

Traditionally Used Medicinal Plants to Cure Cuts and Wounds in Yavatmal District, Maharashtra, India

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Abstract:

Yavatmal District is rich in ethnobotanical plants. In present paper 28 plant species belonging to 26 families used to cure cuts and wounds have been documented. The aim of the present research is to record the indigenous knowledge about medicinal plants. The botanical name, local name, family, plant parts used and traditional practice of 28 species are discussed here for the treatment of various ailments.

Keywords - Yavatmal district, Medicinal plants, uses

Introduction:

Traditional communities passes vast store of knowledge about natural resources in vicinity. It is widely recognized that documentation of local knowledge is of great significance in conservation programme.^{6,7,8} Many traditional practitioners, tribesmen, local vaidus and mendicants across the world particularly in country like India with age old practices have valuable but oral information of many lesser-known hitherto unknown wild plants in use by the for treating wounds.

Yavatmal district situated in the eastern part of Maharashtra between north latitudes 19°28' and 20° 48' and longitudes 77° 19' and 70° 07' It occupies an area of about 13,517.21 sq. km. The temperature varies from 9° c to 45° c. The rainfall generally increases from the north-west towards the south-east. On an average there are 53 rainy days. i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm.

Some population of study area is aboriginal. The tribal populations and their cultural heritage after enormous scope for ethnobotanical and enthnomedicinal researchers.

Material and Methods:

Several surveys were conducted in the forests and nearby residential area inhabited by the tribals, villagers and local peoples. Ethnomedianal information about the plants was collected on the basis of frequent interviews with local physicians practicing indigenous system of medicine villagers, priests and tribal folks. Plant species collected were identified with the help of floras.^{1,2,3,4,8,9,11}

Observation

Details of plant species with their ethnomedicinal uses are in Table 1.





Table. 1-

 wounds. 7) Azadirachta indica A. Jass. Family-Meliaceae Local name - Neem Use - The powder of bark and leaves are applied on wounds and to reduce inflammations. 9) Barleria prionitis L. Family - Ascanthaceae Local name - Kate-Kul, Kate- Koranti Use - Leaf paste mixed in coconut oil, applied on wounds till cure 11) Calotropis procera (Ait) R. Br. Family - Asclepidiaceae Local name - Rui Uses - Latex applied on wounds till it ealed. 13) Cucumis calossus (Rottl) Congn Family - Cucurbitaceae Local name - Dendolya Use - Leaf paste applied on wounds Total name - Dendolya Use - Leaf paste applied on wounds Tamily - Solanaceae Local name - Amarvel Uses - The boiled extract of the plant use to wash wounds and sores. Tamily- Solanaceae Local name - Dhotra 		Family- Mimosaceae Local name -Khair	_,	Family- Asteraceae
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Local name - Dhotra Uses - 1) The fruit poultice is used	15)		16)	
, 1				
Use - A poultice made from the flowers stop bleeding from cuts.				Uses - 1) The fruit poultice is used to
		Use - A poultice made from the flowers		stop bleeding from cuts.
		is applied to wounds to reduce pain		2) Leaf ash mixed in coconut, oil, applied
on injuries caused after burns daily at				on injuries caused after burns daily at
night for 8-10 days				
17) Heliotropium indicum Linn. 18) Lagerstoemia parviflora Roxb	17)	Heliotropium indicum Linn.	18)	
Family- Boraginaceae Family- Lythraceae		Family- Boraginaceae		Family- Lythraceae
Local name - Hatisure Local name - Bondara				
		Use - Paste of leaves applied to		Use - Leaf paste applied once daily on
Use - Paste of leaves applied to Use - Leaf paste applied once daily		wounds		wounds for 5-6 days





10)	Tantana a samana T	00)	Tanida andhia an anidata Nasa
19)	Lantana camara L.	20)	Lepidagathis cuspidata Nees
	Family- Verbinaceae		Family- Acanthaceae
	Local name - Ghaneri		Local name - Bendya-ghas
	Use - Juice of leaf applied on wounds		Use - Leaf powder applied directly on
			wounds and for 7-8 days
21)	Mimosa pudica L.	22)	Oxalis corniculata L.
)	Family- Mimosaceae	,	Family- Oxalidaceae
	Local name - Lajalu		Uses - Paste of top shoots along with a
	Use - Roots and leaf paste is applied on		few fruits of black paper is applied to
	wounds of piles.		wounds
23)	Pterocarpus marsupium Roxb.	24)	Psidium guajava Linn.
	Family- Fabaceae		Family- Myrtaceae
	Local name - Tiwas		Local name - Amrud
	Use - Bark powder used for wounds till		Use - Leaves are used as a astringent for
	it cure		wounds
25)	Ricinus communis L.	26)	Terminalia arjuna L.
	Family - Euphorbiaceae		Family - Combretaceae
	Local name - Erand		Local name - Arjun Sadada
	Use - Paste of leaves, flowers are used		Use - Stem bark powder mixed in
	for wound healings.		coconut oil, applied daily on injuries for
			7-8 days.
27)	Tridax procumbens L.	28)	Ziziphus jujuba Lamk
1	Family- Asteraceae		Family- Rhamnaceae
35	Local name - Kambarmodi		Local name - Ber
	Use - Paste is prepared from the root		Use - Pulp of ripe fruits are used on
	powder and leaf juice paste is applied	2	wounds.
	on wounds till cure.		



Argemone mexicana L.



Calotropis procera (Ait) R. Br.



Tridax procumbens L.



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Conclusion:

In all 28 plant species their parts like root, stem, bark, leaf, flower, fruit, seed, and latex are used to cure cuts and wounds. Their mode of administration by tribal healers priests and ordinary villagers are compared with available literature in different regions of India on medicinal plants.

The study indicated that over exploitation and deforestation are the main causes for the depletion of medicinal plants in the area. Although the medicinal plant species were under threat, traditional healers do not practice any conservation measures to ensure the sustainability of such plant resources. In order to prevent over exploitation that could lead to extinction efforts should be made to conserve natural resources and to domesticate selected plant species which are commonly used by herbal practioners. Preference for their use may be related to their availability or multipurpose use. The sustainable cultivation of medicinal herbs could facilitate industrial scale processing. The commercial harvesting of threatened medicinal plants should be banned strictly. Most importantly the nature communities need to sensitize to the sustainable use and conservation of these species. More surveys are needed in future to be carry out in the study area to know the plant resources which have an immense scope and value in the routine life of the community.

Such studies may prove helpful in preservation and passing of traditional ethnobotanical knowledge from the tribals to other ethnic communities and also to the next generations.

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