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Ethnomedicinal plants of Karwi district (Uttar Pradesh) India

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Abstract

Present paper deals the ethnomedicinal plant of Karwi district (U.P.). There are several tribal communities like Kol, Gond, Mawasi and Khairwar inhabit in district and utilize wide variety of plant resources for food, fodder, fibre, medicine etc. An ethnomedicinal study among the tribal and rural communities of Karwi district has been carried during 2018-2019. In the present paper, medicinal uses of 20 plant species belonging to 20 genera and 19 families have been reported. There are a lot to be done in this promising field with the active support of village people so that importance of these economically important plants could be rejuvenated for the benefit of our future generations and also need to improve health care condition.

Keywords: ethnomedicinal, Karwi, ethnic, biological diversity

Introduction

Indigenous knowledge is as old as human civilization. Man for the past thousands of years has used plant for curing various ailments. In India, out of 15,000 species of flowering plants about 17% are considered to be of medicinal value (Jain 1967) [6].

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 relationships between humans and nature. Indigenous people throughout the world possess knowledge of their surrounding flora and fauna. Tribal people are the ecosystem people who live in harmony with the nature and maintain a close link between man and environment. Plants are the basis of life on earth and are central to people's livelihoods. The life, tradition, culture of tribals have remained almost static since last several hundreds of years. The knowledge accumulated by them through a long series of observations from one generation to another is transmitted oral communication for power possessed by medicinal plants in cure of various diseases and ailments. The need for the integration of local indigenous knowledge for a sustainable management and conservation of natural resources receives more and more recognition (Posey, 1992) [9]. Moreover, an increased emphasis is being placed on possible economic benefits especially of the medicinal use of tropical forest products instead of pure timber harvesting (Pimbert and Pretty, 1995) [8]. The district lies between the latitude 24°53' and 25°23' north and 80°44' and 81°34' east longitudes. The northern boundary of the district is formed by the river Yamuna, across which lie districts of Fatehpur and Kaushambi. In the east the district borders with Allahabad and the state of Madhya Pradesh and on its westside lies the mother district Banda. The southern boundary of the district consists of Vindhyan plateau across which lie districts Satna and Rewa of Madhya Pradesh state. Most of the sacred places of Chitrakoot religious complex are in fact in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Northern part of the district is a flat expanse and southern part is mainly the Vindhyan plateau, which is full of hills and forest cover. On the plains of the district Karwi lies at about 120-125m., Rajapur and Mau at 100-105m. above the level of sea each. As usual in rest of U.P., the lowland in the district is made of alluvium deposited by many streams coming down from southern hills and flowing into Yamuna. Paisuni is the chief stream among these. The lowland formed is uneven in nature and riversides full of ravines.

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Material and Methods

An ethnobotanical survey was conducted in tribal and rural areas of Karwi district during 2018-2019 and the first-hand information on medicinal uses of plants viz. local name of the plant, part used, mode of preparation, mode of administration/application, dose, duration etc. was collected from old and experienced traditional medicine men and women with the help of a standard questionnaire. The voucher specimens of the plants collected during the survey were properly identified with the help of floras and preserved in the herbarium of Arogyadham, Deendayal Research Institute, Chitrakoot.

The recorded data were compared with published literature viz. Ambasta (1986)^[1], Chopra *et al.* (1956, 1969)^[4-5], Jain (1991)^[7], Sinha and Verma (1996)^[16], Sikarwar (2001)^[10], Sinha and Shukla (2004)^[15], Sikarwar *et al.* (2004, 2008, 2012)^[14-12], Sikarwar & Pathak (2007)^[12], Soni *et al.* (2008, 2010) and Tropathi & Sikarwar (2013)^[14], Ansari *et al.* (2013)^[2], Chaturvedi, *et al.* (2017)^[3] etc. and it is found that the reported uses are not published in earlier literature.

Enumeration

Table 1: Plants are arranged alphabetically by family followed by botanical name, local name and medicinal uses.

	Family		Botanical name	Local name	Medicinal uses
I	Amaranthaceae	1.	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Apamarg	Root paste with honey is given in pneumonia for 21 days.
II	Apocynaceae	2.	<i>Carissa carandus</i> L.	Karonda	Leaf paste with whey is given for three days to treat blood dysentery.
III	Asclepiadaceae	3.	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Ait.) R. Br.	Ak	Tender leaf is pressed hard and makes a pill and one pill daily for 7 days is given in dog bite.
IV	Asteraceae	4.	<i>Sphaeranthus indicus</i> L.	Gorakhmundi	Globoid inflorescence is given daily, two times a day for seven days to cure eye diseases.
V	Brassicaceae	5.	<i>Raphanus sativus</i> L.	Muli	Leaf juice is given as night during time of sleeping daily for the treatment of piles, till cure.
VI	Caesalpiniaceae	6.	<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> L.	Kachnar	Bark decoction is given to treat goiter, two times a day till cure.
VII	Combretaceae	7.	<i>Psidium guajava</i> L.	Bihi	Leaf is chewed with Kattha (<i>Acacia catechu</i>) to treat mouth sores, two times a day for three days.
		8.	<i>Terminalia cuneata</i> Roth	Kahua	Stem bark pieces with flowers of Mahua (<i>Madhuca longifolia</i>) are boiled in milk and milk is given in heart diseases, two times a day for 15 days.
VIII	Meliaceae	9.	<i>Melia azedarach</i> L.	Bakain	Luke warm leaf juice is dropped in ear to treat ear diseases, two times a day till cure.
IX	Menispermaceae	10.	<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (L.) Diels	Chhalhata	Root is pounded with seeds of Kali Mirch (<i>Piper nigrum</i>), roots of Apamarg (<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>) and clarified butter. The paste is given in snake bite, two times a day for three days.
X	Mimosaceae	11.	<i>Acacia catechu</i> (L. F.) Willd.	Khair	Decoction of stem bark of Khair (<i>Acacia catechu</i>), Chheula (<i>Butea monosperma</i>), stem pieces of Guruch (<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>) and leaves of Neem (<i>Azadirachta indica</i>) is given as blood purifier to treat skin diseases, two times a day, till cure.
XI	Moraceae	12.	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L.	Bargad	7 drops of latex are poured in Batasa (a semi spherical cake of sugar) and given in empty stomach to treat diarrhoea, two times a day for three days.
XII	Moringaceae	13.	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lam.	Sahajan	6 gm seed powder with honey is given daily for 21 days to treat night blindness.
XIII	Nyctanthaceae	14.	<i>Nyctanthes arbor-tristis</i> L.	Saharua	Leaves of Sharua (<i>Nyctanthes arbor-tristis</i>) with bark of Sahajan (<i>Moringa oleifera</i>), leaves of Medaki (<i>Vitex negundo</i>) are taken in equal quantity and make a powder. The 12 gm powder is given daily to treat sciatica, till cure.
XIV	Papaveraceae	15.	<i>Argemone mexicana</i> L.	Ghamoia	Leaf paste is applied on wounds till cure.
XV	Poaceae	16.	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers	Doob	Whole plant juice is given with sugar for the treatment of urine inflammation, two times a day for 5 days. It is also given to stop bleeding of any part of body.
XVI	Simaroubaceae	17.	<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i> (L.) Delile	Engua	Decoction of fruit kernel is given in rheumatism, two times a day till cure.
XVII	Sterculiaceae	18.	<i>Sterculia urens</i> Roxb.	Kullu	50 gm gum is soaked in water and kept overnight. The soaked gum with sugar is given, two times a day for three days to treat diarrhoea and dysentery.
XVIII	Tiliaceae	19.	<i>Grewia hirsuta</i> Vahl	Gulsakari	Paste of root is given with 50 g milk and sugar in empty stomach for increasing the quantity of semen in body, once a day for 21 days.
XIX	Verbanaceae	20.	<i>Clerodendrum multiflorum</i> (Burm. f.) Kuntze	Arn	Leaves of Arn and Patharchatta (<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i>) are pounded together and juice is given to treat jaundice, two times a day for 15 days.

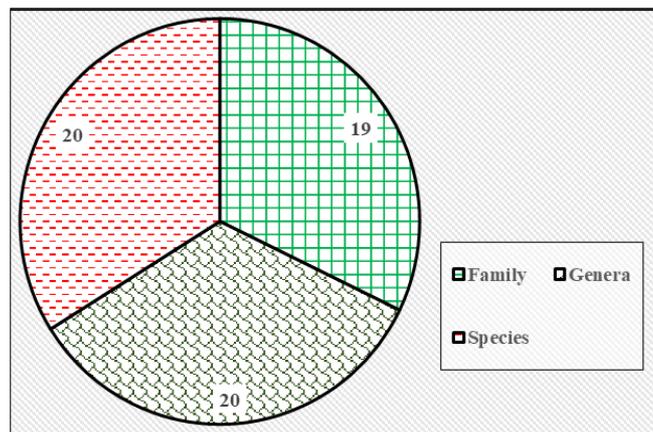


Fig 1: Graphics analysis of medicinal uses plants species at Karwi district.

Results and Discussion

During the study it was noted that although the nations of this region are economically advanced and rely on the wild resources around them to meet their needs, they have excellent knowledge about the use of plants in medicine. A total of 20 medicinal uses of plant species belonging to 20 genera and 19 families have been reported (Table 1 & Fig. 1). There are several tribal communities like Kol, Gond, Mawasi and Khairwar inhabit in district and utilize wide variety of plant resources for food, fodder, fibre, medicine etc. An ethnomedicinal study among the tribal and rural communities of Karwi district has been carried during 2018-2019.

Conclusion

The information generated from the present study regarding the medicinal plant use by the Kol, Gond, Mawasi and Khairwar tribes. This could help in creating mass awareness regarding the need for conservation of such plants and also in the promotion of ethno-medico-botany 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. People of that region realize on ethnomedicine and in most problems they gone to ojhas, gunias and baidhyas because of the poor health care condition. There are a lot to be done in this promising field with the active support of village people so that importance of these economically important plants could be rejuvenated for the benefit of our future generations and also need to improve health care condition.

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