benth. ex Kurz	Apocynaceae	<i>Sarp-gandha</i> (B) = related to snake	The roots are used in the treatment of snakebite.
<i>Reinwardtia indica</i> Dumort.	Linaceae	<i>Piyunladee</i> (G) = yellow	The flowers are yellow in colour.
<i>Rubus niveus</i> Thunb.	Rosaceae	<i>Kaoo hisaoo</i> (G) = black rubus	Ripen fruits are usually black in colour and eaten by local people.
<i>Sarcostemma scamone</i> (Linn.) Bennet	Asclepiadaceae	Dudh-bakariya (B) = milk of goat.	The leaves are fed to goat for increasing milk quantity.
<i>Saussurea costas</i> (Falc.) Lipsch.	Asteraceae	<i>Kuth</i> (K) = leprosy	The plants are used in the treatment of leprosy.
<i>Saussurea obvallata</i> (DC.) Edgew.	Asteraceae	<i>Barma konu</i> (G) = lotus of lord <i>Brahma</i> .	Flowers seem like lotus and considered sacred; used in worship.
<i>Scoparia dulcis</i> Linn.	Scrophulariaceae	<i>Bicchu-ghas</i> (B) = scorpion-grass	Leaves are used in the treatment of scorpion sting.
<i>Selinum candollei</i> DC.	Apiaceae	<i>Bhut-keshi</i> (K) = ghost's hair.	Long hairs on the roots of the plant are used to ward off the evil spirits.
<i>Sisymbrium irio</i> Linn.	Brassicaceae	<i>Pan-sag</i> (B) = aquatic vegetable	This plant usually grows near water.
<i>Smilax aspara</i> Linn.	Smilacaceae	<i>Kukur-dar</i> (B) = dog's teeth	The hooked spines seem like teeth of dogs.
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> Linn.	Solanaceae	<i>Kaari makoye</i> (B) = black <i>makoi</i>	The ripe fruits are black in colour.
<i>Sphearanthus indicus</i> Linn.	Asteraceae	<i>Gorakh mundi</i> (B) = rounded head.	The fruits (capitulum) seem like rounded head.
<i>Urgenia indica</i> (Roxb.)Kunth.	Liliaceae	<i>Ban-pyajee</i> (G) = wild onion.	The bulbs seem alike onion.
<i>Urtica dioica</i> Linn.	Urticaceae	<i>Kandayi</i> (G) = herb with stinging hair	Plant bears several small white stinging hairs causing irritation like scorpion sting.
<i>Vallis solanacea</i> (Roth.) Ktze.	Apocynaceae	<i>Dudhi</i> (B) = milk	Plant contains milk like latex.
<i>Vanda tessellata</i> (Roxb.) Hook. ex G.Don	Orchidaceae	<i>Had-jod</i> (K) = bone healer	The plant paste is used in bone fracture.
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i> Linn.	Scrophulariaceae	<i>Ekula veer</i> (G) = solitary brave	The plant usually grows alone.
<i>Vetiveria zizanioides</i> (Linn.) Nash	Poaceae	<i>Seenk</i> (B) = knitting needle	Culms look like knitting needle; used for making baskets.

Table 1 — List of Etymological plants followed by local people in Uttarakhand — *Contd*

Plant name	Family	Local names & meaning	Etymology
<i>Withania somnifera</i> (Linn.) Dunal	Solanaceae	<i>Ashwa-gandha</i> (G) = horse's smell	The roots smell like horse urine.
<i>Wrightia tomentosa</i> (Roxb.) Roem. & Schult.	Apocynaceae	<i>Dudhi</i> (B) =milk	Plant contains milk like latex.
<i>Zehneria umbellata</i> Thw.	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Gwal-kakadee</i> (G) =cow-herd's cucumber	The ripe red fruits are often eaten by the cowherds.

B= *Bhoja* name; G=*Garhwali* name; K= *Kumauni* name

Discussion

The primitive people of Uttarakhand have clear cut knowledge about the recognition of some allied species by indicating different local names. So, one can identify these allied species easily without any scientific parameters e.g. *Cassia occidentalis* Linn. is known as *Bhansia Bamar*, while *C. sophera* Linn. is called *Bamar*. *Corchus aestuans* Linn. is known as *karona*, while *C. olitorius* Linn. is known as *Baro Karona*. *Momordica charantia* Linn. is called as *karela*, while *M. dioica* Linn. is called as *Janglee karela*. *Ocimum canum* Linn. is called as *Jangli Tulsi* and *O. sanctum* Linn. is known as *Tulsi*. *Phonenix acaulis* Roxb. ex Buch.-Ham. is known as *Khajuri* while *P. sylvestris* Roxb. is known as *Khajur*. *Saccharum benghalense* Retz. is known as *Munj*, while *S. spontaneum* Linn. is called as *Kasera*. *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lamk. is known as *Beri* and *Z. nummularia* Wt.-Arn. is known as *Jhar beri*.

Though, local names are not recommended directly for scientific accounts of plants as they lack uniformity and consistency. But it may certainly be considered as a useful tool for search of new useful plants or new uses of known plants. Apart from the utility, the local names may be very useful and easy parameter for scientific identification of the taxa. They render a useful service as a means of reference by local people in a particular area. Efforts should be

made to collect and preserved information on local names especially from tribal and rural areas. Once this information is lost, it may become impossible to get insight into several unknown facts about plants and their names.

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