



ETHNOZOOLOGICAL STUDIES AMONG ADJOINING AREAS OF PANDHARKAWDA TALUKA OF YAVATMAL DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

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Abstract:

This paper documents zootherapeutic practices in adjoining area of Pandharkawda Taluka of Yavatmal District. It is primarily based on field survey carried out in villages, where dwellers provided information on animal and animal derived parts used as medicine. Efforts have been made to identify different animals and their parts having medicinal values used by local and tribal peoples, and decode their names in common English language along with their local and zoological names as far as possible and to conserve this ethnic data in future.

Introduction

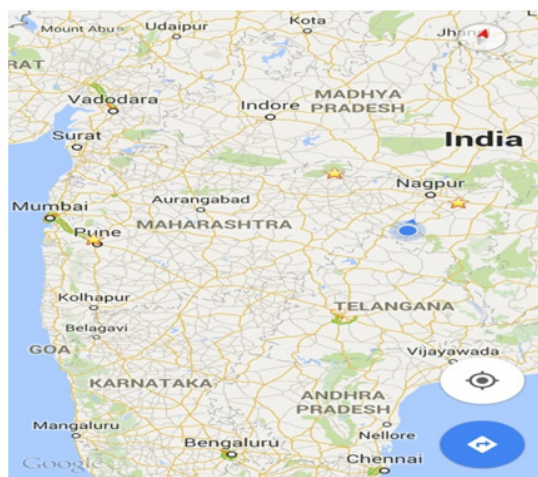
Ethnozology is the study of the past and present interrelationships between human cultures and the animals in their environment. Zootherapy is a component of ethno zoology which deals with the healing of human ailments with remedies made from animals and their products. Wide varieties of animals and products derived from different organs have constituted part of the inventory of medicinal substances used in various cultures. Traditional medicine is the sum total of the knowledge, skills and practices based on the theories, beliefs and experiences indigenous to different cultures. Whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health, as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illnesses.

The use of animals in traditional medicinal purposes is increasingly becoming more relevant to discussion on conservation biology. In zootherapy there is wide use of animals or animal-derived products from all taxonomic groups like insects, annelids, arthropods, reptiles, and mammals.

In present study, an attempt has been made to document this vanishing knowledge of the traditional medicinal properties of animals commonly used by the local and tribal peoples in Pandharkawda Taluka of Yavatmal District. This may be helpful for devising strategies for sustainable exploitation and use of these natural resources and biodiversity.

STUDY AREA

The present work was carried out in villages of Pandharkawda Taluka of Yavatmal District, coordinates - 20.021°N, 78.541°E which exhibits a great ethnic, cultural, floral and faunal diversity with dense forests. Tipeshwar is one of the most famous wildlife sanctuaries in this Taluka.



Map showing the location of study area of Pandharkawada Taluka.

Materials and Methods

Ethnozological studies involve a survey which was conducted during October-2015 to December-2015 through the ethnic people of Yavatmal district to collect information on the medicinal values and traditional preparation of animal products by them. The field survey was conducted in different places of Pandharkawda Taluka that include Rui, Bechkeda, Shivani, Barad, Baradtanda, Kapri, Pahat and Wai. Before going for the field survey prior permission must taken from the village chief and only permitted data have been taken, information was recorded about the animals and their parts used, storage and their applications for different diseases using semi-structured questionnaires and personal interviews from the village chief, local herbalist, other local and tribal peoples, who were in the age group of 30 to 70 years.

Above ethnic data was analyzed and tabulated. A total twenty informants (10 men and 10 women) were selected for the present study.

Table. 1.

Sr No	Animal groups	Scientific name	English name	Local name*	Parts used	Medicinal uses	Prescription
1	Insects	<i>Apis mellifera</i>	Honey bee	Madhmashi	Honey	Coughs, flu, asthma	Raw honey is consumed
2	Insects	<i>Periplaneta americana</i>	Cockroach	Zural	Whole body	Asthma	Fried and eaten
3	Insects	<i>Achaeta sp.</i>	Cricket	Ratkida	Hind legs	Diuretic	Burn on fire and eaten
4	Insects	<i>Pseudacanthotermes sp.</i>	Termite	Udhali	Whole body	Asthma	Fried and eaten
5	Insects	<i>Musca domestica</i>	House fly	Mashi	Whole body	Baldness	Body is roasted and consumed
6	Insects	<i>Poecillocerus strictus</i>	Grasshopper	Ghoda	Whole insect	Lung infection	Fried and eaten
7	Insects	<i>Trigona spinipes</i>	Stingless bee	Madhmashi	Honey	Throat inflammation	Raw honey consumed
9	Insects	<i>Mylabris cichorii</i> <i>Epicauta hirticornis</i>	Blister beetle, red-headed blister beetles	Helicopter pok	Whole body	Anticancer, warts, rabies	Crashed, dissolved in water and orally taken
10	Insects	<i>Pediculus sp.</i>	Louse	Joo	Whole body	Clears urinary tract obstructions	Eaten in live condition
11	Annelids	<i>Hirudo medicinalis</i>	Leech	Jalu	Live leech	Leech therapy including piles, swelling of muscle etc.	Live leech is allow to suck blood from the affected spot
12	Annelids	<i>Lumbricus sp.</i>	Earthworm	Gandhul	Whole body	Clears obstructions of the urinary tract, arthritis	Crashed with water and consumed
13	Arachnids	<i>Tytilus sp.</i>	Scorpion	Vinchu	Whole body	To treat its own sting, inguinal hemia	Burn and eaten
14	Amphibians	<i>Bufo bufo</i>	Toad	Beduk	Hind legs	Urinary retention, Acne	Thigh muscle is cooked and consumed
15	Amphibians	<i>Rana sp.</i>	Frog	Beduk	Skin	Wounds	skin oil is used
16	Reptiles	<i>Tropidurus torquatus</i>	Lizard	Pal	Whole body	Chicken pox	Fried skin oil is used on wound
17	Reptiles	<i>Crotalus durissus</i>	Neotropical rattlesnake	Kavtya saap	Fat	Rheumatism, arthritis, alleviate tremor	Raw fat is used
18	Reptiles	<i>Testudo sp.</i>	Tortoise	Kasav	Blood	Erysipelas	Raw blood is consumed
19	Reptiles	<i>Echis coloratus</i>	Viper	Viper	Fat	Joint pain of bone	Raw fat is melted
20	Aves	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Ground-dove	Khokya kabootar	Feathers	Stroke	Feathers ashes is consumed
21	Aves	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	Peacock	Mor	Blood	Paralysis	Raw blood is consumed
23	Aves	<i>Columba livia</i>	Dove	Kabutar	Blood	Leprosy	Raw blood is consumed
24	Aves	<i>Passer domestica</i>	House sparrow	Chimani	Flesh	Stammering	Cooked and consumed
25	Aves	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	Crow	Kavla	Flesh	Paralysis	Cooked and consumed
26	Aves	<i>Columba livia</i>	Pigeon	Kabutar	Excreta	Typhoid, toothache	Mixed with rice beer and consumed
28	Aves	<i>Gallus domesticus</i>	Chicken	Komdi	Fat	Nasal congestion	Raw fats is boiled apply
29	Pisces	Amphipnous cuchia	Katla	Mangur	Blood	Asthma, jaundice, weakness	Raw blood is consumed
30	Mammals	<i>Equus asinus</i>	Donkey	Gadhav	Milk	Whooping cough,	Fresh milk is consumed
31	Mammals	<i>Dusicyon sp.</i>	Fox	Kolha	Fat	Rheumatism	Locally apply over wound
32	Mammals	<i>Bos taurus</i>	Ox	Bail	Dung	Mosquitoes repellent	smoke

34	Mammals	<i>Sus scrofa domesticus</i>	Pig	Dukkar	Fat	Furuncles, tumors	Fats is boiled and used
35	Mammals	<i>Bos indicus</i>	Cow	Gay	Fresh urine	Anemia	Taken fresh
36	Mammals	<i>Bos bubalus</i>	Buffalo	Reda	Dung	Ecze ma	Curd is mixed in the dung and applied locally to cure ecze ma
38	Mammals	<i>Camelus dromedarius</i>	Camel	Unt	Droppings	Stomachache	Taken with water
39	Mammals	<i>Rhinolophus sp.</i>	Bat	Watwaghul	Flesh	Asthma	Raw flesh is consumed
40	Mammals	<i>Selenarctos sp.</i>	Bear	Aswal	Bile	Malaria	Raw is consumed
41	Mammals	<i>Ovis aries</i>	Sheep	Mendhi	Fat	Torsion, Rheumatism	Boiled fats is used
42	Mammals	<i>Macaca sp.</i>	Monkey	Makad	Blood	Tuberculosis	Raw blood is taken
44	Mammals	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Squirrel	Kharu tai	Flesh	Cough	Raw flesh is consumed
45	Mammals	<i>Cerdocyon thous</i>	Fox	Kolha	Liver	Rheumatism and bronchitis	Cooked and consumed
46	Mammals	<i>Mus musculus</i>	House mouse	Undir	Flesh	Colds and skin diseases	Cooked and consumed
47	Mammals	<i>Lepus capensis</i>	Rabbit	Sasa	Heart	Prevents miscarriage	Cooked and consumed

Results and Discussion

The present study revealed the traditional knowledge of treating various kinds of ailments using different vertebrate animal and their products by the local and tribal people, inhabitants of villages in the adjoining areas of Pandharkawda. Many people were found to lack formal schooling education but they have knowledge about use of local animal and plant resources for traditional medicinal purpose.

Gond, Mana, Madiya tribes of Pandharkawda were using 40 animal species for the treatment of over 41 kinds of ailments. Highest numbers of animals from mammalian taxonomic group were used by these people than others animal species. People use these animals and their products (milk, blood, organ, flesh, feather, bone etc.) for the treatment of 47 kinds of different ailments including asthma, paralysis, cough & cold, fever, wound healing and for other diseases etc.

It is pertinent that ethnozoological medicine by some local tribal and herbalist people from Pandharkawda taluka is not alone that uses fauna and flora as potential sources of medicine that heals various kinds of disease. Similar practice has also been reported in many other tribal communities from the Indian subcontinent (1-18) and abroad (19-21). Noteworthy is the observation that some of the treatment particularly those related to rheumatic joint pains and skin disease work miraculously. This, however, remains to be

established as to what ingredients in animal product provide relief in various kinds of ailments.

However, exploitation of fauna not for collecting animal products of medicinal value but agreed for delicious flesh. This has posed a serious threat to the existence of many precious wild animal species.

Of course, laws are formed and imposed by Government agency to tackle this issue effectively, this alone, however does not seem to be adequate as exploitation of rare and endangered species. Alternatively, people need to be educating about sustainable exploitation of their animal wealth. This combine with traditional method of domestication of wild animal coupled with strategies for captive breeding, may save precious faunal wealth from extinction.

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