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Ethnomedicinal Use of Some Laticiferous Plants in the Rural Area of Umred Tahsil of Nagpur District

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Abstract: Information on medicinal properties of plants used in traditional medicine is very complex. The evolving field of ethnobotany is offering valuable tool for studying wild medicinal plants. Traditional medicines play an important role in the provision of healthcare. Their use is significant in rural areas, increasing their commercial value. Most of the rural population still depends largely upon traditional medicine

Umred tahsil is rich in medicinal plant diversity and associated tribal and folk knowledge system. The present paper deals with to collect information from local folks, tribes and traditional healers on medicinal use of laticiferous plants of Umred tahsil.

Keywords: Ethnomedicine, tribes, laticiferous plants, Umred.

Introduction:

Ethnomedicinal plants play a vital role in maintaining human health and contribute towards improvement of human life. The ethnomedicinal information is being prominently used for the formulation of alternative drugs and gaining much significance because of its efficacy and negligible side effects.

Latex is a milky sap present in the plants. Nearly 6% of all vascular plant species are recognized as constructing laticifers. Laticifers are found in 12,500 species belonging to 900 genera from about 40 families, most of which are dicots are known to exudes latex (Esau, 1965; Lewinsohn, 1991; Kekwick, 2001; Evert, 2006). Varying amount of latex are fond in species of many plant families including Apocynaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Moraceae, Papaveraceae, Sapotaceae, Convolvulaceae. The role latex is not known with certainty.

Plant latex is a good source of various secondary metabolites which shows growth inhibitory effects in bacteria, fungi, viruses, tumors and cancer cell line. It also shows cytotoxic and anticancer activity and is widely used as laxative, anti-arthritic and as conditioning agents for cosmetic purpose. India has a large tribal population, which is regularly using plant latex for the treatment of various diseases (Upadhyay, 2011).

Umred tahasil is big tahasil of Nagpur district and is spread over an area of 89116.55 hectares of land. Umred is famous for coal mine which is important coalfield of central India. Umrer area is rich in medicinal plants. The present study has provided an interesting data on the potential medicinal use of laticiferous plants. During the field survey it has been found by the author that Umred tahasil include 142 villages.

Objectives:

1. To collect information and identify the laticiferous plants used by the rural people of Umred tahasil.
2. To provide data on ethnomedicinal use of laticiferous plants.

Methodology:

The present study is undertaken in the rural areas of Umred tahasil. The different rural and tribal communities distributed over the tahasil were selected for

the study. The rural areas of the Umred tahasil were visited during the survey. First hand information gathered from the tribals and rural healers. Information confirmed from the old and experienced 'tribal doctors'. The plants were identified and confirmed by Dr. S. G. Kunjalwar Deptt. of Botany, Nutan Adarsh Arts, Commerce and Smt. M. H. Wegad Science College, Umred. Information gathered from tribals and rural haelers by using survey sheets, through interviews. Vaucher specimen were collected from different study sites and preserved as per method suggested by Agrawal (1983).

Study area:

The present investigation has been carried out in villages and the remote places of Umred tahasil. For a proper and orderly study sites were selected considering the population and density of flora.

Tribes like Labhan, Pardhi, Bharadi, Gond, Halba, Mang are living in small villages of Umred tahsil includes Mandava, Udasa, Champa, Uti, Heti, Haladgaon, Gaunsut, Piraya, Bela, Thombra etc.

Observations:

Table. 1- Laticiferous plants with their Ethnomedicinal Use.

Sr. No	Botanical Name	Family	Local Name	Habit	Part used	Mode of Use
1.	*Calotropis procera* (Ait) R.Br.	Asclepiadaceae	Rui	Shrub	Latex	Latex applied on wounds created by spines on feet. Leaf along with Arandi oil tied over wound.
2.	*Calotropis gigantean*(L) R. Br.	Asclepiadaceae	Rui	Shrub	Latex	Latex applied on wounds created by spines on feet. Leaf along with Arandi oil tied over wound.
3.	*Pergularia daemia* (Forsk) Chiov.	Asclepiadaceae	Utaran	Climber	Leaf	Leaf paste used for Headache.
4.	*Euphorbia hirta* L.	Euphorbiceae	Dudhya	Herb	Whole plant	Whole plant paste extract applied on cuts and wounds.
5.	*Ficus* religiosa L.	Moraceae	Pimpal	Tree	Leaf, Latex	Latex on ulcer. Leaves in stammering problem.
6.	*Ficus benghalensis* L.	Moraceae	Vad	Tree	Stem Bark, Latex	Stem bark powder along with coconut oil applied on wounds. Latex is used for headach.
7.	*Fucus racemosa* L.	Moraceae	Umber	Tree	Latex	Latex applied on ulcer.
8.	*Ficus carrica* L	Moraceae	Anjir	Tree	Fruit	Fruit as pugative.
9.	*Ipomoea fistulosa* Jacq.	Convolvulaceae	Beshram	Shrub	Leaf	Leaf along with mustered oil used agaist knee joint pain.
10	*Argemone maxicana* L.	Papaveraceae	Utati	Herb	Latex	Plant juice used for skin diseases.
11	*Carica papaya* L.	Carricaceae	Papai	Tree	Latex, Fruit	Latex Directly used against piles. Fruit pulp also used in piles. Fruit used in jaundice.
12	*Alstonia scholaris* Roxb	Apocynaceae	Saptparni	Tree	Leaf	Leaves paste extract applied on cuts and wounds.
13	*Plumeria alba* L.	Apocynaceae	Pandhra Chafa	Tree	Latex, Leaf	Latex applied on ulcer. Leaves are used for joint pain.
14	*Nerium indicum* Mill	Apocynaceae	Kaner	Shrub	Fruit	Fruit along with milk used against infertility.
15	*Catharanthus roseus* (L.)G.Don	Apocynaceae	Jgannath	Herb	Whole plant	Diebeties, Pitta

Discussion and Conclusion:

The data regarding the botanical name, local name, family and ethnomedicinal use of laticiferous plants has been given in Table 1. The documented information of 15 laticiferous plants belonging to 7 families are used by villagers against various diseases of humans. The useful information about medicinal use of laticiferous plants is scattered among peoples of villages and is not easy to passed their subsequent generations (Pal, 1880 and Satapathy, 2010). The present work would be useful for phytochemical and pharmaceutical studies leading to formation of low cost natural medicine for humanity.

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