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Ethnomedicinal study of Gadchiroli reserve forests Maharashtra

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Abstract

The ethnobotanical studies of plants used by tribals, vaidu (Local ayurvedic practitioners and local peoples) were carried out from reserving forest region of Gadchiroli, Maharashtra state, India. The study revealed that there are a number of species occurring in the area that are utilized to cure various diseases like diabetes, jaundice, asthma, blood pressure, obesity, stomach disorder, kidney trouble and also to protect from snake bite. The 36 plant species used for human health care are enumerated in tabular form with their correct scientific and local names with families. The paper highlights uses of 36 ethnomedicinal plants traditionally utilized by tribals of Gadchiroli forest area.

Keywords: Ethnobotanical studies, Gond tribe, Korku tribe, Traditional ecological knowledge.

1. Introduction

Ethnobotany records the history and current state of human kind even while foretelling the future. As a discipline, ethnobotany gives us a profound understanding and appreciation of the richness and intimacy of relationship between human and nature. The relationship between plant and human is beneficial to both. Ethnobotany is an anthropocentric approach to botany and concerned with gathering information of plants and their uses (Kothari & Londhe, 1997) [8]. Our ancient sages used on the plants for curative purpose and thus Ayurveda, the science of life, was evolved. (Joshi, 1996) [6]. In last 35 years, some books and papers based on ethnobotanical research in India have been published. This has resulted in a dictionary of Indian folk medicine (Jain, 1991) [4]. In Maharashtra, also, numbers of workers have contributed to this field. Kothari and Murthi (1993) [9] worked on ethnomedicinal plants. The need for the integration of local indigenous knowledge for a sustainable management and conservation of natural resources receives more and more recognition (Ponsey, 1992) [10].

Gadchiroli forest covers reserved and protected forest areas measuring 218529 Ha. In a change of Gadchiroli forest division, which is situated in the middle of Gadchiroli district and within the civil territories of Gadchiroli, Dhanora, Part of Chamorshi, Korchi, Kurkheda and Armori, more or less in compact blocks. The area is undulating and hilly. The forest areas situated on a triangle of high lands forming a table land, which runs the entire length of the western portion of the tract. Numerous hills rise on this table land mainly on the north-eastern and south-eastern sides of the district. But there is no regular range. Main blocks of hills are Palasgarh, Gewardha, Satinala and Tipagarh. The Wainganga is the main river and Khobragadi, Garvi, Kathani are its tributaries. The weather remains hot and dry for the major part of the year. The mean maximum temperature is 45.46 °C and the mean minimum temperature is about 13.10 °C. The highest and lowest temperatures recorded are 46.50 °C in summer and 7 °C during winter. The total average rainfall over the area is 1976 mm. The forest covers this division is mainly consists of dry deciduous miscellaneous forest. The major forest type in Gadchiroli range is dry deciduous. In this area *Tectona grandis* is the dominant species. In the mixed miscellaneous forest commonly found major species are Ain, Bija, Beheda, Semal, Hirda, Awala, Char, Moha etc. Bamboo is found commonly in almost all the ranges of the division. The main species of Bamboo found is *Dendrocalamus strictus*.

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2. Materials and Methods

Survey of Gadchiroli Forest authors collected necessary information regarding medicinal uses of plants, their local names from tribals and local peoples including their vaidus and Doctors. The plants collected were processed in customary way and the Herbarium deposited in the college laboratory of Botany. Necessary photographs of during

general vegetation and useful plants along with tribal were also taken. Stress had been given for medicinal plants used to cure various diseases of human beings. The specimens were identified with the help of flora of Melghat. The medicinal information was compared with standard literature. eg. Ambasta (1986) [1], etc.

Table 1: Ethnobotany for Human Health Care, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra (India)

S. No	Name of plant & Family	Local Name	Parts used for Care
1	<i>Acacia leucophloea</i> (Rokb.) Willd. (Mimosaceae)	Hiwar	Stem sap or decoction of bark stomachache. Leaf juice to reduce fure.
2	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L. (Amaranthaceae)	Aghada	15 gm. Powder of seed uses twice a day to cure bleeding piles.
3	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i> (Acanthaceae)	Adulsa	Juice prepared by fresh is used to cure cough and asthma.
4	<i>Agle marmelos</i> Linn. (Rutaceae)	Bel	Dried powder of pulp of unripe fruit is used to cure diarrhea.
5	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i> (L.) R. Br. (Apocynaceae)	Saptaparni	Bark & leaf powder is appetizer, dental& skin diseases, stomach disorder, rheumatic pains.
6	<i>Allium cepa</i> (L.) (Liliaceae)	Kanda	Crushed bulb paste is used with salt to relief from poison of scorpion.
7	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> (L.) (Liliaceae)	Bhutni	Fumes of roots are used to cure fever with the help of blanket.
8	<i>Azadirachta</i> (Meliaceae)	Neem	Crushed leaves are used to cure many skin diseases, very frequently used by people.
9	<i>Balanites Aegyptica</i> (L.) (Balanitaceae)	Hingota	Pulp of fruit is used with mother's milk in children pneumonia.
10	<i>Boswellia serrata</i> Roxb. (Burseraceae)	Salai	Dry leaf powder +coconut oil+ Butter Removes spots of burning.
11	<i>Butea monosperma</i> Roxb. ex Willd. (Fabaceae)	Palas	Juice of flower and seed is used to cure stomachache and decoction of bark for piles.
12	<i>Calotropis gigentia</i> R.Br. (Asclepiadaceae)	Rui.	Crushed roots paste is applied on snake bites wound, very commonly applied by poison healers.
13	<i>Chlorophytum tuberosum</i> (Liliaceae)	Safed musli.	Tubers are used with milk in case of impotency.
14	<i>Costus speciou</i> (Zigiberaceae)	Ketch kand	Roots - fever, cold, purgative. Rhizome-Asthama, Chikenpox, sjaundice tonic, snakebites.
15	<i>Diospyros melanoxylon</i> Roxb. (Ebenaceae)	Tendu	Flower- Urinary& Skin diseases. Raw fruits juice – wound healing, Ripe fruits-urinary disorder.
16	<i>Emblica officinalis</i> Gaertn. (Ephobiaceae)	Amla	Powder offruits is used as purgative also used as cooling agent of stomach.
17	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L. (Moraceae)	Vad	Bark juice+ garlic+ Turmeric or ripe fruits for Diabets. Buds infusion for Diarrhoea.
18	<i>Ficus racemosa</i> L. (Moraceae)	Umber	Latex extracted from bark is tied on stomach with Bidi wrapper to cure stomach.
19	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L. (Moraceae)	Pimpal	Bark ash for Asthama, Itches. Fruits laxative, voice improver.
20	<i>Gloriosa superba</i> L. (Liliaceae)	Kadlavi	Roots are laxative, piles, scabies, leprosy, neurologic pains, snake bites. Seeds demand for cancer treatment.s
21	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> Roem (Asclepiadaceae)	Anantmul	Decoction of roots is used thrice a day for a month to cure many skin diseases and purified blood.
22	<i>Lagenaria siceraria</i> (Cucurbitaceae)	Kadubhopda	Leaf decoction+ sugar for jaundice. Leaves boiled in oil applied externally on Gadmad. Reduse thyroid glands and effective on obesity.
23	<i>Madhuca latifolia</i> Gmel. (Sapotaceae)	Mahua	Fresh heated leaves are tied to cure swelling and wounds.
24	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L. (Anacardiaceae)	Amba	Juice of seeds is use to cure nostril bleeding.
25	<i>Mitragyna parvifolia</i> (Roxb.) Korth. (Rutaceae)	Kaddam	Bark paste for Muscular pains. Bark&roots for fever and colic pains.
26	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i> L. (Lamiaceae)	Tulsi	Fresh leaves chewed during cough and cold.
27	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> Pier (Papilionaceae)	Karanj	Roots for Rheumatic pains, Ulcers. Leaf juice for Diarrhoes, leprosy&its poultice for wound. Stem& barks for piles. Flowers for Diabetes.
28	<i>Psoralea corylifolia</i> L. (Fabaceae)	Bavchi	Seed oil for leucoderma, ringworm. Bark for bone fracture, tonic. Leaf poultice for skin diseases, Flower is appetizer, urinary complaints.
29	<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i> L. (Anacardiaceae)	Bhilwa	Oil extracted from roots used in gonorrhoea disease.

30	<i>Sida acuta</i> N. Burm. (Malvaceae)	Chikna	Leaf juice + milk + sugar for Syphilis, gonorrhoea.
31	<i>Solanum incanum</i> L. (Solanaceae)	Dorli	Berries vapour for Toothache.
32	<i>Strychnos nux-vomica</i> (Loganiaceae)	Kucha	Seeds are used to preventing hydrophobia after biting dog.
33	<i>Terminalia chebula</i> L. (Combretaceae)	Harad	Fruits are used as purgative, roasted fruits are used a week, twice a day to cure cough. Very popular treatments for curing cough.
34	<i>Trianthema portulacastrum</i> L. (Aizoaceae)	Vasu	Roots used for Blood purifier, jaundice, urinary disorder.
35	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L. (Verbenaceae)	Nirgudi	Root power for piles, leaf juice for Rheumatic pains, inflammation, wound healing. Seeds for skin diseases.
36	<i>Zizyphus nummularia</i> (Burm. f.) Wt (Rhamnaceae)	Ber	The 15 ml extract of bark is used seven days, thice a day to cure diarrhea.

3. Conclusion

The collection of the near about 36 genus belonging to 28 families. The information generated from the present study regarding the medicinal plant use by the community, tribe needs a through phytochemical investigation including alkaloid extraction. This could help in creating mass awareness regarding the need for conservation of such plants and also in the promotion of ethno-medico botanical knowledge within the region besides contributing to the preservation and enrichment of the gene bank of such economically important species before they are lost forever. There is a lot to be done in this area with active support of these tribal people. The importance of these economically important plant species could be rejuvenated for the benefits of our future generations and also need to improve healthcare condition.

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