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Selim Mehmud
IGNOU Regional Centre,
Guwahati, Assam, India

Ethnoveterinary plants used by different ethnic groups of Kamrup Rural district of Assam, India

Selim Mehmud

Abstract

The present study deals with medicinal plants related to ethnoveterinary practices of domesticated animals like cow, goat and buffalo of Kamrup Rural district of Assam. Several field surveys were conducted in various areas of the district during 2016. The study reveals 27 species represented by 26 genera belonging to 19 families are reported against 8 folk medico claims. Out of 27 species maximum are herbs followed by trees and shrubs. Most frequently used plants parts are leaf followed by fruits and roots. The findings need further scientific research for development of new veterinary drugs.

Keywords: Ethno-veterinary, medicinal plants, Kamrup Rural.

1. Introduction

Medicinal plants are widely used by different ethnic groups of Assam for curing various types of diseases for both humans and domestic animals. This region is rich in floral diversity and also homeland of about 25 ethnic groups^[1]. Traditional agriculture is the primary livelihood of these people, so domestic animals like cow, goat and buffalo etc are very important because they provide food and non-food items and also used in farming techniques. Diseases of domestic animals are the major problem among these people. Medicinal plants are used to cure different veterinary related diseases but these ethnoveterinary practices are gradually decreasing due to lack of interest and loss of medicinal plants habitat. So this is very important for documentation of medicinal plants used to cure veterinary related diseases. From this region ethnoveterinary uses of plants have been reported by several workers^[2-8]. The aim of the study is to record the medicinal plants used by different ethnic groups of Kamrup Rural district of Assam to cure several diseases of domestic animals like cow, goat, buffalo etc.

1.1. Study area

Kamrup Rural district of Assam is situated between 25°46' - 26° 49' N and 90° 48'-91°50' E. The district is bounded by Udalguri and Baksa in the North, Meghalaya in the South, Darrang and Kamrup Metro in the East and Goalpara and Nalbari in the West. Climate of the district is sub-tropical with semi dry summer and cold in winter. Ranges of annual rainfall are between 1500-2600 mm. The temperature ranges from 7 °C-38.5 °C^[9]. The major ethnic groups which are found during surveys are Bodo, Rabha, Koch Rajbanshi, Garo, Tea tribe community etc along with plain Assamese peoples.

2. Materials and Methodology

Extensive field surveys were conducted during 2016 covering different areas of the district. Medicinal plants related to ethnoveterinary are properly documented during surveys by the help of local practitioners. Medicinal plants which are used in the treatment are collected and identified with the help of local flora^[10].

3. Result and Discussion

Results of the survey are enumerated in Table 1 where folklore medicinal plants are arranged with scientific name, family, local name, parts used, amount of parts used and mode of administration. The present communication deals with 27 species represented by 26 genera belonging to 19 families with 11 different formulations were used for the treatment of

Correspondence
Selim Mehmud
IGNOU Regional Centre,
Guwahati, Assam, India

8 different veterinary diseases or disorders. The family Euphorbiaceae has found highest uses followed by Acanthaceae, Combretaceae, Moraceae, Rutaceae, Verbenaceae, Zingiberaceae etc. Total 7 single drugs are found where 7 plant species are used and 4 drugs are found in the form of compound plant formulation where 21 plant

species are used and 1 species is repeated in both single and compound drug. Out of 27 species recorded 11 species are herbs including 9 trees, 6 shrubs and 1 climber. Most of the preparations are fed orally. Different plants parts which are used as medicine are Bulb (1), fruit (6), leaf (14), rhizome (4), root (4) and seed (2).

Table 1: List of medicinal plants used in the veterinary related diseases

Sl. No.	Scientific Name	Family	Local Name	Habit	Parts used	Amounts of parts	Mode of administration
1.	Appetizer						
	<i>Zanthoxylum alatum</i> Roxb.	Rutaceae	Tezmui	S	Seed	50 gm	Mixed with 20-25 gm black salt and fed orally.
2.	Bone fracture						
	<i>Grewia multiflora</i> Juss.	Malvaceae	Kukurshita	T	Leaf		Paste is applied locally on bone cracked area, typing up with cloths, cotton and bamboo sticks for 3-5 days.
3.	Constipation and Digestion promoter						
	<i>Allium sativum</i> L.	Alliaceae	Naharu	H	Bulb	30-40 gm	All ingredients are dried and crushed together to prepare powder. Paste prepared from the powder (20-30 gm) and fed orally thrice daily for 2-3 days.
	<i>Clerodendrum viscosum</i> Vent.	Verbenaceae	Dhapat tita	S	Leaf	50 gm	
	<i>Curcuma longa</i> L.	Zingiberaceae	Halodhi	H	Rhizome	50 gm	
	<i>Houttuynia cordata</i> Thunb.	Saururaceae	Masendurry	H	Leaf	20-30 gm	
	<i>Murraya koenigii</i> Spreng.	Rutaceae	Narasigha	S	Leaf	20-30 gm	
	<i>Paederia foetida</i> L.	Rubiaceae	Bhedai lota	C	Leaf	50 gm	
	<i>Phlogacanthus thyrsoflorus</i> Nees.	Acanthaceae	Tita bahak	S	Leaf	50 gm	
	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Posotiya	T	Leaf	50 gm	
4.	Dog Bite						
	<i>Emblia officinalis</i> Gaertn	Euphorbiaceae	Amlokhi	T	Fruit	3 nos.	Paste is fed orally with a ripe fruit of <i>Musa velutina</i> Wendl & Drude for a day.
	<i>Terminalia bellirica</i> Roxb.	Combretaceae	Bhomra	T	Fruit	3 nos.	
	<i>Terminalia chebula</i> Retz.	Combretaceae	Hilikha	T	Fruit	5 nos.	
5.	Dysentery						
	<i>Corchorus capsularis</i> L.	Tiliaceae	Morapat	H	Dry leaf	50 gm	Paste is fed orally thrice daily for 3 days.
	<i>Justicia gendarussa</i> Burm. f.	Acanthaceae	Jatrakhidhi	H	Leaf	20-30 gm	Leaves are mixed with salt then and fed orally with banana leaf for 2 days.
6.	Maggots on wounds						
	<i>Croton tiglium</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Koni Bih	T	Leaf		Paste applies locally on wounds to kill the insect larvae.
	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> Linn.	Moringaceae	Sajina	T	Leaf		Juice applies locally
	<i>Typhonium trilobatum</i> Schott.	Araceae		H	Rhizome		Juice applies locally
7.	Stomach swelling						
	<i>Curcuma longa</i> L.	Zingiberaceae	Halodhi	H	Rhizome	20 gm	Paste is fed orally thrice daily with 10 ml banana fruit peel ash extract (<i>Kolakhar</i>) for 3 days.
	<i>Capsicum annuum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Jolokia	H	Fruit	3-4 nos.	
	<i>Clerodendrum viscosum</i> Vent.	Verbenaceae	Vete	H	Root	10-15 gm	
	<i>Ficus hispida</i> L.f.	Moraceae	Domoru	T	Leaf	1-2 nos.	
	<i>Zanthoxylum alatum</i> Roxb.	Rutaceae	Tezmui	S	Seed	4-5 nos.	
	<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Rosc.	Zingiberaceae	Ada	H	Rhizome	25 gm	
8.	Stomach Ache						
	<i>Dillenia indica</i> L.	Dilleniaceae	Ou tenga	T	Fruit mucilage	1-2 nos.	Paste is given orally thrice daily with 1-2 bucket leaf decoction of <i>Streblus asper</i> Lour. and <i>Mimosa pudica</i> Linn. For 3-4 days.
	<i>Impatiens balsamina</i> L.	Balsaminaceae	Koriya bijal	H	Root	50-80 gm	
	<i>Musa velutina</i> Wendl & Drude	Musaceae	Bhim kol	H	Root	50-80 gm	
	<i>Manihot esculenta</i> Crantz	Euphorbiaceae	Simalu alu	S	Root	50-80 gm	
	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L.	Mimosaceae	Lajuki lota	H	Leaf	300-400 gm	
	<i>Streblus asper</i> Lour.	Moraceae	Khora Gosh	T	Leaf	50-80 gm	

*C-Climber; H- Herb; S- Shrub; T-Tree

4. Conclusion

The present study shows the importance of medicinal plants for curing various types of veterinary related diseases by different ethnic groups of Kamrup Rural district of Assam. In the rural area modern veterinary medicines are not available so they depend on medicinal plants. Due to changes of live hood and environmental pattern these traditional knowledge are gradually disappearing. So it is very important for documentation and conservation of medicinal plants related to ethnoveterinary treatments. Proper scientific analysis is very important for validation of

these folk claims and development of new veterinary related drug.

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