

## Traditional knowledge on wild food plants in Andhra Pradesh

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Received 4 October 2006; revised 28 November 2006

The purpose of the study was to document the traditional wild food plants used by tribal people in Andhra Pradesh. A total of 156 species were documented as wild plants used for food purposes. Among those species, 56 species are herbs followed by 55 trees, 27 shrubs and 18 climbers. Mostly, herbs are used as leafy vegetables. It has been observed that the traditional knowledge on wild food plants is on sharp decline. Unless efforts are made to educate the younger generations about their importance, it may be lost in near future. This type of study could contribute significantly in Government policies to improve food security in tribal areas, and in the improvement of wild vegetable status, whose potential as sources of nutrition is currently undervalued.

**Keywords:** Wild food plants, Traditional knowledge, Edible plants, Tribals, Andhra Pradesh, *Chenchu*, *Khond Paroja*, *Kutia Khond*, *Kolam*, *Sugalis*, *Lambadis*

**IPC Int. Cl.<sup>8</sup>:** A61K36/00, A01G1/00, A01G17/00, A47G19/00, A23L1/00, A23L1/06, A23L2/02

The value of wild edible vegetables in food security has not been given sufficient attention in India. Consequently, there are no formal interventions that seek to encourage people to use traditional vegetables as sources of essential nutrients. For many years the importance of wild plants in subsistence agriculture in the developing world as a food supplement and as a means of survival during drought and famine has been overlooked. Nevertheless, whereas the rich indigenous knowledge on the medicinal use of wild plants has been relatively well documented, research, particularly concerning the socio-economic, cultural, traditional, and nutritional aspects of wild food plants still lacks adequate attention. There are at least 3000 edible plant species known to man, with merely 30 crops contributing to more than 90% of the world's calorie intake, and only 120 crops are economically important on a national scale<sup>1</sup>. There are 1532 edible wild food species in India, mostly from Western Ghats and Himalayan regions<sup>2</sup>. Similarly, in Eastern Ghats region also, several tribals are using wild plants as food. Tribal people of Andhra Pradesh are endowed with a deep knowledge concerning the use of wild plants as food purposes. Tribals constitute an

important part of the population of India, representing about 8% of the total population; it is about 6% of the total population of Andhra Pradesh<sup>3</sup>. Andhra Pradesh is the homeland of 33 tribes, generally distributed in hilly and interior forest areas. Major primitive tribes are *Chenchu*, *Khond Paroja*, *Kutia Khond*, *Kolam*, etc<sup>4</sup>. *Sugalis* and *Lambadis* are the largest tribe found in Andhra Pradesh. Most of them depend on forest resources for their livelihood due to lack of agriculture land and take edible forms of flowers, roots, fruits, tubers, rhizomes, leaves, etc. for food. Wild food plants are able to fill a variety of food gaps at the time of need. Mostly, leafy varieties of plant are in demanding because its availability is more compared to other parts of plant. Some sporadic work has done on the wild edible plants used by tribal people but no detailed study about traditional use of wild plants as food is available in Andhra Pradesh. The paper highlights some of the important wild food plants, which need to be documented for food security in future.

### Methodology

Several field trips were undertaken in tribal district of Andhra Pradesh during 2002-2005 (Fig. 1). At each time of visit, different tribal hamlets and forest

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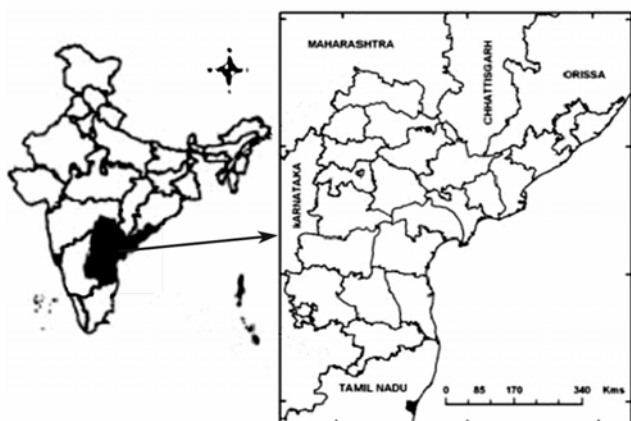


Fig. 1—Location map of study area

pockets were chosen in different seasons to collect more information. The information was accrued after discussions with several tribal persons, village head, elder women and other local informants. Repeated interviews through questionnaires were made in different villages to authenticate the information. Plant specimens were collected and identified with regional floras<sup>5-8</sup>. All the specimens were deposited in herbarium of Botany Department, Kakatiya University (KUH), Warangal. All the collected information on wild food plants was analysed. The plants are enumerated alphabetically with their botanical name, family, local name, parts used, uses and mode of uses (Table 1). The mode of use is given wherever recorded in the field.

### Results and discussion

A total of 156 plant species belonging to 69 families were recorded after conducting survey. Amaranthaceae recorded highest number of species (11 species) followed by Rubiaceae (9 species), Euphorbiaceae (8 species) and Papilionaceae (7 species). Among the total plant species, herbs are in highest in number (56) followed by trees (55), shrubs (27) and climbers (18). Most of the edible parts are fruits (65 species) followed by leaves (54), tubers (11) and flowers (7). Out of total wild plants, 60 species are used as vegetables. The tribal people for their diet mostly use (Fig. 2) fruits (41%) and leaves (35%).

Leaves are collected in different seasons, cooked and eaten with their staple food. Maximum tribal people are using leafy vegetable as a part of their food. Out of 54 types of leaves, 21 leaves are taken as leafy vegetables. These are either collected from forest areas or found as weed in moist areas of cultivated and open fields. Women are found to play a

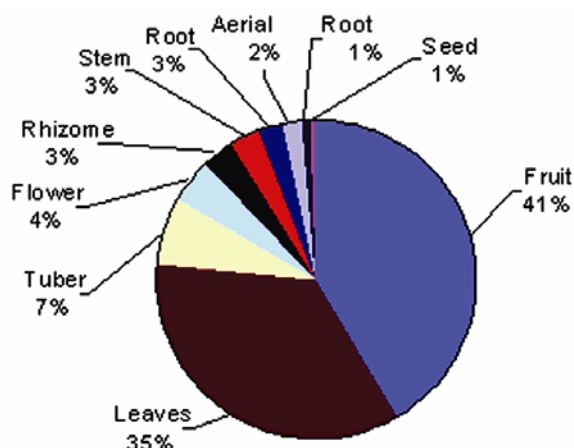


Fig. 2—Percentage of plant parts used by tribals

major role in the collection and preparation of wild leafy vegetables. *Achyranthes aspera*, *Alternanthera sessilis*, *Amaranthus tricolor*, *Amaranthus spinosus*, *Amaranthus viridis*, *Boerhavia diffusa*, *Colocasia esculenta*, *Cardiospermum halicacabum* and *Cayratia trifolia* are used as leafy vegetables. Some of the plants are also used as curry. Fruits are eaten as raw as well as in ripen form. Fruits of *Alangium salvifolium*, *Bridellia montana*, *Physalis angulata*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Securinega leucopyrus*, *Mimusops elengi* are eaten raw. Fruits of *Buchnanian lanzan*, *Diospyros chloroxylon*, *Diospyros melanoxylon*, *Diospyros perigrina*, *Ehretia laevis*, *Phoenix acualis* and *Ziziphus mauritiana* are eaten after ripening in different seasons. Fruits of *Capparis zeylanica* and *Solanum xanthocarpum* are used in curry. Flowers of *Cassia auriculata*, *Cassia fistula*, *Oroxylum indicum*, *Abutilon indicum* and *Pavetta indica* are used as vegetables. Tubers of certain species are cooked and eaten as curries. Rhizomes and tubers after collecting from forest are washed, kept for sometimes in turmeric powder (*Curcuma longa*) and water for removing bitterness and harmful contents. It is also used as a substitute for rice at the time of non-availability of food. Roots of *Butea monosperma* is crushed and used as flour. Tender root of *Decalepis hamiltonii* is cut into pieces and used to make pickles. Tubers of *Dioscorea bulbifera*, *Dioscorea oppositifolia*, *Dioscorea pentaphylla*, *Dioscorea tomentosa* and *Tacca lentopetaloides* are having good nutritional value. Fruits of *Madhuca indica* are edible. But in Orissa, at the time of food scarcity, dried mohua flowers boiled either with tamarind seeds (*Tamarindus indica*) or Sal seeds (*Shorea robusta*) forms an important part of tribal diet<sup>9</sup>.

Table 1—Wild plant species used as food by tribal people of Andhra Pradesh

Botanical name	Family	Local name	Parts used	Use	Mode of use
<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Papilionaceae	Yerra guriya	Leaf	Edible	
<i>Abutilon indicum</i> (L.) Sweet	Malvaceae	Bellpaku	Flower buds	Edible	
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Uttreni	Tender leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable
<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr.	Rutaceae	Patri	Fruit	Edible	Pulp taken orally
<i>Aerva lanata</i> (L.) Juss.	Amaranthaceae	Konda pindi	Tender leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable
<i>Aeschynomene aspera</i> L.	Alangiaceae	Neerjilugu	Tender leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable
<i>Alangium salvifolium</i> (L.f.) Wangerin	Alangiaceae	Ooduga	Fruit	Edible	Fruit pulp edible
<i>Allmania nodiflora</i> (L.) Wt.	Amaranthaceae	Nagali kura	Leaf	Vegetable	
<i>Alternanthera paronychioides</i> St. Hil.	Amaranthaceae	Ponnaganti	Tender leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Alternanthera sessilis</i> (L.) DC.	Amaranthaceae	Ponnaganti kura	Leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable
<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Doggali	Leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Amaranthus tricolor</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Totakura	Leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable
<i>Amaranthus viridis</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Chirryaku	Leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable
<i>Amorphophalus paenofolius</i> (Dennst.) Nicolson	Arecaceae	Adavi kanda	Leaf	Vegetable	Used as a curry
<i>Anisochilus carnosus</i> (L.f.) Benth.	Lamiaceae	Kodipunju chettu	Leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable
<i>Antidesma acidum</i> Retz.	Euphorbiaceae	Pulleru	Leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable, fruits edible
<i>Aponogeton natans</i> (L.) Engl.	Aponogetaceae	Kodi dumpa	Tuber	Edible	Burnt tubers are consumed
<i>Ardisia solanacea</i> Roxb.	Myrsinaceae	Chavvalakura	Tender leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable
<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Lam.	Moraceae	Panasa	Seed	Edible	Roasted & boiled seeds are edible
<i>Atylosia scarabaeoides</i> (L.) Benth.	Papilionaceae	Konda kandi	Tender leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable
<i>Azima tetracantha</i> Lam.	Salvadoraceae	Telluppi	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i> (Retz.) Roxb.	Bombacaceae	Veduru	Young shoots	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable
<i>Barringtonia acutangula</i> (L.) Gaertn.	Barringtoniaceae	Barrenka	Tender leaves	Edible	
<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Kanchanam	Flower buds	Vegetable	
<i>Benkera malabarica</i> (Lam.) Tirveng.	Rubiaceae	Tella mullu chettu	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> L.	Nyctaginaceae	Atuka mamidi	Tender leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable
<i>Bombax ceiba</i> L.	Bombaceae	Buruga	Tender leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable
<i>Borassus flabellifer</i> L.	Arecaceae	Taadi	Young roots	Edible	Baked young fleshy roots are eaten
<i>Breynia vitis-idaea</i> (Burm.f.) C. Fischer	Euphorbiaceae	Pisangi	Leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable.
<i>Bridelia montana</i> (Roxb.) Willd.	Euphorbiaceae	Pankshodi	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Buchanania axillaris</i> (Desr.) Ramam.	Anacardiaceae	Pedda morli	Fruit	Edible	Ripe fruits are edible.
<i>Buchanania lanzan</i> Spreng.	Anacardiaceae	Morri	Fruit	Edible	Ripe fruits are edible.
<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam.) Taub.	Papilionaceae	Moduga	Young roots	Flour	Flour for preparation of bread.
<i>Canthium parviflorum</i> Lam.	Papilionaceae	Balusu	Fruit	Edible	Ripe fruits are edible.
<i>Capparis zeylanica</i> L.	Capparaceae	Mullaredonda	Fruit	Edible	Used as curry.

(Contd)

Table 1—Wild plant species used as food by tribal people of Andhra Pradesh—(Contd)

Botanical name	Family	Local name	Parts used	Use	Mode of use
<i>Caralluma adscendens</i> R.Br.	Asclepiadaceae	<i>Kundaetikommulu</i>	Tender stems	Chutney	As chutney.
<i>Caralluma attenuata</i> Wt.	Asclepiadaceae	<i>Moulya</i>	Stem	Edible	Used as a curry.
<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i> L.	Sapindaceae	<i>Buddalalumu</i>	Tender leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable.
<i>Careya arborea</i> Roxb.	Barringtoniaceae	<i>Bodadarimi</i>	Fruit	Edible	Ripe fruits.
<i>Casearia esculenta</i> Roxb.	Flacourtiaceae	<i>Konda jungara</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Cassia auriculata</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	<i>Tangedu</i>	Flower	Edible	
<i>Cassia fistula</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	<i>Raela</i>	Flower	Vegetable	
<i>Cassia italica</i> (Mill.) Andr.	Caesalpiniaceae	<i>Nela tangedu</i>	Leaves	Vegetable	Used as curry.
<i>Cayratia trifolia</i> (L.) Domin.	Vitaceae	<i>Pulla mada</i>	Tender leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable.
<i>Celosia argentea</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	<i>Gunugu</i>	Tender leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable.
<i>Centella asiatica</i> (L.) Urban	Apiaceae	<i>Saraswathi aku</i>	Leaves	Chutney	
<i>Cerisoides turgida</i> (Roxb.) Tirveng.	Rubiaceae	<i>Peddabikki</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Ceropegia bulbosa</i> Roxb.	Asclepiadaceae	<i>Thiyamanda</i>	Tuberous root	Edible	Boiled tubers are edible.
<i>Ceropegia hirsuta</i> Wt. & Arn.	Asclepiadaceae	<i>Paamu tiga</i>	Tuberous root	Edible	Boiled tubers are edible.
<i>Cholorophytum arundinaceum</i> Baker	Liliaceae	<i>Kuchela</i>	Tuberous root	Edible	Leafy vegetable.
<i>Cholorophytum tuberosum</i> (Roxb.) Baker	Liliaceae	<i>Kuchela</i>	Tuberous root	Edible	Leafy vegetable.
<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L.	Vitaceae	<i>Nalleda</i>	Stem	Vegetable	Crushed with Talati ( <i>Cleome gynandra</i> ) plant, turmeric and salt, mixture taken orally.
<i>Cleome gynandra</i> L.	Cleomaceae	<i>Vaminta</i>	Leaf	Vegetable	
<i>Clerodendrum serratum</i> (L.) Moon.	Verbenaceae	<i>Bommalamarri</i>	Tender leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable.
<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (L.) Diels	Menispermaceae	<i>Dusseru</i>	Leaf	Vegetable	Used as a curry.
<i>Colocasia esculenta</i> (L.) Schott. & Endl.	Araceae	<i>Chama</i>	Tender leaves	Vegetable	Leafy vegetable.
<i>Cordia dichotoma</i> Forst.f.	Cordiaceae	<i>Iriki</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Costus speciosus</i> (Koen.) Sm.	Costaceae	<i>Beskha</i>	Rhizome	Chutney	Used as chutney.
<i>Curcuma angustifolia</i> Roxb.	Zingiberaceae	<i>Paala gunta</i>	Terminal rhizome	Preparation of sweet	Rhizome flour used for preparing sweet.
<i>Cyanodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers.	Poaceae	<i>Garaka</i>	Aerial parts	Chutney	
<i>Decalepis hamiltonii</i> Wt. & Arn.	Periplocaceae	<i>Nannari</i>	Root	Pickle	Tender roots for pickle.
<i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i> (Roxb.) Nees	Poaceae	<i>veduru</i>	Tender rhizome	Vegetable	
<i>Digera muricata</i> (L.) Mart.	Amaranthaceae	<i>Chenchulaaku</i>	Leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Dillenia pentagyna</i> Roxb.	Dilleniaceae	<i>Reavadi</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i> L.	Dioscoreaceae	<i>Nookala gadda</i>	Tuber	Edible	
<i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i> L.	Dioscoreaceae	<i>Gentika dumpa</i>	Tuber	Edible	
<i>Dioscorea pentaphylla</i> L.	Dioscoreaceae	<i>Yelleru gadda</i>	Tuber	Edible	Soaked in running water, boiled and used as a vegetable.

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Table 1—Wild plant species used as food by tribal people of Andhra Pradesh—(Contd)

Botanical name	Family	Local name	Parts used	Use	Mode of use
<i>Dioscorea tomentosa</i> Spreng.	Dioscoreaceae	<i>Adavi kiska</i>	Tuber	Edible	Pieces soaked in running water for 3 days, boiled & consumed.
<i>Diospyros chloroxylon</i> Roxb.	Ebenaceae	<i>Illintha</i>	Fruit	Edible	Ripe fruits are edible.
<i>Diospyros melanoxydon</i> Roxb.	Ebenaceae	<i>Tuniki</i>	Fruit	Edible	Ripe fruits are edible.
<i>Diospyros perigrina</i> (Gaertn.) Guerke	Ebenaceae	<i>Adavi sapota</i>	Fruit	Edible	Ripe fruits are edible.
<i>Ehretia canarensis</i> (Cl.) Gamble	Boraginaceae	<i>Iriki</i>	Fruit	Edible	Ripe fruits are edible.
<i>Ehretia laevis</i> Roxb.	Boraginaceae	<i>Pisini</i>	Fruit	Edible	Ripe fruits are edible.
<i>Erythrina variegata</i> L.	Papilionaceae	Baadisha	Tender leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Erythroxylum monogynum</i> Roxb.	Erythroxylaceae	<i>Dedadaaru</i>	Leaf	Vegetable	Used as curry, fruits are edible.
<i>Euphorbia heterophylla</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Saarni koora</i>	Leaf	Vegetable	Used as a curry.
<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Reddivaari nanabaalu</i>	Tender leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Ficus hispida</i> L.f.	Moraceae	<i>Buddachettu</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Ficus racemosa</i> L.	Moraceae	<i>Medi</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Flacourtia indica</i> (Burm.f.) Merr.	Flacourtiaceae	<i>Kanregu</i>	Fruit	Pickle	
<i>Gardenia latifolia</i> Ait.	Rubiaceae	<i>Adavi sapota</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Gardenia resinifera</i> Roth	Rubiaceae	<i>Chittimiti</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Garuga pinnata</i> Roxb.	Burseraceae	<i>Garugudu</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Gnaphalium polycaulon</i> Pers.	Asteraceae	<i>Gorlalumu</i>	Leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Grewia elastica</i> Royle	Tiliaceae	<i>Tada</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Grewia flavescens</i> Juss.	Tiliaceae	<i>Jaana</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Grewia hirsuta</i> Vahl	Tiliaceae	<i>Juvilika</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Grewia tiliaefolia</i> Vahl	Tiliaceae	<i>Tada</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Grewia villosa</i> Willd.	Tiliaceae	<i>Pipali</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Guazuma ulmifolia</i> Lam.	Sterculiaceae	<i>Kanika chettu</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> (L.) R.Br.	Periplocaceae	<i>Paala tiga</i>	Root bark	Drink	Powder as coffee powder.
<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> L.	Malvaceae	<i>Dusanna</i>	Flower	Chutney	Paste used as chutney.
<i>Holostemma ada-kodien</i> Schult.	Asclepiadaceae	<i>Palapariki</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Homonoia riparia</i> Lour.	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Siridhamani</i>	Tender leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Hydrolea zeylanica</i> (L.) Vahl	Hydrophyllaceae	<i>Alumu</i>	Aerial parts	Vegetable	
<i>Hygrophila auriculata</i> (Schum.) Heine	Acanthaceae	<i>Neeru gobbi</i>	Leaf	Curry	
<i>Ipomoea aquatica</i> Forssk.	Convolvulaceae	Tuuti kaada	Tender leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Ixora arborea</i> Smith	Rubiaceae	<i>Korivi</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Lasia spinosa</i> (L.) Thw.	Araceae	<i>Neerugaddalu</i>	Rhizome	Vegetable	
<i>Leucas aspera</i> (Willd.) Link	Lamiaceae	<i>Tummi kura</i>	Leaves	Vegetable	Used in curry.
<i>Limonia acidissima</i> L.	Rutaceae	<i>Yelaga</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Madhuca indica</i> Gmel.	Sapotaceae	<i>Ippa</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i> (L.) Garcke	Malvaceae	<i>Chirubenda</i>	Tender leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Manilkara hexandra</i> (Roxb.) Dubard	Sapotaceae	<i>Pedda pala</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Melastoma malabatricum</i> L.	Melastomataceae	<i>Dayyamchettu</i>	Tender leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Miliusa tomentosa</i> (Roxb.) Sinclair	Annonaceae	<i>Barredudduga</i>	Fruit	Edible	

(Contd)

Table 1—Wild plant species used as food by tribal people of Andhra Pradesh—(Contd)

Botanical name	Family	Local name	Parts used	Use	Mode of use
<i>Mimusops elengi</i> L.	Sapotaceae	<i>Kothi poolu chettu</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Momordica dioica</i> Willd.	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Budakakara</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Morinda pubescens</i> J. E. Smith	Rubiaceae	<i>Jelli, Togari</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Moringa oleifera</i> Gaertn.	Moringaceae	<i>Munaga</i>	Fruit	Vegetable	
<i>Mucuna pruriens</i> (L.) DC.	Papilionaceae	<i>Pativratha</i>	Unripen fruit	Edible	Unripe fruits roasted & consumed.
<i>Murraya koenigii</i> (L.) Spreng.	Rutaceae	<i>Karivepa</i>	Leaves	Curry	Used in curry.
<i>Nelumbo nucifera</i> Gaertn.	Nymphaeaceae	<i>Taamara</i>	Rhizome	Vegetable	
<i>Neptunia oleracea</i> Lour.	Mimosaceae	<i>Attipatti</i>	Tender leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Nothosaerva brachiata</i> (L.) Wt. & Arn.	Amaranthaceae	<i>Akkura</i>	Leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Olax scandens</i> Roxb.	Olacaceae	<i>Turkatoppi</i>	Tender stems	Vegetable	
<i>Opuntia srticta</i> (Haw.) Haw.	Cactaceae	<i>Paapachi</i>	Fruit	Edible	Ripe fruits are edible.
<i>Oroxylum indicum</i> (L.) Vent.	Bignoniaceae	<i>Kotodu</i>	Flower	Vegetable	
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L.	Oxalidaceae	<i>Pulichinta</i>	Leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Paederia foetida</i> L.	Rubiaceae	<i>Gabbutiga</i>	Leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Pavetta indica</i> L.	Rubiaceae	<i>Paapidi</i>	Flower	Curry	
<i>Phoenix acaulis</i> L.	Arecaceae	<i>Adavi eetha</i>	Fruit	Edible	Ripe fruits are edible.
<i>Phoenix loureirii</i> Kunth	Arecaceae	<i>Chitteetha</i>	Fruit	Edible	Ripe fruits are edible.
<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i> (L.) Roxb.	Arecaceae	<i>Eatha</i>	Fruit	Edible	Ripe fruits are edible.
<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Usiri</i>	Fruit	Edible	Preparation of pickle.
<i>Physalis angulata</i> L.	Solanaceae	<i>Buddalalumu</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Physalis minima</i> L.	Solanaceae	<i>Neyibuddaku</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Pithacellobium dulce</i> (Roxb.) Benth.	Mimosaceae	<i>Seema chintha</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Polyalthia cerasoides</i> (Roxb.) Bedd.	Annonaceae	<i>Chilka dudduga</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> L.	Portulacaceae	<i>Paayili kura</i>	Leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Portulaca quadrifida</i> L.	Portulacaceae	<i>Sannapaayili</i>	Tender leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Pouzolzia zeylanica</i> (L.) Benn.	Urticaceae	<i>Yerrakatlu</i>	Root	Edible	Roasted roots edible.
<i>Premna latifolia</i> Roxb.	Verbenaceae	<i>Nelli</i>	Leaves	Curry	
<i>Premna tomentosa</i> Willd.	Verbenaceae	<i>Nelli</i>	Tender leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Pueraria tuberosa</i> DC.	Papilionaceae	<i>Naelagummadi</i>	Tuber	Edible	Boiled tubers edible.
<i>Rivea ornata</i> Choisy	Convolvulaceae	<i>Boddi kura</i>	Leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Salacia chinensis</i> L.	Hippocrataceae	<i>Allitiga</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Scheichera oleosa</i> (Lour.) Oken	Sapindaceae	<i>Pusku</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Schrebera swietenoides</i> Roxb.	Oleaceae	<i>Mokkam</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Scutia myrtina</i> (Burm.f.) Kurz	Rhamnaceae	<i>Kondapariki</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Securinea leucopyrus</i> (Willd.) Muell.-Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	<i>Tellapulcheru</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i> L.f.	Anacardiaceae	<i>Nalla jeedi</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	Solanaceae	<i>Kamanchi</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Solanum virginianum</i> L.	Solanaceae	<i>Mulaka</i>	Fruit	Vegetable	Used as a curry.
<i>Strychnos potatorum</i> L.f.	Loganiaceae	<i>Iriya</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels	Myrtaceae	<i>Allu neredu</i>	Fruit	Edible	

(Contd)

Table 1—Wild plant species used as food by tribal people of Andhra Pradesh—(Contd)

Botanical name	Family	Local name	Parts used	Use	Mode of use
<i>Tacca leontopetaloids</i> (L.) O.Kurtze	Taccaceae	<i>Kanda</i>	Tuber	Edible	
<i>Tamilnadia uliginosa</i> (Retz.) Tirveng.	Rubiaceae	<i>Kukkelaga</i>	Fruit	Curry	Used as a curry.
<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> (Willd.) Hook.f. & Thoms.	Menispermaceae	<i>Bael tiga</i>	Leaves	Vegetable	Leaf paste for external application.
<i>Toddalia asiatica</i> (L.) Lam.	Rutaceae	<i>Mrapagandra</i>	Leaves	Curry	
<i>Trianthena decandra</i> L.	Aizoaceae	<i>Tella galijeru</i>	Leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Trianthena portulacastrum</i> L.	Aizoaceae	<i>Galijeru</i>	Leaves	Vegetable	
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> L.	Zygophyllaceae	<i>Palleru</i>	Tender stems	Vegetable	
<i>Ximania americana</i> L.	Olacaceae	<i>Nakkeru</i>	Fruit	Edible	Pulp taken orally.
<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lam.	Rhamnaceae	<i>Raegu</i>	Fruit	Edible	
<i>Ziziphus oenoplea</i> (L.) Mill.	Rhamnaceae	<i>Pariki</i>	Fruit	Edible	

\*H: Herb, S: Shrub, C: Climber, T: Tree

Mostly in tribal areas, gathering and preparing wild foods is regular daily activity for many tribal households. Women and children mainly carry out the collection of wild foods. Many foods are collected along the way to forests. Women who go in groups to forests at a greater distance from the homestead undertake the collection of wild foods. It has been noticed that the traditional method of collecting food plants are in sharp decline. It is because of the lack of interest of younger generation to learn the skills from older people as they prefer food found in the local market rather than collection. This is also one of the reasons for declining the traditional knowledge on collection and utilization of wild plants in the state.

### Conclusion

Wild food plants are used as common household food and make a substantial contribution to the food security of the tribal people in many parts of Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, steps are needed to undertake extensive education about their importance as a nutritionally balanced food and as a direct and indirect source of income particularly for the resource poor families. Many of the wild foods may not be freely available in future due to over-exploitation, habitat destruction, regular forest fires and invasion of alien exotic species. So, efforts must be taken to conserve wild food plants and also the traditional knowledge for a sustainable management of biodiversity.

### Acknowledgement

Authors are thankful to Shri G Ganga Raju, Chairman, Laila Group and Mr G Rama Raju, Director, Laila Impex, Dr SN Prasad, Head, SACON, Deccan Regional Station, for their encouragement, Dr K Hemadri, Advisor, Taxonomy Division, Laila Impex, for valuable suggestions. The help received from Andhra Pradesh Forest Department during fieldwork is duly acknowledged.

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