

DIOSCOREACEÆ.

Dioscorea pentaphylla, Linn. *Chai*; *Chavi* (Commonly).
Alshi (Baglan, Nasik). *Kala kand* (Shahada, Khandesh).
Jaglia che kand (Shirpur, Khandesh). *Vaj no kand*
(Mandvi, Surat). *Kadu kand* (Halwan, Nasik). Leaves
and tubers eaten. "This is a rather small, poisonous tuber.
After being dug from the ground, its outer covering (rind)
is removed, then cut and boiled. This being done, the
pulp is immersed or dipped into a running stream for one
night. It is again boiled and used as food, when mixed
with spices and salt"... "has potato-like roots which are first
boiled and then the root fibres are removed and thrown
away and slices are made of the potato which are put
into a gently running stream for the whole night and eaten
the next morning just as they are." "The tuber is first
plunged into water for one day and night, then it is boiled
for some five or six times and then its cover is taken off
and divided into two parts, subsequently salt is mixed with
it." "The leaves of this plant are boiled and eaten."

Dioscorea sativa, Linn. *Kadia kand* (Generally). *Mano
kando* (Walore, Surat). *Vaj kand* (Dang, Surat). *Kadawa
kand* (Taloda, Khandesh). *Kedvo Kand* (Mandvi, Surat).
"Is naturally bitter in taste. The essential juice must be
taken away before it can be eaten. The tubers are boiled

as they are and then cut into pieces and kept for a sufficiently long time in flowing water, or they are boiled again and again—the process continuing for one night—fresh water being put in several times. Then the refuse is mixed with *konda* or some flour and eaten (the root matter deprived of the bitter juice is only used). The same remarks regarding preparation apply to the tubers of *Dioscorea pentaphylla* (chai kand) and the corms of *Sauromatum guttatum* (Diva kand). "A bitter root; it is used for vegetable." "Toast and eat with whey." "Cut into pieces, washed with water about ten times and then seethed. They are eaten as they are or are pounded into flour and made into bread."

Dioscorea, *sp.* *Vaja kand* (Taloda, Khandesh). The species is doubtful owing to the absence of leaves. The tubers were planted and will, perhaps, shoot during the rains. The leaves, the stem, and the root of this creeper are whiter than those of the *Kadawa kand* (*Dioscorea sativa*). The root is highly poisonous. The poison causes great intoxication. It is sweet to the taste. The poison is got rid of by the process employed in preparing *Kadawa kand* for food. It is said that the root is so poisonous that it is resorted to in killing tigers. When tigers kill animals in their neighbourhood, the villagers insert a quantity of the flour from the pounded roots into the body of the killed animal. The poison permeates throughout the body and when the tiger returning eats it, he becomes infatuated and mad and unable to move from the place. He scarcely knows where he is, and then the villagers make short work of the animal eater."