

*A Complete Morphological Identification*

# Colour Atlas of Medicinal Plants

*Ramesh Kumar Bhutya*

- Latest and updated botanical names.
- Composite list of Ayurvedic/Hindi names.
- Quality photographs of plants in their natural habitats.
- All possible identification clues of a medicinal plant species related to its external morphology.



A Complete Morphological Identification

# Colour Atlas of Medicinal Plants



**Volume - 1**

**Dr. Ramesh Kumar Bhutya**

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*Dedicated  
to  
Respected*

***Dr. Satish Kumar Sharma***

**R.F.S.**

*Assistant Conservator of Forests (Retd.)*

*Udaipur*

*Born Naturalist,*

*Critical Researcher, Enthusiastic Scientist*

*Who spent 37 years for the cause of  
conservation of nature*







## Foreword

Medicinal plants are an important natural resource of the country which is indispensable for economic growth of the country and good health of our people. India is a vast country with varied forest types and agro-climatic zones. A big number of medicinal trees, shrubs, herbs, climbers, and tuberous plants grow in the country's forests and agricultural fields. China is leading in the field of herbal medicines. Our country, which is birth place of Ayurveda, is lagging behind from China in this field. Our society's traditional knowledge related to medicinal plants is very vast and notable. We cannot ignore Ayurveda, medicinal plant wealth of country and our society's knowledge related to medicinal plants.

Now-a-days, awareness is seen among public for medicinal plants. Ayurveda, forest and agriculture departments are looking serious for conservation and propagation of medicinal plants. Though experts, scholars and common mass taking interest in the medicinal plants but paucity of quality literature is also felt. Correct identification of medicinal plant is a serious problem.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar Bhutya, a dedicated Ayurvedic physician, having a long experience of medicinal plants and their uses, is a prolific writer. His earlier six books namely '*Vanaspati Aushadha Vigyan*', '*Ayurvedic Medicinal Plants of India*' (two volume), '*Medical Ayurveda Shabdkosh*', '*Charma Rog Nirdeshika*', '*Aushadh Dravyo ka Tridosh Prabhav Vivechan*', '*Anubhut Ayurveda Chikitsa*', have been acknowledge widely. His present effort to develop a colorful atlas of medicinal plants certainly helps to identify the medicinal plants accurately. People, who have no background of plant taxonomy, they can also take help of this book to identify the medicinal plants. Definitely, this book will act as a 'Flora of medicinal plants'.

Sincerely hope, this book will be sourly liked by all the readers and research scholars.

Udaipur,  
26 January, 2018

**Dr. Satish Kumar Sharma**  
Rajasthan Forest Services (Retd.)





# Prologue

Proper identification of medicinal plants is still a great problem at this time. It has also drawn the attention from common men in general and scholars of the medical streams. Wrong identification is responsible for the poor quality of the compound drugs. In the light of the above, the curiosity about the sources of the medicines and medicinal plants in most of the cases, has drawn considerable interest among all quarters of the medical science. It won't be out of place to mention here that in spite of availability of a lot of books on medicinal plants in the market, readers are not found them satisfactory as many relevant issues are not adequately addressed in them and hence, not adequately fulfill their requirements. Author has identified needs of Ayurveda people. To meet out their needs, relevant literature on medicinal plants was scanned to bring this book in present shape. Certainly, this book will help people of Ayurveda and botany in identification of medicinal plants.

In addition, in the absence of proper knowledge related to the identification of medicinal plants, many plants remained either unidentified or wrongly identified. As a result, many important and precious medicinal plants are often considered as weeds and disposed off as waste material. Wrong identification even lead towards more serious repercussions as these may be used wrongly in preparing medicines for which they are not recommended due to different chemical constituents, and hence deprived of their actual uses. In this book, an attempt is made to fill the above gaps. It is my firm belief that this book will be of immense use to Ayurveda experts, teachers, students of post-graduate and undergraduate Ayurvedic courses, researchers, students of botany, scientists, pharmacologists, pharmaceutical organizations, pharmacists, biochemists, medical personal and even common men. However, I have tried to the best of my abilities and knowledge to produce a book containing all major aspects of Ayurvedic medicinal plants, even than some gaps and laps may prevail. I will be grateful to the readers for their suggestions and valuable feedback.

## Salient features of the book

1. The latest and updated botanical names are given in this book. Classical names include only those maintained in Ayurvedic literature.

2. Good photos with complete botanical identification based on characteristics of plant, stem, bark, leaf, flower, fruit, seed, tuber, root and gum with full morphological features, which would be helpful in correct identification of the plant in the field and labs.
3. Good photographs of dry material available in the market will help us to procure right material because ultimately we depend on market to have our supply of material for making the drugs. These photographs will give us a safeguard against abuse of adulteration in the dry medicinal material.
4. Photos of medicinal plants are taken in their natural habitat. All photos are original, with quality, distinguishable and taken by the author across the country.
5. At the end a composite list of Ayurvedic/Hindi names is given for readers' convenience.
6. Instead of textual botanical description the basis of identification is pictorial.

### **A few words of gratitude**

While preparing this book, the help of various sources has been taken. I would like to thank all the authorities whose works are consulted during the preparation of this book. I would like to express my grateful thanks to Dr. Satish Kumar Sharma, R.F.S., former Assistant Conservator of Forests, Udaipur, for his valuable guidance and advice. He was a constant source of inspiration throughout the creation of this book. He went out of the way to help me in spite of his very busy schedule and other professional commitments. Further, I am grateful to my colleagues Dr. R.S. Garg, Baran; Dr. P.S. Solanki, Kota; Dr. Ashok Saxena, Bundi; Dr. J.P. Sharma, Bundi; Dr. Ashutosh Sharma, Jaipur; Dr. Mohan Lal Jaiswal, Lecturer, Dravyagun Deptt., N.I.A. Jaipur; Dr. Hari Om Sharma, Ajmer; Dr. Marium Asariwala, Jodhpur; Dr. Rekha Sharma, Jaipur; Dr. Ambashankar, Sumerpur; Mr. Bajarang Lal Tailor, Bundi and Mr. Dinesh Sharma, owner of Shri Ram Herbals, Jaipur.

I am thankful to Dr. D.N. Pandey, I.F.S., Member Secretary, Rajasthan Medicinal Plant Board, Jaipur, for his valuable suggestions and guidance. I am also thankful to Dr. D.S. Rajpurohit, A.C.F., Udaipur. My heartfull thanks are also due to my family members Mr. Satyawar Sharma, Mrs. Kamini Sharma, Dushyant Sharma, Mrs. Kirti Sharma, Mr. Milind and Mrs. Kumud Sharma for their constant support and assistance. Last but

not the least; I am extremely grateful to my wife Mrs. Manju Sharma for her patience as she almost freed me in discharging my domestic responsibilities during writing this piece of work.

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At last, I firmly believe this *Shloka of Bharatrihari Niti Shatakam*

यदा किञ्चिज्ज्ञोऽहं द्विप इव मदान्धः समभवं,  
तदा सर्वज्ञोऽसमीत्यभवदवलितं मम मनः ।  
यदा किञ्चित्किञ्चिद् बुधजनसकाशादगतं,  
तदा मूर्खोऽस्मीति ज्वर इव मदो मे व्यपगतः ॥

**Means:** When I knew but a little, I was blinded by pride as an elephant is blinded by rut from excitement, and my mind was puffed up with the idea that I knew everything. When, however, I gradually gained knowledge through the contact of the wise I found I was a fool; and the pride, which had possessed me like fever, left me.

Thanks.



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202.	<i>Santalum album</i> Linn.	Chandan Swet	202
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237.	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> Linn.	Gehun	237
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242.	<i>Vitex negundo</i> Linn.	Nirgundi	242
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# Abbreviations

## Key characteristic for identification

**H.** - Habit

**St.** - Stem

**L.** - Leaf

**Fl.** - Flower

**Fr.** - Fruit

**Se.** - Seed

**R.** - Root

**B.** - Bulb

**G.** - Gum



# 1. *Abrus precatorius* Linn.

Gunja

Family: Fabaceae

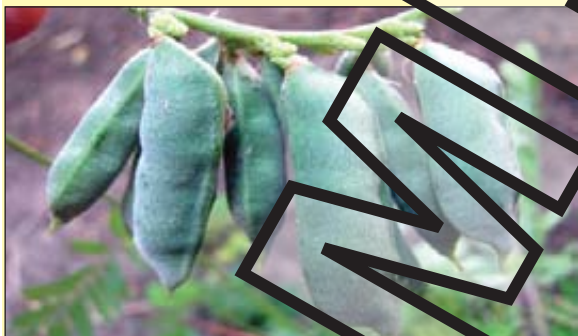
Climber



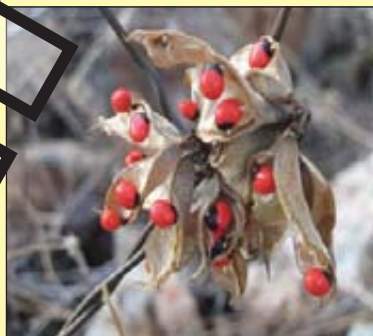
Plant and Leaves



Flowers



Unripe fruits



Ripe fruits



Ripe fruit



Roots



Seeds

## Key Characteristics for Identification

**H.** A wiry climber. **S.** Green, glabrous. **L.** Peripinnate with many pairs of leaflets, 10-20 pairs, opposite, oblong, rounded at both ends, glabrous. **Fl.** Pink, light purple, clustered **Fr.** Pods, rectangular, turgid, in bunches. **S.** Ovoid, scarlet red with a black spot, or white or black, polished.



## 2. *Abutilon indicum* Linn. Sweet Atibala

Family: Malvaceae

Herb



Plant



Leaves



Flower



Fruits



Mericarps with seeds inside



Seeds

### Key Characteristics for Identification

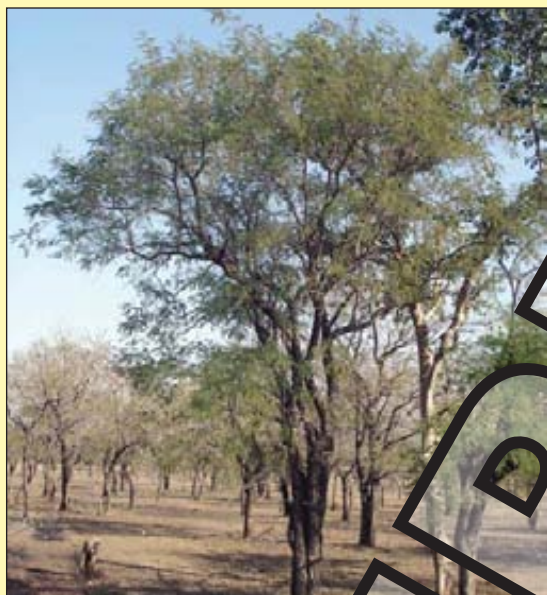
**H.** Herb or tender shrub. **S.** Round, strong. **L.** Cordate, broadly ovate, acuminate, toothed, grayish green, tomentous. **Fl.** Solitary, orange-yellow or yellow, opening in evening. **Fr.** Capsule, nispid. **S.** Black or dark brown, small and flat.



### 3. *Acacia catechu* (Linn.f.) Willd. Khadira

Family: Mimosaceae

Tree



Tree



Leaves



Flowers



Ripe fruits



Unripe fruits



Stem



Dry stem bark

#### Key Characteristics for Identification

**H.** Tree, spiny. **S.** Dark grayish or brown rough bark and hooked short spines. **L.** 2-pinnate, polished, pinnae 10-30 pairs, leaflets 30-50 pairs. **Fl.** Small, pale yellow. **Fr.** Pods, flat, brown, shiny, 3-10 seeded, glabrous. **S.** Flat, dark brown, orbicular, rounded.

## 4. *Acacia nilotica* Linn.

Family: Mimosaceae

Babula

Tree



Tree



Stem Bark



Spine



Seeds



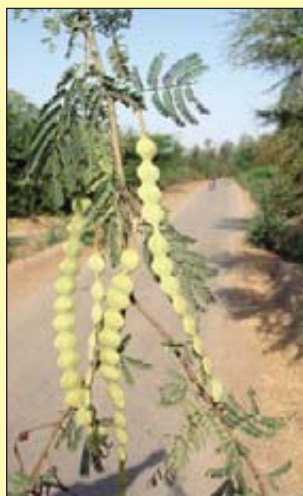
Leaves



Flowers and Leaves



Babul Gond



Fruits

### Key Characteristics for Identification

**H.** Tree with short trunk. **S.** Erect, cylindrical, branched, solid, longitudinally deeply fissured rough bark. **L.** Oblong, entire, Pinnae 4-9 pairs, leaflets 10-25 pairs. **Fl.** Golden yellow, fragrant, globose heads. **Fr.** Lomentum, about pods with constrictions between the seeds, seeds are 8-12 per pods, ash white. **S.** Flatted, black, shiny and round.