

Traditional medicines used by the tribes of Hadgaon range forest of Nanded District Maharashtra, India

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ABSTRACT

An ethnomedicinal survey was carried out to collect information on the use of medicinal plants from herbal practioners of *Gond, Andh, Kolam and Pradhan tribes* of Hadgaon forest range of Nanded district Maharashtra. The medicinal uses of plant species practiced by the tribal people were recorded in the present paper. It is observed that the *Gond* tribes use some less known medicinally important plants and are still dependent upon the forest for their needs and they live with the rhythm of the forest using their indigenous knowledge. In the present study the ethno-medicinal uses of 20 plants species belonging to 16 families were enumerated. The documented medicinal plants were mostly used to treat jaundice, tuberculosis, dysentery, hydrophobia and epilepsy.

Figure : 00

References : 14

Table : 00

KEY WORDS : Folkethno medicine, Hadgaon forest, Nanded district, Practices.

Introduction

The hadgaon range forest of Nanded district of Maharashtra is inhabited by the *Gond, Andh, Kolam and Pradhan tribes*. Agricultural and collection of NWFPS including plants are the main stay of the life of tribes. Collection of forest produce being major traditional medicines remains an integral part of the system in this area. Alternative system of medicine like Ayurveda, Sidha, Unani and traditional medicine have gained importance in the recent few years of its high potential in curing various diseases with fewer side effects as compared with the synthetic drugs³. The Hadgaon taluka is still under ethonobotanical exploration. Thus there is an urgent need of documentation of such knowledge about the use of medicinal plants for their long term

conservation. Therefore, present study was planned to document the ethnobotanical observations from 2022-2023 and the paper is a segment of this study on documenting the information.

Materials and Method

The ethnobotanical regular forest survey was conducted during 2022-2023. The information and uses of medicinal plants were recorded with the help of aged tribal people and herbalists of Hadgaon range forest of Nanded district. The plant specimens were collected under the guidance of tribl people and identified with help of renowned floras^{2,8,9,11,13,14}. The hebarium species were deposited in the Department of Botany, Dnyanopasak College, Parbhani. Enumeration was compared with earlier literature^{4,10}.

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Enumeration

Acacia nilotica

Family: Mimosaceae

Local Name: **Babhul**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 80

Use: 50 ml leaf decoction along with 50 ml curd is taken twice a day for three days against dysentery.

Aegle marmelos

Family: Rutaceae

Local Name: **Bel**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 89

Use: Two teaspoonful leaf decoctions along with two teaspoonful honey are given orally twice a day for three days to cure jaundice.

Bacopa monnieri

Family: Scrophulariaceae

Local Name: **Brahmi**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 144

Use: One teaspoonful leaf decoction along with two teaspoon honey is given twice a day for one week in the treatment of epilepsy.

Boswellia serrate

Family: Burseraceae

Local Name: **Salai**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 18

Use: Bark paste is applied for healing wounds.

Bridelia airy-shawii

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Local Name: **Asan**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 193

Use: Half cup of bark extract is mixed with two teaspoon leaf decoction of neem (*Azadirachta indica*) and its given twice a day for two weeks to treat diabetes.

Cassia fistula

Family: Caesalpiniaceae

Local Name: **Bahava**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 115

Use: Paste of tender leaves is applied on face to cure pimples.

Caesulia axillaris

Family: Asteraceae

Local Name: **Jangli Pandhra**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 209

Use: Few drops of leaf extract are poured in ear to get relief earache.

Carthamus tinctorus

Family: Asteraceae

Local Name: **Kardi**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 164

Use: Leaf paste is used for healing wound.

Dendrophthoe falcate

Family: Loranthaceae

Local Name: **Bandgul**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 228

Use: Half cup of bark extract is given twice a day for three days to reduce weakness.

Eclipta alba

Family: Asteraceae

Local Name: **Maka**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 184

Use: Half cup decoction of leaf is advised twice a day for three days to cure hepatitis.

Lawsonia inermis

Family: Lythraceae

Local Name: **Mehndi**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 138

Use: Half cup of leaf decoction along with cow milk is taken orally twice a day for one month to treat tuberculosis.

Raphanus sativus

Family: Brassicaceae

Local Name: **Mula (Radish)**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 09

Use: A cup of leaf decoction is taken orally twice a day for ten days to remove kidney stone.

Semecarpus anacardium

Family: Anacardiaceae

Local Name: **Bibba**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 301

Use: Decoction of leaves is mixed with equal.

Sida cordifolia

Family: Malvaceae

Local Name: **Chikana**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 245

Use: One teaspoon whole plant extract is given orally thrice a day for three days against dysentery.

Solanum virginianum

Family: Solanaceae

Local Name: **Bhui ragani**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 105

Use: One cup extract of whole plant along with one cup of ghee is given twice a day for two weeks to treat hydrophobia.

Spinacia oleracea

Family: Chenopodaceae

Local Name: **Palak**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 240

Use: One cup of leaf decoction is given orally three times in day for one week to cure dyspepsia.

Tamarindus indica

Family: Caesalpiniaceae

Local Name: **Chinch** Voucher specimen No. DPG 305

Use: Local Name: A powder of roasted bark with coconut oil (*Cocos nucifera*) is applied on skin to cure scabies.

Trichodesma indicum

Family: Borangiaceae

Local Name: **Kachmanda**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 270**Use:** Leaf paste is applied on wound till cure.***Ventilago denticulate***

Family: Rhmnace

Local Name: **Lokhandi**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 280**Use:** Two teaspoon bark extract is given orally twice a day for three days to cure fever, abdominal pain and rheumatism.***Vetiveria, zizanioides***

Family: Poaceae

Local Name: **Wala**, Voucher specimen No. DPG 178**Use:** One teaspoon root powder with 50ml boiled cow milk and two teaspoon sugar is advised twice a day for five days to reduce abdominal heat.**Results and Discussion**

Hadgaon forest is one of the most diverse

biological resources in the region. The tribal and rustic use of the plants for the treatment of various ailments. Present study reveals the information about some therapeutic uses of twenty angiospermic plant species belonging to sixteen families. The enumeration has been compared with important standard literature and it is observed that eighteen enumerations were not recorded earlier^{1,6,12}.

It was noticed that tribal people harvest the plant parts for medicinal purpose at particular season or growth period (before flowering and fruiting) to get maximum efficacy and concentration of the active principal. For the herbal formulation, leaves are preferred followed by roots, stem, bark powder, juice, extract and paste. Recommendation of the dosage and duration of herbal drug depend on the age of the patient and type of disease^{5, 7}. This ethno botanical study provides a new data on the application of plants for medicinal purpose. The ethno-medicines however, will serve as a useful tool to botanists, pharmacologist, phytochemist, practioners of herbal medicine and herbal drug industry.

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