

A Survey of Some Floral Dye-Yielding Plants of District Nainital Uttarakhand, India

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Abstract: Taking into consideration the increased use of chemicals in every field of life and the increasing concern to protect biodiversity, this study focuses on the use of flowers in plants to extract natural dyes in Nainital district, Uttarakhand. The study presents reports on 21 plants whose flowers can be used to extract natural dyes, out of which the maximum plants belong to the family Fabaceae, the maximum colours obtained are yellow and pink, and the maximum plants belong to the shrub habit. The objective of this study is to address the concern regarding the increasing use of non-biodegradable, disease-causing chemicals in every field of life. The replacement of natural dyes with synthetic dyes is a bane to biodiversity. Hence, it is necessary to switch from a chemical life to a natural life. The current study focuses only on the use of flowers of the plant to extract natural dyes; this may give new life to the discarded flowers and may become a sustainable way to protect biodiversity.

Keywords: Flowers • Natural dyes • Biodegradable • Sustainable • Biodiversity • Nainital

Introduction

Dyes are agents that impart color to various substances. They are natural or synthetic based on manufacturing. They have 2 components -Auxochrome and Chromophore. Auxochrome helps dyes to bind with fabrics and chromophore increases its intensity. Natural dyes can be either extracted from animals, insects, or plants. The study focuses on the use of flowering plants to extract the dyes. Flowers are the most beautiful part of plants. They contain colorful petals that are a source to extract natural dyes. This will not cause any harm or loss to biodiversity. Nowadays there is an increased use of synthetic dyes that are nonbiodegradable, non-eco-friendly, and can accumulate in an organism's body by bioaccumulation. Also, they produce poisonous waste that is dangerous to humans (Gulrajini 2001). Natural dyes are biodegradable in comparison to synthetic dyes hence they are ecofriendly. Natural dyes just have a single drawback in that they do not fix tightly with the fabrics and hence require a mordanting process. Mordants will increase the binding capability of natural dyes. Potassium sulfate. Such as -Potassium dichromate, Copper sulfate, Ferrous sulfate, and

Stannous chloride (Krizova 2015). The history of natural dyes starts from 2600 BC and was first mentioned in Chinese documents. Traces were also found in Tutankhamun's tomb (Siva 2007). From the earlier period, the use of Turmeric, Kachnar, Marigold, and Henna was common. Rhododendron and onion skin (Conley and Lewis 1960), Elderberry, and Blueberry uses are mentioned to extract colors like red, blue, and purple dyes (Krizova 2015). The Introduction of Petroleum and coal tar dyes has reduced the use of natural dyes in today's world. Even after knowing that they are carcinogenic and allergic, their production is increasing rapidly worldwide. It is important to replace them with natural dyes as soon as possible to increase the health and integrity of our ecosystem. Dyes can be the most important uses of plants as they are associated with rituals, art, craft, fabrics and to satisfy personal embodiment however, the dye-yielding plants have not received significant attention. At the world level, the work is also contributed by some American publishers, Furry and Vinmont (1935), and Kierstead (1950), who provide extensive instructions on home dyeing. In India, the introduction to natural dyes was given by Gulrajini and Gupta (1992), Nishida and Kobayashi (1992); gives knowledge about the

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dye-yielding capabilities of vegetable sources, Mahanta and Tiwari (2005) mentioned the dyevielding plants of Arunachal Pradesh, Chandramouli (1995) mentioned sources of natural dyes in Chennai. An explanation on vegetable dyes from West Bengal by Ghosh (2003) and Rongmei and Yadav (2005) puts light on traditional dye yielding plants of Manipur. Various ethnobotanical studies have been carried out in Uttarakhand, but fewer concerns have been raised regarding the use of plants to extract natural dyes. A lot of work has been done in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand as compared to the Kumaon region. In Uttarakhand, the introduction to natural dyes was given by Atkinson in 1882. He even included some plants from the Garhwal and Kumaon regions in the second part of "The Himalayan Gazetteer". In Uttarakhand plants like Kaphal, Burans, Akhrot, Dolu, and Tantri were used by the tribal communities from ancient times to yield natural dyes. The contribution given by several scientists i.e. Chandramouli (1995) in Chennai, Joshi and Pandey (1999) in Uttarakhand, Ghosh (2003) in West Bengal, Rongmei and Yadav (2005) in Manipur have promoted plants as a source to extract natural dyes. Other than this Duthie (1906), Osmaston (1927), Rau (1961), Raizada and Saxena (1978), Kala and Gaur (1982), Rajwar and Gupta (1988), Gaur and Bartwal (1995), Dayal and Dobhal (2001) are some of the notable contributors in Uttarakhand. Nainital shows a great diversity of flora and fauna. Hence, different plants can be spotted here whose flowers can be used to extract the natural dyes. The present study is an effort to record some information on the plants that produce floral dyes in the Nainital district, taking into consideration the significance of indigenous knowledge and the future prospects of natural dyes.

Material and Methods

The work presented is survey-based research conducted on plants of the Nainital district, whose flowers are used to extract natural dyes.

The survey was conducted for 9 months between January to September 2023 in different cities of

the Nainital district. During this survey, various plant specimens were captured. The main aim of the study is to focus on those plants whose flowers are used to extract dyes, Hence, only those plants were noticed that were in their flowering stage. Between January to March. plants like Rhododendron. Mallow. Jacaranda. and Delphinium were captured and between April to September, plants like Cassia, Caesalpinia, and Catharanthus were observed.

After completion of the survey, plants were identified using local flora. Dye extraction was confirmed from the available literature (Gulrajani and Gupta 1992, Chandramouli 1995, Gosh 2003, Rongmei and Yadav 2005, Siva (2007). Various books, sites, and other available sources were also analyzed to confirm the dye extraction from the plants.

A herbarium was also prepared from the samples collected during this study period which also helped us in the identification of the collected species.

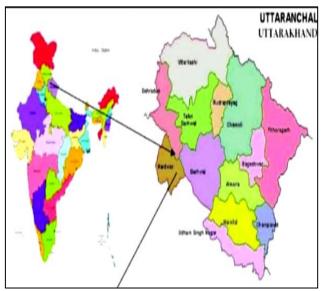
Study Area: Uttarakhand is called as the land of Gods or Devbhumi. It is rich in biodiversity. The state has 13 districts and Nainital is one of them. The district includes 8 tehsils, 1141 villages, and 11 towns. It covers an area of 4,251 sq Km. During the research work different cities of Nainital - Haldwani, Kathgodam, Lalkuan, Bhimtal, Nainital and Bhowali were explored to search for those plants whose flowers can be used to extract natural dyes.

Results and Discussion

A total of 21 plant species of 16 botanical families are selected whose flowers can be used to extract natural dyes. 3 plants belong to the family Fabaceae (Peacock flower, *Cassia*, Kachnar), 2 plants belong to family Apocynaceae (Periwinkle, Pink Kaner), Nyctaginaceae (*Bougainvillea*, *Mirabilis jalapa*) and Bignoniaceae (*Jacaranda*, *Tecoma stans*). Other plants were included in the family. Oleaceae, Balsaminaceae, Asteraceae, Combretaceae, Verbenaceae, Ranunculaceae, Portulaceae, Malvaceae (Fig 2).



The maximum colors in dye extracted are pink and yellow from 9 plants, followed by red dye from 8 plants, brown and orange dye from 3 plants, and purple dye from 2 plants (Fig 3).



Habits of dye-yielding plants are shrubs (42.9%),trees (38.1%), climbers and vines (14.3%), andherbs(4.8%)(Fig4).



Fig 1. Study area

Table 1. Floral dye-yielding plants of District Nainital along with their Botanical name, Family, habitat,Dye extracted, and Medicinal values.

Botanical	Plant name	Family/	Dye	Medicinal uses	References
names	English/Local	(Habit)	extracted		
Bauhinia	Mountain	Fabaceae	Purple	Abnormal menstruation,	(Sachin et al.,
variegata	Ebony	(Tree)		stem decoction cure	2021)
	(Kachnar)			piles, ulcer	
Caesalpinia	Paradise	Fabaceae	Mustard	Treatment of cholera,	(Verenkar et al.,
pulcherrima	Flower	(Tree)		diarrhea, dysentery, and	2017); (Jaikumar
	(Peacock			malarial infection.	et al., 2017)
	Flower)				
Cassia	Cassia	Fabaceae	Yellow	Seed cures eyes and	(Siva, 2007)
auriculata	(Senna)	(Tree)		root cures skin issues,	
				Anti-Helminthic	
				properties.	
Bougainvillea	Paper flower	Nyctanthaceae	Green	Cure respiratory	(Naik et al., 2019);
glabra	(Cherei)	(Vines)		disorders, Anti-	(Vargas and
				cancerous, Antidiabetic,	Petricevich, 2018);
				cure wounds.	(Soni and
					Sherawat, 2019)
Mirabilis	4O'Clock	Nyctanthaceae	Brown	Leaves cure bruises on	(Verenkar et al.,
Jalapa	Flower	(Shrub)		the skin, and juice	2017); (Malakar
	(Gulbaas)			extract is mixed with	and Biswas, 2021)
				water to cure jaundice.	
Nyctanthes	Night	Oleaceae	Yellow-	Leave kadha to cure	(Rahmawati et al.,
arbor-tristis	Jasmine	(Tree)	Orange	mosquito fever, Hepato-	2020).
	(Parijat)			protective, the flower is	(Tripathi et al.,



Botanical	Plant name	Family/	Dye	Medicinal uses	References
names	English/Local	(Habit)	extracted		
				antipyretic, cures piles,	2021)
				anti-inflammatory	
				properties.	
Impatiens	Garden	Balsaminaceae	Yellow	Cure foot disease,	(Chul and Soon,
balsamina	Balsam	(Shrub)	Red	bruises on skin,	2003);
	(Glumehndi)			rheumatism, Vit. C	(Qain et al., 2023)
				deficiency.	
Rosa	Rose	Rosaceae	Brown/	Flower decoctions cure	(Zumahi et al.,
indica	(Gulab)	(Shrub)	Yellow	heavy menstrual flow,	2018)
				and show activity	,
				against HIV infection.	
Tagetes erecta	Marigold	Asteraceae	Yellowish-	Flower and leaves	(Verenkar et al.,
	(Genda)	(Shrub)	Orange	decoction cures	2017); (Shetty et
	(Contan)	(5111 400)	orange	diuretics, and flower	al., 2015)
				juice is a blood purifier	un, 2013)
				and cures piles.	
Malva	Creeping	Malvaceae	Purple,	Leaf extract cures pain	(Rushworth, 2015)
sylvestris	Charlie	(Vines)	Pink	and discomfort, and root	(Mousavi et al.,
sylvesilis	(Mallow)	(vines)	1 IIIK	decoction cures urinary	(Nousavi et al., 2021)
	(Manow)			and respiratory	2021)
				disorders.	
Jacaranda	Blue	Dianoniogogo	Blue		(Ghosh, 2019);
		Bignoniaceae	Blue	Show antiseptic	
mimosifolia	Jacaranda	(Tree)		properties, and cures	(Serra et al.,
	(Neeli			ulcers in the mouth and	2020b)
T (Glumohar)	D' '	X7 11	stomach.	
Tecoma stans	Yellow	Bignoniaceae	Yellow	Stem, leaf extracts are	(Verenkar et al.,
	trumpet	(Tree)		anti-diabetic, wound	2017); (V.S and
	(Yellow bells)			healing, and cancer	Raj, 2020)
				curing.	
Combretum	Rangoon	Combretaceae	Pink	Root and stem extracts	(Sahu et al., 2012)
indicum	Creeper	(Vines)	Red	have anti-helminthic	
	(Madhumalti)			properties.	
Lantana	Wild sage	Verbanaceae	Reddish-	Leaf extract cures	(Datta et al., 2023);
camara	(Ghaneri)	(Shrub)	yellow	rheumatism, ulcers,	(Kalita et al., 2012)
				cancer, malaria, and	
				tetanus.	
Canna	Canna lily	Cannaceae	Yellow	Rhizome cures dropsy	(Sahoo et al.,
indica	(Keli)	(Shrub)		and jaundice, leaves	2020); (Hosur and
				infusion treat malaria,	Handral, 2021)
				and flowers prevent	
				bleeding from wounds.	
Nerium	Dogbane	Apocynaceae(Tree)	Creamy	Oil has anti-cancerous	(Verenkar et al.,
oleander	(Pink Kaner)		pinkish	properties, root extract	2017); (Ghule et
			-	cures leprosy and skin	al., 2022)
				disease, and peel	
				powder cures ear pain.	
C 1	Silver	Amaranthaceae	Greenish	A folk medicine to cure	(Zumahi et al.,
Celosia					



Botanical	Plant name	Family/	Dye	Medicinal uses	References
names	English/Local	(Habit)	extracted		
	(Wool flower)			gonorrhea, seed cure	2018)
				wounds.	
Portulaca	Purslane	Portulaceae	Yellow	Neuroprotective	(Zhang et al.,
oleracea	(Portulaca)	(Herb)	Pink	substance cures ulcers	2022); (Zhou et al.,
				in the mouth and	2015)
				stomach.	
Delphinium	Larks	Ranunculaceae	Purple,	Chinese folk medicine	(Swami et al.,
grandiflorum	Claw	(Shrub)	pink	cures rheumatism,	2020); (Yin et al.,
	(Larkspur)			scabies, toothache,	2020)
	_			edema, and traumatic	
				injury.	
Catharanthus	Periwinkle	Apocynaceae	Pinkish	Roots cure diabetes and	(Islam et al., 2018)
roseus	(Sadabahar)	(Shrub)	red	dysentery, Leaves cure	
				Hypertension and	
				cancer, Cure insect	
				bites.	
Rhododendron	Buransh	Ericaceae	Reddish-	Quercetin has anti-	(Kim et al., 2013);
arboretum	(Burans)	(Tree)	Brown	cancerous properties,	(Sharma et al.,
				and Cure skin problems,	2022); (Madhvi et
				bad cholesterol.	al., 2019)

Table 2: Uses of Dyes in Different Fields

Dye Usage Fields		Plants Used Dye Colour Extracted		References	
WOOL (Fabrics)		Portulaca oleracea	Yellow, Pink	(Zhang et al., 2022)	
		Lantana camara	Reddish-yellow	(Datta et al., 2023)	
		Malva sylvestris	Purple Pink	(Rushworth, 2015)	
		Nyctanthes arbor-tristis	Yellow Orange	(Adeel et al., 2022)	
		Impatiens balsamina	Olive Green	(Annapoorani and Divya, 2012)	
		Celosia cristata	Yellow, Green (Olive, Dull)	(Vankar and Shanker, 2008)	
COTTON (Fab	orics)	Bougainville glabra	Green	(Naik et al., 2019)	
		Caesalpinia pulcherrima	Green	(Naik et al., 2019)	
		Mirabilis jalapa	Olive	(Annapoorani and Divya, 2014)	
		Rosa indica	Brown, Pink	(Patil et al., 2016)	
		Cassia auriculata	Mustard, Green	(Muruganandham et al., 2023)	
		Tecoma stans	Yellow	(Chandra et al., 2012)	
SILK (Fabrics)		Impatiens balsamina	Yellow Red	(Chul and soon, 2003)	
		Nerium oleander	Creamy- Pinkish	(Vankar and Shanker, 2008)	
		Tagetes erecta	Yellow-Orangish	(Chavan and Ghosh, 2015)	
		Cassia auriculata	Yellowish	(Muruganandham et al., 2023)	
		Delphinium	Purple, pink	(Kiumarsi et al., 2016)	
		grandiflorum			
DSSC	(Dye	Catharanthus roseus	Pinkish red	(Islam et al., 2018)	
Sensitized	Solar	Rhododendron	Reddish-Brown	(Kim et al., 2013)	
Cell)		arboretum	Purple	(Sudhakar et al., 2016)	
		Bauhinia purpurea	Red, Yellow	(Sahoo et al., 2020);	
		Canna indica			



LEATHER	Cassia auriculata	Brown, Green,	(Muruganandham et al., 2023)

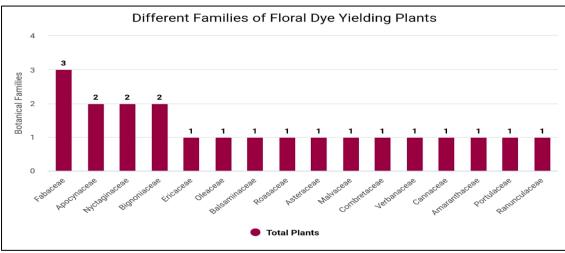
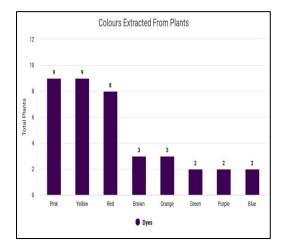


Fig 2. Different families of dye yielding plants





Conclusion

In order to find the flowering plants with dyeyielding capacity, a survey was conducted from January to September 2023 in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand. Nainital shows a vast range of biodiversity. Hence, a total of twenty-one plant species were selected whose flowers can be used to extract the natural dyes. The main objective behind the survey-based research work is the concern regarding the increased use of chemicals in every field of life. These chemicals are nonbiodegradable and can accumulate in the

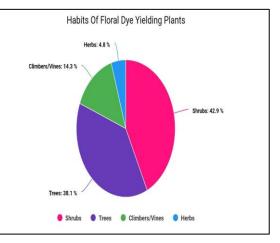


Fig 4. Habits of floral dye yielding plants

organism's body, resulting in harmful diseases like cancer, lung disease, kidney disease, and CNS disorders. The dyes are mostly extracted from the flowers, and hence no harm is caused to the plant by the extraction of these dyes. These plants also carry immense medicinal value, such as anticancer, anti-diabetic, anti-ulcer, and hepatoprotective properties, and can also be used to cure anxiety and depression. The use of natural dyes from the flower will not cause any loss to biodiversity; it will also help in the protection of



biodiversity from the increasing use of nonbiodegradable, polluting, and harmful chemicals.

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