



Short Communication

Ethnobotanical Notes on Satpura Hills of Nandurbar District, Maharashtra, India

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Abstract

Present communication deals with some ethno medicinal uses of 21 plant species, by the tribals of Satpura hill region in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra. This region is inhabited by tribal communities like Bhil, Valvi, Gavit, Padvi, Mawchi, Konkani, Dhanka, Tadvi, etc. The ethno botanical information on plants viz., botanical name, family (in parenthesis), local name, plant part used and mode of administration is enumerated.

Keywords: Ethno medicine, tribals, Satpura hills, Nandurbar district.

Introduction

The medicinal plants have been in the focus as life saving drugs right from the beginning of the human civilization. The medicinal plants have been the object of research in both systematic and advanced areas of plant sciences. The word ethnobotany means the study of botany of human race, the term was first used by J.W. Harshberger¹. Study of traditional or folk medicines of tribals is called ethno medicine.

Nandurbar is the newly constituted district in the state of Maharashtra. It lies between 73⁰47' and 74⁰47' East longitude and 21⁰0' and 22⁰3' North latitude; Satpura hill ranges falls in the district from East to West. As much as 65% of the population of the district is tribal. The prominent tribes inhabiting these tropical dry deciduous forests are Bhil, Pawara, Gavit, Valvi, Konkani, Mawchi, Dhanka, Tadvi, etc. The tribals have the knowledge of medicinal and another uses of plants growing in the forests. Tribal medicine men called Vaidu, Bhagat, Bawa, Vaidu, Maharaj, specifically know the exact preparation of the medicine and diagnosis of the diseases.

Though some workers²⁻⁵ documented ethno medicinally important plants of the area, still lot of work is to be done. In the present paper, folk medicinal preparations of 21 plant species used for different ailments has been enumerated.

Material and Methods

For ethno botanical exploration frequent field visits were arranged during the years 2008-10, in the Satpura hill ranges of the Nandurbar district. Tribal medicine men, village heads and local people were interviewed to record different plant

used for folk remedies. Each of the plant material was collected and documented. The plant specimens are dried, pressed to prepare herbarium. They are identified with the help of established floras⁶⁻⁸. Voucher specimens are deposited in the Herbarium, Department of Botany, V. N. College, Shahada, and Dist. Nandurbar (M.S.).

Enumeration: *Abelmoschus manihot* (Linn.) Medic ssp. *tetraphyllus* (Roxb. ex. Horn.) Borss. (Malvaceae), Ranbhendi, HMP-28. Few roots are crushed and soaked in water overnight the cup of infusion is given to the patient for curing the bone fracture for 7-8 days.

Achyranthes aspera Linn. (Amaranthaceae), Aghada, HMP-62. The leaves are crushed and paste is externally applied over the bleeding anus in piles at night until relief is felt.

Aegle marmelos (Linn.) Correa ex. Roxb. (Rutaceae), Bel, HMP-25. Roots of plant are cleaned and crushed and watery paste is prepared. Then it is applied in the both eyes for 4-5 days at night to cure migraine.

Aloe barbadensis Mill. (Liliaceae), Korphad. HMP-29. Fresh healthy leaf is collected cleaned and peeled off to remove the pulp. The half cup of pulp is orally taken in the morning and evening, for 4-5 days to cure body heat and stomach problems.

Acacia nilotica (L.) Del. subsp. *indica* (Bth) Brenan (Mimosaceae), Babul, HMP-39. Gum is edible and is considered to be energetic, so given in infertility (for men). The bark decoction is orally given to the patient having bone fracture.

Bombax ceiba L. (Bombacaceae), Sawar, HMP-40. Roots of young plants are cut and rubbed over stone to make a watery paste and taken orally to cure leucorrhoea.

Centella asiatica (L.) Urban. (Apiaceae), Bramhi, HMP-45. The entire plant is crushed to prepare decoction and taken internally to cure jaundice. It is repeated twice a day for 7-8 days.

Celosia argentea L. (Amaranthaceae), Lemda, HMP-48. Tender twigs are used as vegetable, few seeds are given twice a day with lot of water to get rid of kidney stone or 2-3 pieces of 3-5 inch length roots are soaked in a cup of water for overnight. It is freshly prepared every time and administered to the patient twice a day for a week.

Cassia auriculata L. (Caesalpiniaceae), Awali, HMP-50. The fresh young shoots are chewed continuously once a day for a month. It is also effective to raise sperm count in men.

Cassia fistula L. (Caesalpiniaceae), Bahawa, HMP-51. The leaves are crushed to prepared thick paste and mixed with coconut oil. This paste is applied over the burnt skin twice a day and repeated still till cured.

Holarrhena pubescens (Buch-Ham.) Wall. ex Don. (Apocynaceae), Dudhkuhadi, HMP-65. The fresh leaves are chewed early in the morning for a week to cure dental caries.

Sterculia urens Roxb. (Sterculiaceae), HMP-69. Stem bark of 7-8 inch length is crushed to prepare juice. Then it is mixed with jaggery to prepare small pills. They are orally given twice a day for a week to cure leucorrhoea.

Echinops echinatus Roxb. (Asteraceae), Udkata, HMP-78. The whole plant is powdered and about 10g of powder is boiled in glass of water, reduce it to one half. It is then filtered and then taken in the morning and evening as febrifuge.

Fagonia cretica L. (Zygophyllaceae), HMP-60. The whole plant is crushed and then boiled in water. This water is used for bathing to get relief from itching.

Ficus religiosa L. (Moraceae), Piple, HMP-37. Tender buds and leaves are dried; powdered, 1-2 gram powder is orally given twice a day with water as tonic to cure general debility.

Ensete superba (Roxb.) Cheesm. (Musaceae) Jangli Keli, HMP-25. The seeds are powdered and given to the patient suffering from kidney stone, twice a day for 4-5 days.

Rubia cordifolia L. (Rubiaceae), HMP-22. The roots are crushed and paste is prepared. This paste is externally applied to cure mouth ulcers.

Tribulus terrestris L. (Zygophyllaceae), Gokharu, HMP-27. Whole plant is washed and then crushed and soaked in appropriate amount of water. This freshly prepared mucilaginous solution is taken for three weeks to treat leucorrhoea.

Thespesia populnea (L.) Sol. ex. Correa. (Malvaceae), HMP-44. Fresh leaves are collected and crushed and mixed with water. A cup of filtered mixture is taken orally for 4-5 days to cure jaundice.

Wrightia tinctoria (Roxb.) R.Br. (Apocynaceae), HMP-43. The bark is powdered and spoonful powder is given orally as galactagogue, for 2-3 days.

Ziziphus rugosa Lamk., (Rhamnaceae) Ghatbor, HMP-59. The unripe fruits are eaten to cure cough and throat disorders for 2-3 days.

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Results and Discussion

The present communication deals with the medicinal uses of 20 genera and 21 species of angiosperms for different ailments. Though, some of the plants were earlier reported by some workers but they are used to cure different ailments²⁻⁵. The present paper reports some new therapeutic uses of such plants. So present information is also of paramount importance as it restores and documents the fading out knowledge system of the tribes and can be applied immediately for pharmacological tests for working out effective formulations.

Conclusion

Tribals are using their traditional knowledge system to cure different diseases. They use plant as a source of drug through trial and error method and the process is experienced over hundreds of years.

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