



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 pass 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 offer enormous scope for ethnobotanical and ethnomedicinal researchers.

Material and Methods:

Several surveys were conducted in the forests and nearby residential area inhabited by the tribals, villagers and local peoples. Ethnomedicinal 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-

1)	Acacia chundra Willd Family- Mimosaceae Local name -Khair use- Ash obtained from stem and leaves mixed with coconut oil, applied on burns and wounds till cure.	2)	Acanthospermum hispidum DC Family- Asteraceae Local name - Bokharu Use - Ash obtained from leaves mixed with coconut oil, applied on wounds daily once till cure.
3)	Achyranthes aspera L. Family- Amaranthaceae Local name - Aghada Use - The juice of plant is used to stop bleeding of wounds	4)	Ageratum conyzoides L. Family- Asteraceae Uses - The leaf paste is applied externally to cure cuts, sores and wounds.
5)	Alnus serrulata (Ait) willd Family- Betulaceae Uses - The paste bark is used to treat wounds and skin ulcers	6)	Argemone mexicana L. Family- Papaveraceae Local name - Piwala Dhotra Use - The yellow juice of the stem is used twice a day for one week for healing of 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.	8)	Baptisia leucophaea Nutt Family- Leguminosae Use - A decoction of leaves is used to treat cuts and wounds.
9)	Barleria prionitis L. Family - Ascanthaceae Local name - Kate-Kul, Kate- Koranti Use - Leaf paste mixed in coconut oil, applied on wounds till cure	10)	Biophytum sensitivum DC (Linn) Family- Geraniaceae Local name - Lajalu Use - Seed Powder applied on wounds till it cure
11)	Calotropis procera (Ait) R. Br. Family - Asclepidiaceae Local name - Rui Uses - Latex applied on wounds till it ealed.	12)	Colobrokea appositifolia Family- Lamiaceae Local name - Bhaman Use - The leaf extract used for wounds
13)	Cucumis calossus (Rottl) Congn Family - Cucurbitaceae Local name - Dendolya Use - Leaf paste applied on wounds daily once till cure	14)	Cuscuta reflexa Roxb. Family- Cuscutaceae Local name - Amavel Uses - The boiled extract of the plant is use to wash wounds and sores.
15)	Datura stramonium L. Family- Solanaceae Local name - Dhotra Use - A poultice made from the flowers is applied to wounds to reduce pain	16)	Emblica officinalis Gaertn Family- Euphorbiaceae Uses - 1) The fruit poultice is used to stop bleeding from cuts. 2) Leaf ash mixed in coconut, oil, applied on injuries caused after burns daily at night for 8-10 days
17)	Heliotropium indicum Linn. Family- Boraginaceae Local name - Hatisure Use - Paste of leaves applied to wounds	18)	Lagerstoemia parviflora Roxb Family- Lythraceae Local name - Bondara Use - Leaf paste applied once daily on wounds for 5-6 days

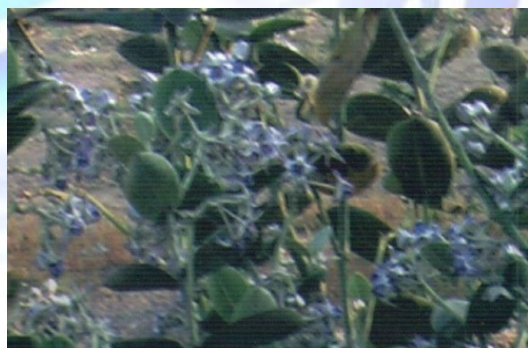




19)	<i>Lantana camara L.</i> Family- Verbinaceae Local name - Ghaneri Use - Juice of leaf applied on wounds	20)	<i>Lepidagathis cuspidata Nees</i> Family- Acanthaceae Local name - Bendya-ghas Use - Leaf powder applied directly on wounds and for 7-8 days
21)	<i>Mimosa pudica L.</i> Family- Mimosaceae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



Argemone mexicana L.



Calotropis procera (Ait) R. Br.



Tridax procumbens L.



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 practitioners. 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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