



Ethno- Medicinal Plants from Wardha District (Maharashtra) Used Against Jaundice and other Human Diseases

K. G. Dube

Post Graduate Department of Botany, Jankidevi Bajaj College of Science, Wardha-442001(India)
drkishordube@yahoo.com

Abstract:

The villagers use various medicinal plants against various diseases of human-beings. The author has made extensive survey of villagers from Wardha district (Maharashtra) for the identification and uses of medicinal plants. The present investigator has collected the information related to ethno-medicinal aspects of plants including their scientific and local names, habitats, habits and medicinal parts used as remedies for jaundice and other human diseases. It has been observed that about 23 plants belonging to 20 families are used by villagers as a remedy against jaundice as well as other human diseases. These include 13 herbs, 1 shrub, 5 trees, 2 climbers and 2 twinners. The present paper deals with the ethno-medicinal aspects of these plants.

Keywords: Jaundice. Human diseases, Medicinal plants, Medicinal uses.

Introduction:

The traditional drugs are used by human beings to cure the diseases from the ancient times. In recent years, all over the world traditional drugs from medicinal plants have received the great attention due to their safe administration without causing any side effects. Therefore, the urgent need of documentation and conservation of the heritable knowledge about medicinal plants has been expressed by scientific workers from various geographical parts of the world (Pal, 1980 and Satapathy, 2010).

Wardha district (Maharashtra) is located in the central part of India. The present investigator has documented information about various ethno-medicinal plants belonging to different families which are used by villagers of Wardha district as a remedy against Jaundice and other human diseases. The present paper deals with the ethno-medicinal aspects of these plants.

Material and Methods:

The extensive survey and repeated field visits were organized during 2011-2014 in the remote villages situated in the different parts of Wardha district. The information about the medicinal plants, their local names, habitats habits and uses in the treatment of various diseases of human-beings was collected from the local practitioners through group discussions. The plants were digitized from the fields and their specimens were collected and identified using the Flora of Maharashtra (1996, 2002).

Result and Discussion:

The data related to botanical and local names of medicinal plants, their families, habitats, habits and medicinal parts used as remedy against Jaundice and other human diseases of human-beings has been enlisted in Table 1. It has





been observed that about 23 plants belonging to 20 families are used by villagers as a remedy against Jaundice and other diseases. These include 13 herbs, 1 shrub, 5 trees, 2 climbers and 2 twinner plants. The maximum plants were belonging to the family Cucurbitaceae (3) followed by Euphorbiaceae (2), Acanthaceae (1), Alangiaceae (1), Apocynaceae (1), Asteraceae (1), Bignoniaceae (1), Convolvulaceae (1), Cuscutaceae (1), Flacourtiaceae (1), Hypoxidaceae (1), Lamiaceae (1), Malvaceae (1), Moraceae (1), Nyctaginaceae (1), Papaveraceae (1), Portulacaceae (1), Scrophulariaceae (1), Vitaceae (1) and Zingiberaceae (1)

The useful information about medicinal plants is scattered among various sectors of peoples distributed in remote villages and is hardly passed to their subsequent generations (Pal, 1980 and Satapathy, 2010). In this context, the information collected by the present investigator would be useful for pharmaceutical and phytochemical studies. All medicinal plants mentioned in Table 1 were used for treating Jaundice. Besides this, they were also used as remedies in other human diseases i.e. anemia, anti-diabetic, antidote to poison. appetizer, arthritis, asthma, baldness, bleeding from cuts and wounds, blood pressure, blood purification, boils, bone fracture/ dislocation, bronchitis, burning sensation, cancer, cardio-tonic, cold, constipation, cough, diabetes, diarrhea, digestive, diuretic dysentery, earache, enlarged spleen, epilepsy, eye troubles, fever, fish poison, fractured or dislocated bones, gastric disorders, general tonic, headache, heat and burning sensation, hepatitis, hernia, increase sexuality, intermittent fever, swelling, kidney diseases, leprosy, leukemia, malaria, menstrual complaints, muscular pains, night blindness, pain, paralysis. piles, pimples, digestive problems, poultice for itch psoriasis, remove kidney stone, rheumatism, scabies, scanty urine, sexual and urinary troubles skin eruption skin infection, snake bite, stomach diseases tonic, toothache tumors, ulcer pain ulcers, vomiting worm infestations in children, wound healing, wounds/cuts/burns (Table 1).

The medicinal parts included use of roots, root decoction, root juice, root bark, bark, bark infusion, bark paste, stem, stem juice, latex, leaves, dried leaves, leaf infusion, leaf juice, rhizome powder, flowers, flower syrup, raw and ripen fruit, seeds, seed oil and plant extract.

It was observed that villagers use most of the medicinal plants either in the natural form or store the freshly collected plant parts every year for the odd seasons. This documented information would be helpful for the use of natural medicines and formation of low cost formulation of natural medicines for human-beings.

Table. 1- Ethno- medicinal plants from Wardha district used against Jaundice and other diseases.

| Sr. No | Botanical name | Local name | Family | Habitat | Habit | Useful part against Jaundice | Useful part against other diseases |
|--------|-----------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | <i>Alangium salvifolium</i> | Ankol, Ankul | Alangiaceae | Wild, common along Nalas and Fields | Tree, medium, spines on branches | Roots | Roots -fever and skin disease, epilepsy, Leaves - rheumatism. |





| | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|---|---|------------------------|---|
| 2 | <i>Argemone mexicana</i> | Paradi, Pivala dhotra | Papaveraceae | Wild, common in barren fields and waste land | Herb, erect, prickly, annual | Latex | Root juice - wound healing, leprosy, Blood purification. Latex - skin infection, malaria, Bleeding from cuts and wounds |
| 3 | <i>Boerhaavia repens var. diffusa</i> | Punarnava | Nyctaginaceae | Wild, common on open waste lands, grass land and fields | Herb, diffuse woody, much branched | Leaves | Leaves -asthma, constipation, cough and cold, remove kidney stone, anemia, scanty urine, snake bite, eye troubles, bronchitis |
| 4 | <i>Citrullus colocynthis</i> | Kadu-indrayan | Cucurbitaceae | Wild, common among hedges and waste land | Herb, trailing, perennial, tendrils simple | Fruit | Fruit -cancer, fever, leukemia, rheumatism, snakebite, tumors |
| 5 | <i>Curculigo orchioides</i> | Kali musali | Hypoxidaceae, | Wild, common under bushes on slopes of hill forests | Herb, small with perennial root stock | Rhizome powder | Rhizome powder - piles, diarrhea, asthma, poultice for itch and skin disease |
| 6 | <i>Cuscuta reflexa</i> | Amarvel, Sonwel | Cuscutaceae | Wild common on Clerodendrum inerme | Twinner, leafless parasitic | Stem | Stem - bronchitis, paralysis. |
| 7 | <i>Dolichandrone falcata</i> | Medshing, Med-shingi | Bignoniaceae | Wild, common on cotton soil, in forests | Tree, small or medium sized with grey bark | Leaves | Bark paste - applied on fractured or dislocated bones, fish poison. Leaves - boils, skin eruption and fever. |
| 8 | <i>Euphorbia geniculata</i> | Dudhkena, Dudhani | Euphorbiaceae | Wild, in garden beds | Herb, large, erect, annual | Dried leaves | Dried leaves - stomachache, constipation, rheumatism, diabetes, vomiting Leaf infusion - wounds/cuts/burns, snake-bite, bone fracture/ dislocation, night blindness, |
| 9 | <i>Euphorbia thymifolia</i> | Dhakti-dudhi | Euphorbiaceae | Wild, common on waste land along roadsides | Herb, prostrate, annual | Plant extract/leaves | Plant extract/leaves - menstrual complaints, cough, bronchitis and asthma., worm infestations in children, dysentery, pimples, digestive problems, tumors |
| 10 | <i>Ficus hispida</i> | Bhui-umber, Katu-umber | Moraceae | Wild, common along banks of rivers and streams | Tree, small, branches hispid | Fruits, seeds and bark | Fruits, seeds and bark -ulcers, psoriasis, anemia, piles diabetes, hepatitis, dysentery |
| 11 | <i>Flacourtia indica</i> | Girgot, Kakai | Flacourtiaceae | Wild | Tree, small, thorny with rough, whitish grey bark | Fruits | Bark infusion - intermittent fever, arthritis. Fruits - Appetizer, digestive, diuretic and enlarged spleen. Roots -Kidney diseases, snakebite. Dried leaves - Asthma, bronchitis |





| | | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| 12 | <i>Hygrophila schulli</i> | Talimkhana | Acanthaceae | Wild, forest(wet area) | Herb, Large, erect, thick, hairy, hispid | Leaves and Seeds | Root decoction -sexual and urinary troubles Leaves and Seeds -stomach diseases, increase sexuality arthritis, rheumatism |
| 13 | <i>Lagenaria siceraria</i> | Dudhi bhopala | Cucurbitaceae | Cultivated in fields and kitchen gardens | Shrub, small, annual, Branched diffuse, spreading on ground | Seed oil- | Leaf juice - baldness. pain, ulcers, fever, asthma Flowers -antidote to poison. Fruit -cardio-tonic, general tonic. Seed oil -headache, diabetes, ulcer, piles, skin diseases. |
| 14 | <i>Leucas cephalotes</i> | Tumba, Dron pushpi | Lamiaceae | Wild, occasional in hill forests | Herb, annual, hairy | Flower syrup | Flower syrup -cough, cold, scabies, eye complaints, snake bite, skin eruptions, jaundice and swelling, |
| 15 | <i>Malachra capita</i> | Ran-ambadi | Malvaceae | Wild, common in all places | Herb, annual, hispid | Seeds-gastric disorders and jaundice | Seeds - gastric disorders . |
| 16 | <i>Momordica charantia</i> | Karle | Cucurbitaceae | Cultivated | Climber, annual | Fruits/Leaves | Fruits/Leaves - blood purification, antidiabetic, piles, asthma, cough, arthritis, fever, skin disease, anemia. |
| 17 | <i>Operculina turpethum</i> | Dudhkalmi, Nishottar | Convolvulaceae | Wild, common in hedges | Twinner, perennial, large with milky juice; branches winged | Root/Root bark | Root/Root bark - fever, piles, constipation |
| 18 | <i>Portulaca oleracea</i> | Ghol | Portulacaceae | Wild, in waste places | Herb, prostrate, succulent | Seeds and leaves | Stem juice - heat and burning sensation. fever, headache, piles, asthma, cough, diarrhoea. Seeds and leaves -cough, tumors |
| 19 | <i>Scoparia dulcis</i> | Utari | Scrophulariaceae | Wild, common in moist places | Herb, erect, branched | Roots/Leaves | Roots/Leaves - cough, bronchitis, diabetes, dysentery, earache, fever, headaches, snake bite, stomach problems, toothache |
| 20 | <i>Sphaeranthus indicus</i> | Godri, Gorakh-mundi | Asteraceae | Wild, common in rice fields, moist places | Herb, prostrate, branched, strong smelling winged and densely hairy | Flower | Flower -tonic, epilepsy, piles, diabetes, leprosy, fever, cough, hernia, skin diseases. |
| 21 | <i>Vitis vinifera</i> | Angur, Draksha | Vitaceae | Cultivated | Climber, large, woody, with long bifid tendrils | Ripen fruits | Ripen fruits - fever, asthma, diarrhoea, burning sensation, blood pressure and anemia. |





| | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|---|--|---------|--|
| 22 | <i>Wrightia tinctoria</i> | Paradi,Kala kuda | Apocynaceae | Wild, common in hill forests,along road sides | Tree, small , deciduous, bark white, scaly | Leaves | Leaves -dysentery, diarrhea, fever, ulcer pain,burning sensation. |
| 23 | <i>Zingiber officinale</i> | Ale,Adarak | Zingiberaceae | Cultivated | Herb with a ck, thi a romatic rhizome | Rhizome | Rhizome -skin diseases, piles, diarrhea, ,rheumatism, muscular pain, asthma, cough, bronchitis. |

Conclusions:

About 23 plants belonging to 20 families are used by villagers in Wardha district as a remedy against Jaundice and other human diseases. These include 13 herbs, 1 shrub, 5 trees, 2 climbers and 2 twinnings.

Acknowledgements:

I am thankful to University Grants Commission, New Delhi for granting the financial support through Major research project. I am also obliged to Dr. Om Mahodaya, Principal and Prof. A. M. Gawande, Head (Department of Botany), Jankidevi Bajaj college of Science, Wardha, for providing the necessary laboratory and library facilities during this investigation.

References:

- Pal, D.C.** (1980) Observations on Folklore About Plants Used in Veterinary Medicine in Bengal Orissa and Bihar India. *Bulletin of the Botanical Survey of India* **22(1-4)**:96-99.
- Satapathy, K.B.** (2010) Ethno veterinary practices in Jajpur district of Orissa. *Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge*. **9 (2)**:338-343.
- Singh, N. P. and Karthikeyan, S.** (2000) Flora of Maharashtra State: Dicotyledons . Vol.1.BSI, Calcutta.
- Singh, N. P., Lakshminarasimhan, P., Karthikeyan, S and Prasanna, P. V.** (2001) Flora of Maharashtra State: Dicotyledons. Vol. 2, BSI, Calcutta.

