



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

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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 thick, aromatic 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.

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