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## 5. Ethno-musico-botanical studies from Toranmal region, Nandurbar District, Maharashtra, India

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Music is life of the people reside in remote areas. As there are no much facility for entertainment and carnivals in the remote and inaccessible regions, the tribals have developed instruments of their own and written their own songs and prepared melodies for using them during different occasions and events. The present communication deals with 11 plants used in preparing different musical instruments by the tribal people of Toranmal region.

**Key words:** Ethno-music, plants, Toranmal, Nandurbar, Maharashtra.

### INTRODUCTION

Toranmal region with highest elevation is recorded at hills rising up to 3373 feet with a lake on its top, is a part of Satpura mountain of central India. Mountain in this region forms about seven major folds with an average height of 600 meter above sea

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level and slope down steeply towards river Narmada in North. Two of these ranges of hills unite at Toranmal and enclose an irregular tableland of about 50 km long and 25 km broad. Northern part of this area occupies dry deciduous type of forest while, the southern fertile plains towards river Tapi is predominantly agricultural. Toranmal fall in the Shahada Taluka of the district.

Tribes in Toranmal include the Pawaras, Bhils, Gomits, Gavits, Kokanis, etc. Bhil and Pawara are the most dominant tribes in the area.

Tribal of these areas have flair for music and dance, their lives are full or rhythm. In almost all the activities or events it can be observed that music is the most noteworthy aspect of their civilization which makes them more energetic, otherwise unexciting life.

On every festival, fair or any other event there is some sort of music and dance concert. They dance to the harmonious tunes of musical instruments developed and prepared by them using locally on hand plant materials like wood, gourd, bamboo, plant fibers, etc. Musical instruments mostly used by local people are Tarpa, Dhol, Madal, Tamboora, Pava, Pungi, etc.

### 1. Tarpa:

This is most popular instrument among the tribals of this region. Tarpa-dance is performed by using Tarpa. Actually this instrument is used to invoke Gods and Deities but as a part of tribal culture it is used for performing dance which generally takes place after harvesting of new crops and continues till Diwali festival.

Men and women in couple dance with the tunes of Tarpa. The person plays Tarpa stands in the middle and all the couples circles around him. The first man in the row

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holds the bamboo stick of 5 feet length for maintaining rhythm. While dancing the movement of steps change as tunes of Tarpa changes.

### **Making of Tarpa:**

Dried scooped out narrowly oblong fruit of *Lagenaria siceraria* (Molina) Standl. (gourd) perforated at both the ends, first one to blow the air and the next one is connected to two bamboo culms. At the other end of bamboo culms another *Lagenaria* fruit or cattle horn is used. The bamboo culms are have holes and are used to regulate the sound like flute. The gaps between the culms and dried gourd fruits are filled by wrapping the *Borassus flabelifer* L. leaves. Bee wax mixed with charcoal or tartar used for sealing. The length of Tarpa varies from 1 to 1.5 meters depending upon the length of *Lagenaria siceraria* (Molina) Standl. fruits used.

Tarpa is also used by tribals of other parts in India, such as Thane, Dadara Nagar Haveli (Sharma and Singh, 2001), Rajashtan (Joshi, 1995).

### **2. Dhol:**

Dhol is barrel shaped instrument made up of hollow wooden cylinder leathered on both sides. Dhol is used in different ceremonies and community gathering but particularly during the dhol-dance. Tribal men perform this dance by singing solo and chorus songs and playing dhol. The dancers face the person playing dhol and dance in jerks, twists and jumps. The dance is performed in several formations with acrobatics and human pyramids from rice harvest season to 'holi' festival. This dance is done to propitiate village deities.

### **Making of Dhol:**

Hollow wooden cylinder of *Tectona grandis* L. f. / *Demodium oojeinensis* / *Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb. is prepared. Leather parchment (goat of cattle skin) is tightly stretched over the sides of the wooden cylinder with the help of cords and the tension on the cords (made by fibers of *Hibiscus cannabinus* L.) for stretching

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leather is altered as per the need by inserting small wooden blocks. Rice flour (*Oryza sativa* L.f.) paste is applied over the leather parchment for good quality sound.

### **3. Madal:**

Madal is also a barrel shaped hollow wooden cylinder but differ from the dhol as both sides of madal are little tapered / narrowed towards the ends. Leather parchment is stretched at both the open sides.

Tribal people use this instrument during bhajana, worshipping the god and during social ceremonies.

#### **Making of Madal:**

Hollow cylinder of *Desmodium oojainensis* (Roxb.) H. Ohashi./ *Tectona grandis* L. f. / *Dalbergia sisso* DC. taken, leather parchment (goat skin) is stretched over both the open sides and tied by using the cord made of fibers of *Hibiscus cannabinus* L.

Rice flour (*Oryza sativa* L.f.) paste is applied on the parchment. This is played by using different parts of hand for striking by hand for bring variations in sound and music.

### **4. Tamboora**

This instrument is used during all sort of worship or songs devoted to god and goddesses. This instrument has dried scooped out flat topped fruit of *Lagenaria siceraria* (Molina) Standl. One bamboo stick of approximately 3 to 4 feet length is pierced or inserted from the side of fruit with long portion on one side and very short portion on other side.

At the end of stick small wooden pegs made up of *Terminalia crenulata* Roth wood are inserted and same pegs are inserted at other end stick. Small wooden support is given over the fruit portion which supports the strings tied to the pegs at both ends. The instrument is played by finger, vibrations of the strings pass on the gourd fruit which function as resonator.

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Same instrument is also prepared by using *Gemlina arborea* Roxb. wood.

### 5. Pava or basari

Pava is the instrument mostly used by the cowboys while grazing the animals.

Hollow bamboo stem (*Bambusa vulgaris* Schrad.) is taken. Five equidistance holes are perforated on bamboo stem. One end of stem is plugged and the other end is cut obliquely and wooden chip is inserted, through which air is blown.

### 6. Pungi:

Pungi is also called as been. This is wind instrument played by snake charmers.

#### Making of Pungi:

The instrument is made up of a mouth blown reservoir of dried scooped out slightly elongated fruit of *Lagenaria siceraria* (Molina) Standl. Two hollow bamboo stems are connected at one end of fruit with 6 to 7 holes perforated on one pipe. Melody is played with this while other pipe for support.

These pipes are connected or fitted to the gourd fruit by using bees wax mixed with charcoal.

#### Plants used for making various musical instruments

	Botanical name	Part/s used	Name of the instrument
1.	<i>Borassus flabelifer</i> L.	Leaves	Tarpa
2.	<i>Dalbergia sisso</i> DC.	Wood	Dhol, Madal
3.	<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i> Schrad.	Stem	Tarpa, pungi, pawa
4.	<i>Desmodium oojeinensis</i> (Roxb.) H. Ohashi.	Wood	Dhol, Madal
5.	<i>Hibiscus cannabinus</i> L.	Rope made of fibers	Dhol, Madal

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6.	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i> (Molina) Standl.	Fruit	Tarpa, Tambora, Pungi
7.	<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.f.	Grain	Dhol, Madal
8.	<i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i> Roxb.	Wood	Dhol
9.	<i>Tectona grandis</i> L. f.	Wood	Dhol, Madal
10.	<i>Terminalia crenulata</i> Roth	Wood	Dhol, Madal,
11.	<i>Gemlina arborea</i> Roxb.	Wood	Tambora

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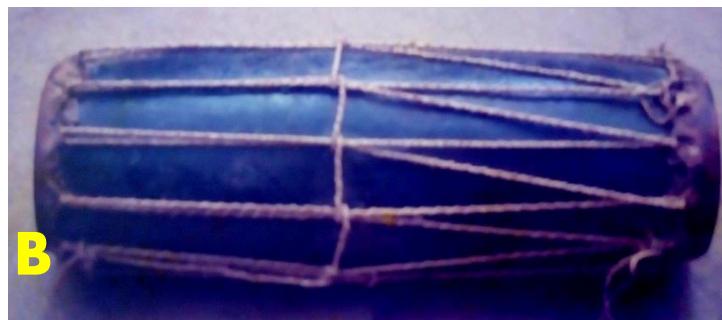
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