

## Plants used for hair wash by the tribes of Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh

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**Abstract**

The paper deals with 24 species belonging to 24 genera of 18 families used by the tribes of Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh, for hair wash. Malvaceae is represented by five species followed by Fabaceae and Lamiaceae (2 spp. each) and others. Trees are dominant with 11 species followed by shrubs (6) and others. Leaf is used in 12 practices followed by pod (6), seed (4) and others.

**Key Words:** Dandruff, Hair fall, Lice, Savara, Jatapu, Andhra Pradesh

**Introduction**

Srikakulam district is the northern most part of the Andhra Pradesh state, bounded by Odisha state on the North and Bay of Bengal in the East and South-East and Vizianagaram district in the West and South-West. It is inhabited by 1,66,118 tribal people comprising of 6.15 per cent of the population (Census 2011). The tribal communities include Savara, Jatapu, Konda dora, Gadaba, Kuttiya, Yerukula. Though there are publications on hair diseases in different parts of India by different tribes (Nisha & Sivadasan 2007, Sasi *et al.* 2010, Suneetha *et al.* 2011, Shah 2012, Hari Babu & Reddi 2019) exclusive studies on the tribes of Srikakulam district were not taken up necessitating the present study.

**Materials and methods**

The ethnomedicinal data presented here is the outcome of a series of intensive field studies conducted over a period of five years (1997-2001) in 74 interior tribal pockets. Each field trip was of 5-7 days duration covering 5-6 pockets in a day. The informants are the vaidhyas, village headman, priests and other prominent persons, preferably of 50 years or more of age. A total of 41 vaidhyas have contributed their ethnomedicinal knowledge to the present study. Voucher specimens were collected in both flowering and fruiting stages and herbarium specimens were prepared and deposited in the Botany Department Herbarium of Andhra University, Visakhapatnam (AUV).

**Enumeration**

The plants are enumerated alphabetically with botanical name followed by family, vernacular name, locality, collector and voucher specimen number. Each ethnomedicinal practice is provided with the part(s) used,

method of preparation of the drug and mode of administration and dosage.

***Aloe vera*** (L.) Burm.f. (Asphodelaceae) 'Kalabanda'  
Samarilli, BRN 1304

Whole leaf paste is applied on the scalp and after one hr. the paste is washed thoroughly to reduce dandruff and itching in the scalp.

***Annona squamosa*** L. (Annonaceae) 'Sita phalamu'  
Banapuram, BRN 1489

Seed paste is applied on the head to kill lice and dandruff.

***Caryota urens*** L. (Arecaceae) 'Jeeluga' Bejji, BRN 1471

Nut powder made into paste is applied on the head and bath is taken after one hr. for dandruff.

***Cayratia pedata*** (Lam.) Gagnep. (Vitaceae) 'Adavi draksha' Polavaram, BRN 1492

Fruits are made into paste and applied on the head to destroy lice and dandruff.

***Dillenia indica*** L. (Dilleniaceae) 'Revadachettu'  
Peddalogidi, BRN 1673

Fruit is toxic but fruit juice is used as hair wash to kill lice and dandruff.

***Eclipta prostrata*** (L.) L. (Asteraceae) 'Guntakalavaraku'  
Nutilova, BRN 1193

Leaf juice is applied on head. After one hr. head bath is taken. This can be repeated once in a week for a few weeks to treat premature graying of hair and dandruff.

***Gloriosa superba*** L. (Colchicaceae) 'Pottidumpa' Althi,  
BRN 1806



Leaf juice is applied to the scalp for killing lice.

**Gmelina asiatica** L. (Lamiaceae) ‘Nelagummudu’ Korada, BRN 1309

Ripe fruit paste is applied to the scalp one hour before bath for four weeks to cure dandruff.

**Grewia tiliifolia** Vahl (Malvaceae) ‘Tadachettu’ Maluva, BRN 1067

Leaf paste is used as hair wash to kill lice and dandruff.

**Gymnosporia emarginata** (Willd.) Thwaites (Celastraceae) ‘Dantepu’ Hunnali, BRN 2290

Leaf paste is also used as hair wash to kill lice and treat dandruff.

**Hibiscus rosa-sinensis** L. (Malvaceae) ‘Mandara’

Taralakota, BRN 2211

Leaf paste is applied on the scalp for a week to treat alopecia and dandruff.

**Homonoia riparia** Lour. (Euphorbiaceae) ‘Neetighaniki’ Barasingapura, BRN 2142

Leaf paste is applied on head to kill lice and to clear dandruff.

**Lanea coromandelica** (Houtt.) Merr. (Anacardiaceae)

‘Dumpidi’ Ratti, BRN 2000

Seed infusion is used for head bath to get relief from dandruff.

**Momordica dioica** Roxb. ex Willd. (Cucurbitaceae)

‘Adivikakara’ Baligam, BRN 1861

Tuber paste is applied on head to remove dandruff.

**Murraya koenigii** (L.) Spreng. (Rutaceae) ‘Karepaku’

Jalantrakota, BRN 1598

Leaves are made into paste and applied on the head one hr. before head bath. This prevents the hair fall and keeps free from dandruff.

**Nyctanthes arbor-tristis** L. (Oleaceae) ‘Kistet’

Gollagandi, BRN 1130

Seed paste is applied to the scalp one hour before head bath to treat dandruff.

**Ocimum tenuiflorum** L. (Lamiaceae) ‘Tulsi’ Bidimi, BRN 1090

Leaf juice is anointed on the head to cure dandruff.

**Phyllanthus emblica** L. (Phyllanthaceae) ‘Boddamla’ Mendu, BRN 1722

Dried fruits are made into paste and applied to the scalp one hr. before the head bath for curing dandruff.

**Pongamia pinnata** (L.) Pierre (Fabaceae) ‘Kanuga’ Metturu, BRN 2157

Paste of the stem bark and leaves is applied on head to cure dandruff.

**Pterospermum xylocarpum** (Gaertn.) Oken (Malvaceae)

‘Vuleka’ Jagathi, BRN 1867

Leaf paste is used as hair wash to kill lice and dandruff.

**Sapindus emarginatus** Vahl (Sapindaceae) ‘Kunkudu’ Kotcherla, BRN 2190

Fruit juice is used as hair wash to kill lice and cure dandruff.

**Senegalia rugata** (Lam.) Britton & Rose (Fabaceae)

‘Seekaya’ Donubai, BRN 1449

A decoction of the pods is used as hair wash. It promotes growth of hair, kills lice and removes dandruff.

**Thespesia populnea** (L.) Sol. ex Correa (Malvaceae) ‘Gangaravi’ Bheempura, BRN 1166

Stem bark mixed with goat milk is made into paste and applied over the head two hrs. before hair wash, to treat dandruff.

**Urena lobata** L. (Malvaceae) ‘Antursa’ Kottapalem, BRN 1504

Leaf paste is applied on the head one hr. before hair wash. The same treatment is repeated every three days for about a fortnight to cure dandruff and premature fall of hair.

## Results and Discussion

The paper deals with 24 species of plants in 24 genera belonging to 18 families used by the tribes of Srikakulam district for alopecia, lice, hair fall, greying and dandruff. Out of 24 species single species is represented in 15 families whereas in Fabaceae and Lamiaceae two species each and in Malvaceae five species are being used. Habit-wise analysis showed the dominance of trees with 11 species followed by shrubs (6 spp.), climbers (4 spp.) and herbs (3 spp.). Morphological analysis showed the maximum utilization of leaves in 12 practices, followed by pods (6 nos.), seeds (4 nos.), stem bark (2 nos.) and tuber (1 no.). They are administered either in the form of paste, juice, decoction or infusion along with either water or goat milk and head bath is taken in all the practices. Plants used for similar purpose in different parts of India and its neighbouring countries are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Some plants of Srikakulam district used for similar purpose in some Asian countries.

S.No.	Plants species	Tribes/Area/Region/Country	Reference(s)
1.	<i>Cayratia pedata</i> , <i>Thespesia populnea</i>	Yanadi, Nakkala, Yerukala, Lambadi of Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh	Reddy <i>et al.</i> 1989
2.	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i> , <i>Gmelina asiatica</i> , <i>Sapindus emarginatus</i>	Yanadi, Nakkala, Irula, Yerukala, Sugali/Lambadi, Chenchu of Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh	Vedavathy <i>et al.</i> 1997
3.	<i>Annona squamosa</i>	Chenchu, Yerukala, Yanadi, Sugali of Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh Maldhari, Banjara, Kachchhi of Kachchh district, Gujarat Kandha, Ganda, Sabara of Kalahandi district, Orissa Folklore of Gulbarga district, Karnataka Gond, Madia, Pardhan, Kanwar of Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra	Rao & Pullaiah 2001  Bhatt <i>et al.</i> 2002 Panda & Padhy 2008 Ghatapanadi <i>et al.</i> 2011 Bhogaonkar & Saudagar 2015
4.	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i>	Bhil, Garasia tribes of Banaskantha and Sabarkantha districts of Gujarat Valaya tribe of Virudunagar district, Tamil Nadu People of Kerala Machhi, Koli, Tandel, Bhandari, Dubia, Kunbi, Rohit of South Gujarat People of Union Territory of Pondicherry Chakma, Marma, Tripura of Chittagong Hill tracts, Bangladesh Bhariya, Gond of Chhindwara district, Madhya Pradesh	Punjani 2002  Rajendran <i>et al.</i> 2002 Maya <i>et al.</i> 2003 Kshirsagar <i>et al.</i> 2003  Nadanakunjidam & Abirami 2005 Biswas <i>et al.</i> 2010  Rai 2017
5.	<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	Melghat of Amravati district, Maharashtra	Chaudhari & Hutke 2002
6.	<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>	Folklore of Arghakhanchi district, West Nepal Konyak, Naga of Mon district, Nagaland Pawara, Bhil, Pardhi of Dhule and Jalgaon districts of Maharashtra Inhabitants of Arid Regions of Northern Punjab, Pakistan	Panthe & Chaudhary 2003 Jamir <i>et al.</i> 2008 Jain <i>et al.</i> 2010  Ashfaq <i>et al.</i> 2019
7.	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i> , <i>Senegalia rugata</i>	Gond, Muria, Halba, Kanwar, Baiga, Kumar, Korcu, Oraon, Binjhwar of Chhattisgarh	Tirkey 2004
8.	<i>Sapindus emarginatus</i>	Kathodi of Sabarkantha district, Gujarat	Punjani 2006
9.	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> , <i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i>	Paniya, Kuruma, Adiyar, Kurichya, Oorali, Kattinaikan, Kodan of Wayanad district, Kerala	Nisha & Sivadasan 2007
10.	<i>Aloe vera</i>	Dimasa, Kachari of Cachar district, Assam	Choudhury <i>et al.</i> 2008
11.	<i>Aloe vera</i> , <i>Eclipta prostrata</i>	Mullu kuruma of Wayanad district, Kerala	Silja <i>et al.</i> 2008
12.	<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	Chenchu of Gundlabrahmeswaram in Nallamalai hills of Andhra Pradesh	Yasodamma <i>et al.</i> 2009
13.	<i>Gloriosa superba</i> , <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	People of Lakshadweep Islands	Ansarali & Sivadasan 2009
14.	<i>Aloe vera</i> , <i>Eclipta prostrata</i> , <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> , <i>Murraya koenigii</i> , <i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>	Malasar of Velliangiri Hills of South Western Ghats	Sasi <i>et al.</i> 2010
15.	<i>Annona squamosa</i> , <i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> , <i>Sapindus emarginatus</i> , <i>Senegalia rugata</i>	Konda reddy, Konda dora, Koya dora, Konda kammara, Konda kapu, Manne dora and Valmiki of East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh	Suneetha <i>et al.</i> 2011
16.	<i>Aloe vera</i> , <i>Eclipta prostrata</i> , <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> , <i>Nyctanthes arbor-tristis</i> , <i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> , <i>Sapindus emarginatus</i> , <i>Senegalia rugata</i>	Ethnic people of India	Shah 2012
17.	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	Folklore of Tumkur district, Karnataka	Achar <i>et al.</i> 2015

18.	<i>Annona squamosa</i> , <i>Eclipta prostrata</i> , <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> , <i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>	Lodha of West Bengal	Chaudhury <i>et al.</i> 2018
19.	<i>Aloe vera</i> , <i>Annona squamosa</i> , <i>Dillenia indica</i> , <i>Gmelina asiatica</i> , <i>Gymnosporia emarginata</i> , <i>hyllanthus emblica</i> , <i>Sapindus emarginatus</i> , <i>Senagalia rugata</i>	Bagata, Gadaba, Goudu, Khond, Konda dora, Konda kammara, Kotia, Mali, Mukha dora, Porja, Valmiki of Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh	Hari Babu & Reddi 2019

The promising plants be subjected to chemical analysis and be recommended for cultivation in forest and plain areas.

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