

Sponge gourd

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The lexical variants presented in the note below are arranged according to their frequency of occurrence in the survey data-from most frequent to least frequent.

‘Sponge gourd’ is a species of vine native to the tropical regions of northern Africa and Asia. It produces a fruit that has a smooth outer texture and a cylindrical shape resembling that of a cucumber. The tender fruit is used for culinary purposes while the dried fruit serves as a natural exfoliating scrubber for bathing.

The use of the following words was recorded in Maharashtra for the concept of ‘sponge gourd’: *g^hosaḷe*, *gilke*, *copḍa doḍka*, *parosa doḍka*, *gālgāle*, *tel doḍka*, *tup doḍke*, *turāi*, *ṭiprikāy*, *čikni turāi*, *dud^hi doḍka*, *təwəša*, *šibi*, *satputa*, *hərsule*, *teṇḍule*, *širaḷa*, etc. A detailed description of the usage of these words according to the geographical regions is given below.

The word *g^hosaḷe* was predominantly noted in western Maharashtra and Konkan region as well as in Ahmednagar district of Marathwada region. It was reported infrequently in Beed, Osmanabad, Latur, Aurangabad, Nashik, and Buldhana districts. Phonetic variations like *g^hosawḷa*, *g^hosaḷa*, *g^hosaḷe*, *g^hwasale*, *g^hosaḷa*, *g^hosala*, *g^hosaḷu*, *g^hosawi*, *g^hosale*, *g^hošaḷe*, *g^hosaḷi*, *gosawla*, *g^hosawla*, *gosawli*, *gošeḷa*, *gosawḷe*, etc. were noted for this word.

The word *gilke* was primarily reported in Khandesh. Further, it was also noted in specific districts like Nashik, Palghar, Aurangabad, Jalna, Amravati, and Buldhana. Its use was recorded sporadically in Ahmednagar, Solapur, Yavatmal, Parbhani, Nagpur, Akola, and Bhandara districts. *gilka*, *gilka*, *gilki*, *galka*, *galko*, *galka*, *gilke*, *gilko*, *gilkiya* etc. phonetic variations were recorded for this word. In middle-western India, especially in Madhya Pradesh, the word *gilki* is used for this vegetable. Its influence is noted in this variation of the word.

The word *copḍa doḍka* was primarily observed in the Adiwasi community of Palghar and Nashik districts. Further, it was also reported in Aurangabad, Nanded, Jalna, Hingoli, Buldhana, Amravati, Akola, Washim, Wardha, Nagpur, Yavatmal, and Gadchiroli districts. Phonetic variations of this word include *čopḍa doḍka*, *sopḍa doḍka*, *copḍa doḍka*, *copḍa*, *čopḍe doḍke*, *čopḍi turāi*, *copḷa doḍka*, *copḍa b^hopḷa*, *copḍi tori* etc. The use of the adjectives like *čopḍa* (smooth) and *čikna* (glossy) was noted for this vegetable because of its mottled and smooth external appearance.

The word *parosa doḍka* was widely reported in Ratnagiri, Kolhapur, Solapur, Beed, Latur, Nanded, Hingoli, Parbhani, Jalna, and Aurangabad districts. However, its attestation was rare in Sindhudurg, Ahmednagar, Osmanabad, Buldhana, Akola, Washim, and Amravati districts. For this word *parusə*, *parosa*, *paroši*, *paroše*, *parəwsa*, *parusa*, *parši*, *parosa b^hopḷa*, *parosə*, *p^harsi doḍka*, *parsa* etc. were noted as the phonetic variants.

The word *gālgāle* was noted in Nagpur, Bhandara, Gondiya, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, and Amravati districts. Its phonetic variations include *gālgāle*, *gālgāla*, *gālgāḷa*, *gālgāli*, *gilgila*, *gālgālya* etc.

The word *tel doḍka* was noted in Yavatmal, Wardha, Nagpur, Chandrapur, and Gadchiroli districts. Similar to the case of *tup doḍke*, the word *tel* (oil) is used. For this word *teli doḍka*, *telik doḍka*, *telya doḍka*, etc. phonetic variants were noted.



The word *tup doḍke* was noted only in Nanded and Latur districts. Since the vegetable has a greasy appearance, the use of the word *tup* (ghee) is observed.

The word *turāi* was mainly observed in the Adiwasi community of Gondiya and Gadchiroli districts. While it was noted infrequently in Banjara community of Yavatmal, Nanded, and Washim districts and in Muslim community of Solapur and Beed districts. In the rest of Maharashtra, this word was observed scarcely in Amravati, Nagpur, Osmanabad, Latur, and Aurangabad districts. The phonetic variations of this word include *torāi*, *ture*, *turāli*, *tori*, *turāi*, *turi*, *torya*, etc. The word *tori* is used in the Hindi-speaking regions of northern India. Hence, its influence is noted for this variation of the word.

The word *ṭiprikəy* was elicited from Kannada-Marathi bilinguals in Solapur and Osmanabad districts. Among them, members of the Lingayat, Harijan, Buddhist, Mahar, Matang, and Chambhar communities reported it the most. While its use was also observed infrequently in Dhargar, Maratha, and Koli communities. For this word, phonetic variations like *ṭiprike*, *tiprike*, *tripike*, *ṭiprika*, *ṭipri*, *tiprikəy*, *ṭiprikəy*, etc. were noted. ‘Sponge gourd’ is referred to as *ṭiprikay* in Karnataka. Consequently, this regional variation was recorded in the areas neighboring the state borders.

The word *čikni turāi* was attested infrequently in Aurangabad, Jalgaon, Nandurbar, Washim, Amravati, Nagpur, and Bhandara districts. The upper coat of the sponge gourd is smooth, consequently, the use of the adjectives *čikna/čikni* (glossy) is observed to refer to this vegetable. *čikno gilko*, *čikni*, *čikni turə*, *čikni turāi*, *čikna gilka*, *cikni turāi*, *cikna toṭke*, *čikən tori*, *čikkən doḍka* etc. were documented as the phonetic variants of this word.

The word *dud^{hi} doḍka* was noted in Mahar and Matang communities of Kolhapur, Wardha, and Yavatmal districts. Its phonetic variations include *dud doḍka*, *dudi doḍke*, etc.

The word *təwṣa* was recorded sporadically in Sindhudurg district. *təwṣa*, *towāṣi*, *ṭəwsa*, etc. were noted as its phonetic variations.

The word *šibi* was noted in the Baple village of Alibaug taluka in Raigad district, while the word *satputa* was reported by members of the Katkari community in Raigad district.

doḍka Since the sponge gourd belongs to the gourd family of vegetables, it was noted that *doḍka* (ridged gourd) is often used to refer to the sponge gourd. However, *doḍka* is rarely used independently. Its usage was primarily observed in conjunction with an adjective, to highlight the vegetable’s specific characteristic or quality. In this context, *gawran*, *sərkari*, *god*, *lamba*, *lamba*, *paṇḍ^hra*, *nəram*, *sad^ha*, *dew*, *bəgər širyaca*, etc. adjectives were reported. These words were broadly noted in Marathwada and Vidarbha regions.

