



Ethnomedicinal Studies of Plants Used Bytribals of Yavatmal District, Maharashtra

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Abstract

The tribals in Yavatmal district sustain their health-care on plant based drugs for combating different ailments & disorders. They mostly belong to economically weaker sections of the society & the modern healthcare amenities are beyond their reach. The present research work was designed to gather indigenous knowledge of local people especially Kunbi, Gond, Pardhan, Anhd, Banjaras tribes about traditional medicinal uses of plants. The study concerns significant ethnobotanical information of 30 plant species belonging to 18 families. The botanical name, local name, family, plant parts used & traditional practices of 30 plant species are discussed here for the treatment of various ailments like Piles, Diarrhoea, Diabetes, Rheumatism, Hepatitis, Ring worm, Wounds & Ulcers, Dropsy, Jaundice, Cold & Cough, Skin Diseases, Blood pressure, Malaria, Headache, Leucoderma, Indigestion, Gonorrhoea, Stomach pain & Desentery. This type of ethno-medicinal survey appeared to be useful for the research on medicinal plants for the betterment of mankind.

Key Words – Yavatmal district, Ethno-medicinal plants, Tribals.

Introduction

India has been great source of plant wealth since ancient times. Ethnomedicinal plants, since times immemorial, have been used in virtually all cultures as a source of medicine. India is one of twelve mega – biodiversity countries in world, which has very rich floral vegetation with variety of plants of high economic value including plants of medicinal importance (1). The diversity of plant life is an essential part of most terrestrialecosystem in India. India is having about 3000 plant species of known medicinal value (3). In recent years, one can notice a global trend in the traditional system of medicines and ethnobotanical studies have become increasingly valuable in the development of healthcare system in different parts of the world (1). Tribal societies of diverse regions of the planet have exposed various uses of natural resources around them. The tribals of Yavatmal district are Kunbi, Gond, Pardhan, Anhd, Banjaras; Kolam & Mali among these percentages of Kunbi tribes are 22%, Gond, Pardhan, Anhd 10%, Banjaras 60% and Mali 4%. They resides in the different hilly parts and villages status, malnutrition and unhygienic conditions are the main courses of illness and due to lack of modern healthcare service the tribals depend on the traditional doctors, the vaidu, Bhagat or Ojhas.

Study Area

Yavatmal is most prominent district of eastern Maharashtra. It lies between north latitudes 19°28'18" & 20°48'1" and longitudes 77°19'18" & 79°07'1". It occupies an area of about 13, 517.21 sq. km. The district is bounded on the north by the

Amravati and Chandurtahsils of Amaravati district, on north-west by Washim, Mangrul, Pir and Murtizapur tahsils of Akola district, on north-east, by Worora, Chanda and Rajuratahsils of Chandrapur district on the south, it is bounded by the Kalamnuri tahsils of Parbhani district, Hadgaon & Kinwatta tahsils of Nanded district & by the north tahsils of Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh. The district consists of hilly tracts broken by broad valleys and interspersed with gently sloping plains. The average annual rainfall for the last 10 years 2002-2011 ranges from 527.87mm (Arni) to 985.35 mm (Ralegaon). Wardha & Penganga are the main rivers of the district, both of them forming the district boundaries. The soil in the district is slightly alkaline, clayey, loamy and contain calcium carbonate. Limestone is only mineral of economic importance found in district. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood of the people of Yavatmal district.

Material & Methods

For gathering information regarding plants/plant parts used medicinally by the tribals local people, several field trips were undertaken in the tribal areas and villages of district in different seasons since June 2006. The information regarding plant/plant parts used medicinally was collected during field trips on the basis of interview with the tribal & local people. Discussions were held and personal interviews were conducted to obtain data about ethnomedicinal plants, local names of plants, methods of preparation of medicine, administration, dosage etc. Collected

specimens were identified with the standard floras (2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13).

Observations

Details of plant species with their ethnomedicinal uses are as follows

1. ***Abutilon indicum* (L.)**
Family-Malvaceae
Local name-Mudra, Petari
Uses-1) Infusion of roots is used as cooling remedy in fever.
2) Leaf extract is given in diarrhoea.
2. ***Acacia chundra* Willd.**
Family-Mimosaceae
Local name- Khair
Use- Decoction of bark is taken orally thrice a day to avoid pains during menstruation.
3. ***Acacia leucophloea* (Roxb.)**
Family-Mimosaceae
Local name-Hiwar
Use- Paste of green fruit applied on wounds.
4. ***Aegle marmelos* (L.)**
Family-Rutaceae
Local name-Bel
Use- Powder of leaves & Neem powder given orally in diabetes twice a day for 15 days.
5. ***Annona squamosa* L.**
Family- Annonaceae
Local name- Sitaphal
Use- Paste of fresh leaves applied on wounds & ulcers.
6. ***Argemone mexicana* L.**
Family-Papaveraceae
Local name-Pivala-Dhotra
Uses- 1) Latex of plant is used externally for treatment of wart, tumors & skin diseases.
2) Yellow juice used to cure dropsy & jaundice.
7. ***Azadirachta indica* A. Juss.**
Family-Meliaceae
Local name-Kadunee m
Uses-1) The fresh juice of leaves is given for intestinal worms. Juice taken with honey cures jaundice.
2) Leaf extract is given in problems relating to blood pressure & menstruation.
3) Neem oil is used as antiseptic also used to cure leprosy & chronic skin diseases.
8. ***Bombax ceiba* (L.)**
Family-Bombacaceae
Use- Bark paste mixed with coconut oil, used on wounds.
9. ***Butea monosperma* (Lam.)**
Family-Papilionaceae
Local name-Palas
Uses- Gum extracted from bark is called 'Butea gum' and is useful in diarrhoea.
10. ***Caesalpinia bonduc* (L.)**
Family- Caesalpinaceae
Local name-Sagargotta
Use- Paste of seeds given in malarial fever thrice a day for two days.
11. ***Capparis zeylanica* L.**
Family-Capparaceae
Use- Juice of leaves (10-15ml) twice a day given in jaundice.
12. ***Cassia fistula* L.**
Family- Caesalpinaceae
Local name-Bahawa
Use- Pulp of fruit is eaten daily to cure diabetes.
13. ***Cassia tora* L.**
Family- Caesalpinaceae
Local name-Tarota
Use- Decoction of seeds taken orally in malarial fever twice a day for 4 days.
14. ***Catharanthus roseus* (L.)**
Family-Apocynaceae
Local name-Sadaphuli
Use- Leaf juice is given for diabetes.
15. ***Cissampelos pareira* L.**
Family- Menispermaceae
Local name- Pahadvel
Use- Root powder mixed with honey & ginger taken orally in indigestion.
16. ***Cleome gynandra* L.**
Family-Capparaceae
Local name-Pandhri-Tilvan
Use- Leaf juice taken internally in malaria.
17. ***Clitoria ternatea* L.**
Family- Papilionaceae
Local name-Gokran
18. ***Coccoloba hirsuta* (L.)**
Family- Menispermaceae
Local name-Vasanvel

Use- The flower juice is used for controlling diabetes.

19. *Cuscutareflexa* Roxb.

Family-Cuscutaceae

Local name-Amarvel

Use- The boiled extract of the plant is used to wash wounds & sores.

21. *Mimosa pudica* L.

Family-Mimosaceae

Local name-Lajalu

Uses-1) Decoction of roots, taken orally to regulate urination, till cure.

2) Root and leaf paste is applied on wounds of piles.

23. *Psoraleacorylifolia* L.

Family - Papilionaceae

Local name- Bawchi

Use- Oil obtained from the seeds is used in leucoderma and other skin diseases.

25. *Tephrosiapurpurea* (L.)

Family - Papilionaceae

Local name- Sarpunka

Uses-1) Juice of roots with curd is said to be useful for piles.

2) Seed oil applied on ring worm 3 times a day till cure.

3) Smoke of roots useful in cold and cough.

27. *Thevetiaperuviana* (pers.).

Family-Apocynaceae

Local name-PiwlaKaner

Use- Paste of seeds use externally in rheumatic pain.

29. *Tridaxprocumbens* L.

Family- Asteraceae

Local name-Kambarmodi

Use-Plant ash mixed in coconut oil applied on wounds.

Uses-.1) Powder of leaves mixed with water applied to eyes, giving cooling effect.

2) Juice of leaves, mixed with water and warmed, taken internally for gonorrhoea.

20. *Helicteresisoral* L.

Family-Sterculiaceae

Use-1) The juice of the root is given in diabetes.

2) Seed powder (20 - 30 gms) is used thrice a day for one week to cure stomach pain & desentery.

22. *Oxalis corniculata* L.

Family-Oxalidaceae

Local name-Ambusi

Use- The paste of plant is massaged on forehead to relieve headache.

24. *Sidacordata* (Burm. f.)

Family-Malvaceae

Use- Juice of leaves given in diarrhoea of pregnancy.

26. *Terminalia chebula* (Gaertn.)

Family- Combretaceae

Local name- Hirda

Use- Powder of fruits are used to cure diabetes.

28. *Tinosporacordifolia* (willd.)

Family- Menispermaceae

Local name-Gulvel

Use- Extract of stem bark is administered twice a day for 5-6 days to treat hepatitis.

30. *Vernoniacinerea* (L.)

Family-Asteraceae

Local name-Sahadevi

Use- Juice of plant is taken internally in rheumatism.

Result & Discussion

Different plant species, parts of the medicinal plants were used as medicine by the traditional healers. The method of preparation fall into categories like plant parts used as paste, juice, decoction and internal consumption were involved to cure different diseases. Diarrhoea and dysentery are the common ailments among the rural people because of poor hygiene condition, sanitation facility along with contaminated food and water. A number of plant species were prescribed for quick healing of cuts and wounds. Dermatological problems are common among the rural people, 4 plants species are used to cure this ailments. 4 plants for diabetes and 2 plants for rheumatism were used. Remaining plants were used in the treatment of Hepatitis, cold and cough, piles, malaria etc. Though the practice of traditional healthcare system is effective, safe and it has a few side effects, the application of such wisdom on herbal drugs is declining due to faster rate of developed urban culture (14). The knowledge gained about the efficacy of medicinal plants by the tribes for generations is kept secret and is orally communicated to their descendents (9). It is clear that the tribals of Yavatmal district are medicinally knowledgeable. The herbal practitioners usually collect the plants from wild as and when there is a need. During the survey it was clear that the life style of the tribal communities have been changing very rapidly due to modernization. Thus it was necessary to record all information for future investigations about the sustainable use of the plant species.

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