Scholars Academic Journal of Biosciences (SAJB) **ISSN 2321-6883 (Online)**
Sch. Acad. J. Biosci., 2017; 5(6):446-452 **ISSN 2347-9515 (Print)**

(An International Publisher for Academic and Scientific Resources)
www.saspublishers.com DOI : 10.36347/sajb.2017.v05i06.007

Review Article

Plant Names in Sanskrit: A Comparative Philological Investigation

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Abstract: Philological study helps trace genesis and development of names. Present study is aimed at revealing Sanskrit plant names in philological perspective. The same plants are also studied on the similar line having common names in other Indian languages *viz.* Marathi and Hindi, and as also in English. The bases of common plant names are then comparatively discussed. Thus as many as 50 plant species are critically studied revealing their commonalities and differences in bases of common names in different languages. At the same, heritability and rich wisdom of our ancients is thereby divulged.
Keywords: Plant Names, Sanskrit, Marathi, Hindi, English, Philology.

INTRODUCTION:

Dependency of man on plant world has perforce taught him many facts of life, whether material or cultural life. Communication was a prime necessity for his cultural life, and therefore he named the objects. He cannot remain aloof from nature. A state of nameless certainly invites many problems and difficulties for mankind. It is, therefore, man has always endeavored to name objects, whether living or non-living, in his ambience which help him in day to day activities and communications. Thus, essentially of name/s is often felt by mankind. It is why common names of plants or animals have been coined. How their common names are formed, it depends on the circumstances prevailing in one`s surrounding. Man has unique capacity to discriminate between things in his ambience. He always tries to compare and differentiate on the basis of some concrete or abstract observations, experience, experiments and ideas. Every human society has their own language or dialect in which he gives names to the various objects. Plants received attention from this stand- point and hence named variously.For example, he named a flower 'Rose' based on a kind of arrangement ofmultiple floral parts and peculiar fragrance. Once this flower/ object are named, it is followedby next generations remembering the base of giving the said name.The pioneer man or human society who coined the name integrates their knowledge and observations with them. But same knowledge and observations may or may not pass over the future generations. It is, therefore, essential to analyse them again finding out the bases or reasons of coining names. The present author and his associates during botanical ethnobotanical forays interpreted bases of common names in different languages [1-10].Our attempts to unearth bases of ancient but morbid Indian language Sanskrit have been very encouraging. The present paper is an extension of the same study.

Methodology Adapted:

Sanskrit plant names as also names in Indian languages *viz.* Marathi, Hindi and English names for respective plant species have been borrowed from various literary sources [11-21]. Sanskrit as well as names in other languages stated above has been analysed philologically. Their root words, meaning as well as observations integrated and concepts of the coiners of plant names have been studied intensively and provided under section-I. Attempt on similar line for Indian languages *viz.*, Marathi and Hindi, besides English is presented in section-II. The bases of Sanskrit plant names are also compared with bases of plant names in other aforesaid languages. The hidden treasure of knowledge of the ancients is thus divulged for posterity of mankind.

Enumeration:

Section (I): Philology of Sanskrit Plant Names:

1) *Abroma augusta* L. (Sterculiaceae):
S.N: Pishach Karpasa (Pishach-devil; karpasa-cotton)

Angled fruits studded with stiff, irritate hairs, reminding a devil, contain many black seeds enveloped with cottony wool, hence the name.

2) *Agerantum conyzoides* L. (Asteraceae):
S.N: Vishmusti (Vish-poison, acrid; musta-roots)
The roots being poisonous are denoted in its name.

3) *Allophyllus cobbe* (L.) Raeusch (Sapindaceae):
S.N: Triput (Tri-three; put- referring to leaves)
This tree bears compound trifoliate leaves.

4) *Amorphophallus commutatus* (Schott.) Engl. (Araceae):
S.N: Aranyasuran (Aranya-jungle, wild; suran-edible corm of Elephant Foot Yam i.e. *Amorphophallus campanulatus* Blume)
It is wild relative of edible cormatous species stated above.

5) *Antiaris toxicaria* (Presl.) Lesch. (Moraceae):
S.N: Valkalvruksh (Valkal-bark; vruksh-tree)
The tree produces notable grey-white to dark brown-grey bark which is medicinally important. Juice of plant is thought deadly poisonous and hence people avoid sleeping below this tree. This property is also indicated by its specific name.

6) *Aphanomixis polystachya* (Wall.) Parker (Meliaceae):
S.N: Raktarohida (Rakta-blood)
Bark is applied on swelling caused due to sudden stroke or dash. This helps to reduce the swelling and disperse blood from it.

7) *Artocarpus incises* L.*f*. (Moraceae):
S.N: Kshudrapanas (Kshudra-minor, little used; panas-common name for jackfruit i.e. *Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lamk.
Artocarpus incisus is an exotic tree cultivated for fruits used for vegetable. It is a native of Pacific Island, New Guinea. Fruits of *Artocarpus heterophyllus* are widely used as edible, nutritious fruit.

8) *Asclepias curassavica*L. (Asclepiadaceae):
S.N: Kakatundi (Kak-crow`s mouth and beak)
The lanceolate follicular fruits which are beaked resemble crow`s mouth and beak.

9) *Bixa orellana* L. (Bixaceae);
S.N: Sinduri (Sindur-red lead, vermilion)
Fruits contain many scarlet red seeds.

10) *Capparis moonii* Wight (Capparidaceae):
S.N: Vyaghranakhi (Vyaghra-tiger, nakhi-nail)
Plants bear stout hooked, sharp spines like nails of a tiger.

11) *Ammania baccifera* L. (Lythraceae):
S.N: Agnipatri (Agni- fire, irritating; patri-leaves)
Leaves if applied externally, cause blisters on skin and are also irritating.

12) *Cassia absus* L. (Caesalpiniaceae):
S.N: Vanyakulatha [Vanya- jungle, wild: kulatha-*Lens culinaris* Medic.(Fabaceae)].
Compressed, ovoid, black, shining seeds of this taxon resemble to the seeds of *Lens culinaris*, a cultivated legume for seeds. *Cassia absus* is, however, grows wild in jungles.

13) *Cassia alata* L. (Caesalpiniaceae):
S.N: Dadrughna (Dadar-ringworm, a skin disease; ghna-indicative of killing nature)
Leaf juice when applied against ringworm, it cures this skin disease.

14) *Ceiba pentandra* (L.) Gaertn, (Bombacaceae):
S.N: Shwet-shalmali (Shwet-white; shalmali-*Salmalia malabarica*, a tree species from the same family)
This tree resembles to *Bombax ceiba* L. in leaves and fruits containing fibers but bears white flowers instead of red flowers of Salmalia *malabarica* (Kapok tree)

15) *Centipeda minima* (L.) R.Br. (Asteraceae):
S.N: Chikvika (Chikvika-sneezing)
Plant juice is advised as nasal drops against migraine and head complaints. It causes sneezing.

16) *Cleome viscosa* L. (Capparidaceae):
S.N: Pashugandha (Pashu-animal; gandha-smell)
The entire plant smell like animal smell.

17) *Cochlospermum religiosum* (L.) Alst. (Cochlospermaceae):
S.N; Pitkarpas, Suvarnakarpas, Suvarnapushpa (Pit or Suvarna-yellow, golden; karpas- cotton)
The plants bear golden yellow flowers and fruits contain cottony fibers.

18) *Corchorus olitorius* L. (Tiliaceae):
S.N: Bruhchanchu (Bruh- large; chanchu-other species e.g. *Corchorus triocularis* L., called ‘katuchanhu’ are smaller plants as compared to *Corchorus olitorius*.

19) *Cressa cretica* L. (Convolvulaceae):
S.N: Rudantika, Rudanti (Rudan- creeping)
The plants especially in the morning period have dews all over. This is eluded as if the plants are weeping and shedding tears.

20) *Desmodium triflorum* (L.) DC. (Fabaceae):
S.N: Vanmethika (Van- jungle, wild; methika-Fenugreek i.e. *Trigonella foenum-graceum* L., a cultivated crop for leafy vegetable)
It bears trifoliate leaves similar to *Trigonella foenum-graceum* (Fenugreek)

21) *Dillenia indica* L. (Dilleniaceae):
S.N: Bhavya (Bhavya- large)
This tree bears large fruits, about 8-10 cm across.

22) *Diplocyclos palmatus* (L.) Jeffrey (Cucurbitaceae):
S.N: Lingini (Ling-idol of Hindu god Lord Shiva)

The plants produce seeds which shaped like idol of Lord Shiva.

23) *Drypetes roxburghii* (Wall.) Hurus. (Euphorbiaceae);
S.N: Jiyapoto (Jiya- life; poto or puto- son, child)
Drupes are interwoven in a necklacethat put around the neck of a child to ward off fromevil or unforeseen disease.

24) *Ensete superbum* (Roxb.) Cheesm. (Musaceae):
S.N: Girikadali, Vankadali (Giri or Van- jungle; kadali- *Musa paradisiaca* L.)
The plants are similar to *Musa paradisiacal* L. (banana plant) in foliage, inflorescence and fruits. However, it inhabits forested area, where *Musa paradisiacal* is cultivated for edible fruits which are seedless.

25) *Guizotia abyssinica* (L.*f.*) Cass. (Asteraceae):
S.N: Ramtil (Til- seeds of sesame i.e. *Sesamum indicum* L.)
Seeds of both plants are oil-yielding and used for culinary purpose. *Guizotia abyssinica* is differentiated from *Sesamum indicum* by adding suffix Ram, a Hindu god.

26) *Haldina cordifolia* (Roxb.) Ridsd. (Rubiaceae):
S.N: Haridrak (Haridra- turmeric)
The wood of this tree is yellowish in colour as the turmeric.

27) *Hibiscus sabdariffa* L. (Malvaceae):
S.N: Raktambastha (Rakta-blood; ambastha- sour and also refers to another species of this genus *Hibiscus cannabinus* L.)
Calyces of *Hibiscus sabdariffa* are blood-red and fleshy. They are added in vegetable preparations as souring agent.

28) *Homonoia riparia* Lour. (Euphorbiaceae):
S.N: Jalvetas (Jal-water; vetas- vet-like)
The plant inhabits water places like rivers, rivulets, etc. The stem-axes resemble to those of vet i.e. *Calamus rotang* L. (Arecaceae).

29) *Hydnocarpus pentandra* (Buch.-Ham.) Oken (Flacourtiaceae):
S.N: Katukapittha (Katu-bitter; kapittha- fruits of *Feronia limonia* (L.) Swingle (Rutaceae)
Its globose fruits, 5-7 cm across. Simulate fruits of wood Apple i.e. *Feronialimonia*called 'Kapittha'.

30) *Ixora coccinea* L. (Rubiaceae):
S.N: Raktata (Rakta-blood)
The plants bear scarlet-red flowers.

31) *Kaemferia rotunda* L. (Zingiberaceae):
S.N: Bhui-champa (Bhui- earth; champa- *Michelia champaca* L. (Magnoliaceae)
The plants are stem less perennial herbs and flowering spikes appear above the earth before leaves. The flowers are sweet fragrant as those of *Michelia champaca.*

32) *Ludwigia octavalvis* (Jacq.) Raven. (Onagraceae):
S.N: Jala-lavang (Jala-water; lavang-clove)
It bears elongated capsules up to 3-5 cm in length which resemble clove i.e. *Syzygium aromaticum* Merr. & Perry.

33) *Marsilea quadrifolia* L. (Marsileaceae):
S.N: Chatushpatri (Chatu- four; patri-leaves)
The plants have leaves each with four leaflets.

34) *Mitragyna parvifolia* (Roxb.) Karth. (Rubiaceae):
S.N: Laghukadamb (Laghu- small; kadamb-i.e. *Anthocephalus cadamba* Miq.)
This tree species have nearly similar leaves and flowering heads. The heads are comparatively smaller than those of kadamba tree.

35) *Myristica malabarica* Lam. (Myristicaceae):
S.N: Vanjatiphal (Van- jungle, wild; jatiphal-, nutmeg i.e. *Myristica fragrans* Hout, another cultivated species of the same genus used as spice)
It is wild relative of nutmeg.

36) *Naregamia alata* Wight &Arn. (Meliaceae):
S.N: Triparnika (Tri- three; parnika- leaves)
The compound leaf of the said species is trifoliate.

37) *Ophiorrhiza rugosa* Wall. var.*prostrata* (D. Don) Deb. (Rubiaceae):
S.N: Sarpakshi (Sarpa-serpent)
The roots are used to treat snake bite.

38) *Ougeiniao ojeneinensis* (Roxb.) Hochr. (Fabaceae):
S.N: Krishna-palash [Krishna-black; palash- *Butea monosperma* (Lamk.) Taub.]
Both species have similar 3-foliate leaves, however, *Ougeiniao ojeneinensis* has dark black bark.

39) *Pergularia daemia* (Forsk.) Choir (Asclepiadaceae):
S.N: Chandal-dugdhika (Chandal- bad; dugdhica-milk)
The plants yield foetid latex.

40) Plumeria Alba L. (Apocynaceae):
S.N: Kshirchampak (Kshir- latex; champak- *Micheliachampaca* L.)
Both species bear fragrant flowers and called 'champak' but *Plumeria Alba* is a laticiferous tree.

41) *Spondias pinnata* (L.*f.*) Kurtz. (Anacardiaceae):
S.N: Van-Amratak (Van-jungle, wild; Amratak- mango)
The drupes are similar to those of mango tree (*Mangifera indica* L.). It is but generally in wild.

42) *Strychnos potatorum*L.*f.* (Loganiaceae):
S.N: Jalada (Jala-water)
Seeds are used to purify water.

43) *Teramnus labialis* (L.*f.*) Spreng. (Fabaceae):
S.N: Vanmash (Van- jungle, wild; mash- black gram i.e. *Phaseolus mungo* (L.) Hepper)
The leaves, seeds and pods largely resemble to those of *Phaseolus mungo*.

44) *Tylophora indica* (Burm.*f.*) Merrill. (Asclepiadaceae):
S.N: Mulini (Mul- root)
The said twiner produces medicinally important roots.

45) *Vernonia anthelmintica* (L.) Willd. (Asclepiadaceae):
S.N: Aranya-Jirak (Arnya- jungle, wild; Jirak-cumin seeds)
The seeds (fruits) of this species resemble to those of cumin seeds (*Cuminum cyminum* L.).

46) *Wedelia chinensis* (Osbeck) Merrill. (Asteraceae):
S.N: Pit-bhrungraj (Pit- yellow; bhrungraj-*Eclipta prostrata*L. (Asteraceae)
Wedelia chinensis bears yellow flowering heads which are white in case of Eclipta *prostrate* L. Both species have similar utilities e.g. greyness of hair.

47) *Zingibe rpurpureum* Rosc. (Zingiberaceae):
S.N: Vanadrak (Van- jungle, wild; adrak-ginger (*Zingiber officinalis* Rosc.).
Rhizomes of both species have similar uses.

48) *Cascabella thevetia* (L.) Lippold (Apocynaceae):
S.N: Pit-kanher (Pit- yellow, Kanher- Indian oleander i.e. *Nerium indicum*Miq.) Yellow flowersare emphasized.

49) *Careya arborea* Roxb. (Lecythidaceae):
S.N: Kumbhi (Kumbh- collared water pot)
Fruits are shaped like a water pot.

50) *Cynodon dactylon* (Linn.) Pers. (Poaceae):
S.N: Durva (Durva- growing extensively)

The plants grow extensively which is possible due to its vegetative propagation.

Section II: Philology of plant names In Marathi (M), Hindi (H) and English (E):

1) *Abroma augusta* L. (Sterculiaceae):
H: Pishacchakarpas (Cotton of devil)
E: Devil`s cotton (Cotton of devil)

2) *Agerantum conyzoides* L. (Asteraceae):
H: Vishdodi (poisonous plant)

3) *Allophyllus colobe* (L.) Raeusch (Sapindaceae):
M: Tippani (Leaves 3- foliate)
H: Triparni (Leaves 3- foliate)

4) *Amorphophallus commutatus* (Schott.) Engl. (Araceae):
M; JangaliSuran (Wild edible corm of Elephant Foot)
H: Jangali Jimikand (Wild edible corm of Elephant Foot Yam)

5) *Antiaris toxicaria* (Presl.) Lesch. (Moraceae):
M: Chandkuda (White colour of bark is compared with colour of the moon)
E: Sacking Tree (The tree is poisonous and hence avoided sleeping beneath it)

6) *Aphynomixis polystachya* (Wall.) Parker (Meliaceae):
M: Ragatrohida (Blood colour bark)

7) *Artocarpus incisus*L.*f.* (Moraceae):
M: VilayatiPhanas (Foreign or exotic; phanas-jackfruit)
E: Bread fruit (Fruit is edible)

8) *Asclepias curassavica* L. (Asclepiadaceae):
M: Kakamari (Kak- crow; mari- killer; killers of crows being poisonous)
H: Kovadondi (Kova-crow; tondi- mouth or beak; Fruit resembles mouth and beak of a crow)

9) *Bixa orellana* L. (Bixaceae):
M: Shendri (Vermilion red seeds)
H: Shenduria (Vermilion red seeds)

10) *Capparis moonii* Wight (Capparidaceae):
M: Ranwaghati (Ran- wild; waghati- like tiger, tiger nail like spines present)
H: Baganaka: (Bag- Tiger; naka-nails)

11) *Ammania baccifera* L. (Lythraceae):
M: Aagya, Aaginbuti (Leaves cause blisters on skin)
E: Blistering ammania (Plant causing blisters)

12) *Cassia absus* L. (Caesalpiniaceae):
H: Bankulthi (Ban- jungle, wild; kulthi- *Lens culinaris* L; seeds being similar)

13) *Cassia alata*L. (Caesalpiniaceae):
H: Dadmardan, Dadamari (Ringworm killer)
E: Ringworm shrub (Ringworm killer)

14) *Ceiba pentandra* (L.) Gaertn. (Bombacaceae):
M: Pandharisavar (White flowers emphasized)
H: Safed-simal (White flowers emphasized)
E: White silk cotton Tree (Tree producing silky cotton)

15) *Centipeda minima* (L.) R.Br. (Asteraceae):
M: Nakshinkini (Nak-nose, shinkini- sneezing; plant juice causes sneezing)

16) *Cleome viscosa* L. (Capparidaceae):
E: Dog muskand (Smell like dog-smell)

17) *Cochlorspermum religiosum* (L.) Alst. (Cochlospermaceae):
M: Sonsaver (Son-gold, golden-yellow; yellow flowers emphasized)
H: Pilikapus (Pili-yellow; kapas-cotton, Yellow-flowered and cotton producing plant)

18) *Corchorus olitorius* L. (Tiliaceae):
M: Mothe-chonche (Mothe-large; chonche-beak; large beaked fruits emphasized)

19) *Cressa cretica* L. (Convolvulaceae):
H: Rudravanti (Rud-weeping plant)

20) *Desmodium triflorum* (L.) DC. (Fabaceae):
M: Ranmethi, Jangalimethi (Ran, Jangali-wild; methi seeds of fenugreek (*Trigonella foenum-graceums*;plants resemble each other)

21) *Dillenia indica* L. (Dilleniaceae):
M: Mothakarambal (Large fruit emphasized)

22) *Diplocyclo spalmatus* (L.) Jeffrey (Cucurbitaceae):
M: Shivlingi (Seeds resembling idol of Lord Shiva)
H: Shivlingi (Seeds resembling idol of Lord Shiva)

23) *Drypetes roxburghii* (Wal.) Hurus. (Euphorbiaceae):
M: Putranjiva (Putra-son, jiva-life; fruits used to protect life of a child or son.
H: Pituojia, Putijiya (Pituo or Put-son; jia / jiya-life, fruits are employed to save or protect life of son or child)

24) *Ensete superbum* (Roxb.) Cheesm. (Musaceae):
M: Rankel (Wild banana, all parts resemble banana plant)
H: Ranakeli (Wild banana, all parts resemble banana plant)

25) *Guizotia abyssinica* (L.*f.*) Cass. (Asteraceae):
M: Kalitil (Black sesame seeds)
H: Ramtil (Til- seeds of sesame i.e. *Sesamumindicum* L.)

26) *Haldina cordifolia* (Roxb.) Ridsd. (Rubiaceae):
M: Haladu, Hedu (Turmeric yellow wood denoted)
H: Haladu (Turmeric yellow wood denoted)

27) *Hibiscus sabdariffa* L. (Malvaceae):
M: Lal-ambadi, Tambadi-ambadi (Lal or Tambadi- red, red calyces emphasized)
E: Red sorrel (Red calyces with souring taste denoted)

28) *Homonoia riparia* Lour. (Euphorbiaceae):
H: Jalbenta (Jal- water, plants growing in aquatic habitat)

29) *Hydnocarpu spentandra* (Buch.-Ham.) Oken (Flacourtiaceae):
M: Kadu-kavath (Kadu- bitter; kavath-wood apple; similarly of fruit but with bitter taste denoted)

30) *Ixora coccinia* L. (Rubiaceae):
H: Ransan (Red colour of flowers emphasized)
E: Flame of the wood (Red flowering plants found in jungle)

31) *Kaemferia rotunda* L. (Zingiberaceae):
M: Bhui-chafa (Bhui- earth, champak-like flowers sprouting from the earth)
H: Bhui-champa (Bhui- earth, champak-like flowers sprouting from the earth)

32) *Ludwigia octovalvis* (Jacq.) Raven (Onagraceae):
M: Panlavang (Pan-water, lavang-clove; plants with clove-like fruit growing in watery places)
H: Banlounga (Ban-jungle, wild; lounga-clove, Plants bearing clove-like fruits but inhabiting forested places)

33) *Marsilea quadrifolia* L. (Marsileaceae):
M: Chatushpatri (Chatu- four; patri-leaves; plants having leaf with four leaflets)

34) *Mitragyna parvifolia* (Roxb.) Korth. (Rubiaceae):
M: Kalam, Chota-kadamb (Small kadam-like tree)

35) *Myristica malabarica* Lam. (Myristicaceae):
M: Jangli-jayphal, Ranjayphal (Jangli or Ran-wild; jayphal- nutmeg; It is wild relative of cultivated nutmeg.

36) *Naregamia alata* Wight &Arn. (Meliaceae):
M: Tinpani (Tin- three; pani-leaved, leaves are 3-foliate)
H; Tinparni (Tin- three; pani-leaved, leaves are 3-foliate)

37) *Ophiorrhiza rugosa* Wall. var.*prostrata* (D.Don) Deb. (Rubiaceae):
M: Mungoosewel (Mungoose- a mongoose; which always kill a serpent)
E: Mongoose plant (Mungoose- a mongoose; which always kill a serpent)

38) Ouge*iniao ojeneinensis* (Roxb.) Hochr. (Fabaceae):
M: Kala palas (Kala- black; palas- *Butea monosperma* ; Both species bear 3- foliate leaves, however, Ouge*iniao ojeneinensis* have dark black bark.

39) *Pergularia daemia* (Forsk.)Chiov. (Asclepiadaceae):
M: Nagaldudhi (Plant produce white latex)

40) *Plumeria alba* L. (Apocynaceae):
M: Pandhara-chafa (Pandhara-white; Plant produce white flowers)

41) *Spondia spinnata* (L.*f.*) Kurtz. (Anacardiaceae):
M: Ran-Ambada (Ran-wild, amba_mango; It bears mango-like fruits but is found in wild)
H: Jangali-am (Jangali-wild; It bears mango-like fruits but is found in wild)
E: Wild mango (It produces mango-like fruits but is found in wild)

42) *Strychnos potatorum* L. *f.* (Loganiaceae):
M: Nirlmali (Nir-water; mal-dirt; Seeds are used to purify water)
H: Nirmali (Nir- water, mal-dirt; Seeds are used to purify water)
E: Clearing mud Tree (Seeds are used to purify water)

43) *Teramnus labialis* (L.*f.*) Spreng. (Fabaceae):

M: Ranudid (Ran- jungle, wild; udid- blackgram. Plant is similar in foliage, pods and seeds)

44) *Tylophora indica* (Burm.*f*.) Merrill. (Asclepiadaceae):
M: Anantmul (Anant- indefinite, mul- root; elongated roots emphasized)
H: Anantamula (Anant- indefinite, mula- root; elongated roots emphasized)

45) *Vernonia anthelmintica* (L.) Willd. (Asteraceae):
M: Ran-jire (Ran-wild; jira-cumin seeds; these wild plants produce cumin like seeds)
H: Kali-jira (Kali-black; jira-cumin seeds; Cumin-like black seeds are produced by this species)

46) *Wedelia chinensis* (Osbeck) Merrill. (Asteraceae):
M: Piwala-maka (Piwala-yellow; maka- *Ecliptaprostrata* which bear white heads but *Wedelia chinensis* bear yellow heads)
H: Pila-bhangra (Pila-yellow; bhangra- Bhrungraj i.e. *Eclipta prostrate* which bear white heads but *Wedelia chinensis* bear yellow heads)

47) *Zingiber purpureum*Rosc. (Zingiberaceae):
E: Wild ginger (Ginger- rhizome of *Zingiber officinalis*. The present species bear similar rhizome but it is wild.

48) *Careya arborea*Roxb. (Lecythidaceae):
M: Kumbhi (Kumbh- collared water pot; fruits are so shaped)
H: Kumbhi (Kumbh- collared water pot; fruits are so shaped)

49) *Cascabella thevetia* (L.) Lippold (Apocynaceae):
M: Piwali- kaner (Piwali- yellow; kaner-Indian Oleander i.e. *Nerium indicum* Miq. yellow flowers are emphasized)

50) *Cynodon dactylon* (Linn.) Pers. (Poaceae):
M: Durva (Dur- long distance, growing for long distance)
H: Durba (Dur- long distance, growing for long distance)

DISCUSSION:

Literally, philology means scientific study of the development of language and knowledge which enables man to study and explain the language [21]. Comparative philology is the study of languages by comparing their history, forms and relationships with each other [22]. To me, study of philology always appeared a celebration of knowledge, experience and observations of our ancients. This is so because the words (whether, nouns or verbs) are coined by vicissitudes of past.The senses of a philologist act as a fire which creates light and fragrance hidden in the words, names or verbs. Names, of any object, whether names of plants or animals and tell the reasons and circumstances of their coining of a particular human society. Man obviously communicates through some language and every language has its own merits and history. Present author, as stated earlier, studied plant names in some Indian languages and dialects, including a morbid language like Sanskrit. Present is an attempt to study comparatively plant names in Sanskrit hitherto unstudied.

In this communication, bases for coining plant names in Sanskrit, Marathi, Hindi and English have been studied. These bases are also compared with each other. Bases for coining names particularly in Sanskrit as are: (1) Ugly fruits looking like devil, (2) Poisonous roots, (3) Number of leaves,(4) Wild relative of elephant`s foot yam, (5) Notable bark, (6) Red bark useful for blood dispersed after stroke,(7) Wild relative of cultivated jackfruit, (8) Fruits beaked like beak of a crow, (9) Red seeds, (10) Hooked spines, (11) Irritating leaves, (12) Similarity with cultivated kulith (Blackgram), (13) Leaf juice useful against ringworm, (14) Similarity with kapok tree, (15) Plant juice causing sneezing, (16) Animal smell, (17) Golden flowers and cottony fibers from fruits, (18) Plant size of allied species, (19) Dews present on plants thought as tears, (20) Similarity with plants of fenugreek, (21) Big fruit, (22) Idol of Lord Shiva, (23) Fruits used to ward off devil, (24) Similarity with banana plants, (25) Similar use like seeds of sesame, (26) Yellowish wood, (27) Red sour calyces, (28) Aquatic habitat, (29) Similar fruits like wood apple, (30) Red flower, (31) Similar flower like Champak but rising from earth, (32) Clove-like fruits but plants being aquatic, (33) Similarity with fruits and foliage of Kadamb tree, (34) Wild relative of nutmeg, (35) Roots useful as antidote against snake-bite, (36) Similarity with Palas tree, (37) Foetid latex, (38) Plant laticiferous and fragrant flower like Champak, (39) Fruits similar to mango, (40) Seeds useful for water purification, (41) Similarity with blackgram, (42) Medicinal root, (43) Seeds like Cumin seeds, (44) Seeds like Moth seeds, (45) Similar use like 'Bhrungraj'against greying hair, (46) Plants with yellow flowers, (47) Ginger-like rhizome but wild, (48) Similarity with Oleander plants, (49) Fruits like water pot and (50) Extensive growth.

Only one species *viz*., *Ophiorrhiza rugosa* bases in Marathi and English language are different from its Sanskrit name.It is noteworthy that out of total 50 Sanskrit plant names, only one species have different basis in other Indian and English languages. The names in Indian-languages are christened obviously in varied Indian culture in different times. Also, if these Indian names are compared with a foreign language like English, we could note similar bases of giving plant names. This is an evidence that mankind in different geographical regions and cultures thought similarly.

These plant species appealed them very similarly or the human societies have stressed same prominent plant features. It is said that Sanskrit is mother of other Indian languages and hence the common names of plants in different Indian languages are similarly based. But it is reallyinteresting thateven foreign languages also have similar origins of plant names.

In a nutshell, the bases of plant names in ancient Sanskrit language inform some basic information of plant science e.g. poisonous chemical or irritating nature of plants, wild relatives of cultivated species, morphological plant characteristics and miscellaneous plant features like, size, shape and colour of certain parts, etc. At the same, some information on applied aspects like medicinal utility, ecology, similar utility of plants for food and spices, and even technological know-how e.g. water purification etc. Philological study is thus helpful to learners of plant science and also to those interested in applied aspects of biology for human welfare. This is one aspect of investigation that has been largely ignored. The present authors, therefore, appeal to study philology of plant names in various languages of the world to unearth the treasure trove of ancient knowledge for betterment of modern society.

Acknowledgment:

We are thankful to the authorities of S.S.V.P Sanstha, Dhule (M.S.) for library facilities and encouragement.

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