

the Jarawa aboriginals for allowing him to interact with them, to Dr J.R.B. Alfred, Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, for deputation him to participate in the Jarawa and Sentinelese contact expedition and to Dr B.K. Sinha, Botanical Survey of India, Allahabad, for confirmation

of plant identification.

References

- Chandra, K. 1996. A seaweed of ornamental value among the Jarawa people of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. *India Malayan Nature J.* 50: 97-98.
Sarkar, J. 1990. *The Jarawa*. Anthropological Survey of India. 192

सलाई पाटी (लिकुआला पेल्टाटा राक्सब-आरिकेसी), अंडमान की जरवा आदिवासी क एक आवश्यक पौधा

कैला चन्द

भारतीय जन्तु सर्वेक्षण विभाग, पोर्ट ब्लेयर, अंडमान-744 102

इस लेख में अंडमान की जरवा आदिवासी द्वारा लिकुआला पेल्टाटा (सलाई पाटी) के पौधों के उपयोगों का सूचना दी गयी है। बाहरी लोगों के प्रतिस्पर्धा व अन्य गतिविधियों से जरवा की जनसंख्या संकुचित होती जा रही है।

Ethnobotany of the Oil Extraction Process by the 'Santhals' of Banduan in Purulia

Ram Sankar Basu

Botany Department, Acharya Memorial College, Jhalda-721 202, West Bengal

Prasanta Kumar Mukherjee

Botany Department, University of Calcutta, Calcutta-700 019

Banduan is one of the most backward rural areas in Purulia district of West Bengal. 'Santhals' constitute more than 90% of the total population. They live in hamlets in hilly jungles. They are familiar with the oil-yielding plants occurring in the forest. Oilseeds are collected from the jungle and squeezed manually in a wooden press made by them. The process of manufacturing of this manual grinder press, the oil extraction process, names of woods used and the oil-yielding plants and uses of oils are reported.

Keywords: Santhals, Oil extraction, West Bengal

A musical instrument called 'Boang' used by the Santhals of Banduan Block of Purulia district (W.B.) was reported in an earlier communication (Basu & Mukherjee 1996). A contraption used by them for oil extraction is described in the present communication.

The Contraption and the Process of Oil Extraction

Oil extraction is done with the help of a wooden press (Figs. 1a and 1b) locally called 'Janta'. One such 'Janta' is enough for a hamlet. This press consists mainly of two horizontal planks held one above the other. The planks are about 3 m in length, 40 cm in breadth and 7 cm in thickness.

At the centre of the lower plank, a circular shaped groove of about 25 cm diameter is carved out with a central hole. These planks are made from the woods of 'Nim' (*Azadirachta indica* Juss., Meliaceae), 'Kusum' (*Schleichera oleosa* (Lour.) Oken, Sapindaceae), or 'Mohul' (*Morinda indica* J. Gmelin, Sapotaceae). The lower plank is set up horizontally above the ground (Fig. 1a) upon two stone slabs. Two vertical posts, 10 cm broad and 5 cm thick, made of 'Santal' (*Santalum robusta* Roxb., Dipterocarpaceae) wood, are fixed on the ground through the centre of the lower and the upper plank just upwards. These posts are treated as 'Santhals'.