

MEDICINAL PLANTS TRADITIONALLY USED BY THE TRIBALS OF RANCHI AND HAZARIBAGH DISTRICTS, BIHAR : SKIN DISEASES & SORES

C. R. TARAFDER

Botanical Survey of India, Howrah

ABSTRACT

The paper deals with about 45 species of medicinal plants belonging to 43 genera and 31 families. Species used in the treatment of skin diseases and sores of Cattle are listed with their such uses.

INTRODUCTION

Ranchi and Hazaribagh districts of Bihar State are situated between North latitude $22^{\circ}21'$ to $24^{\circ}45'$ and East longitude $84^{\circ}8'$ to $86^{\circ}38'$, inhabited by 2,611,445 and 3,020,214 (Chari, 1971, 1975) tribal people (Santhals, Oraons, Birhore, Bedia, Mohatos etc.) respectively.

Total area of these two districts is about 22765.741 sq. km between the elevation 150 m to 1015 m.

The author undertook studies on the ethnobotany of the districts of Ranchi and Hazaribagh in Bihar. During the course of field studies among the Santals, Mundas, Oraons, Birhors, Bedia, Mohatos etc., the author made collections of some plants traditionally used by the tribals for skin diseases and sores of cattle and human beings. These species are enumerated in this paper.

The use of plants dealt in this paper for curing skin diseases and sores are unknown or not popularly known and are not available in published literature, viz., Wealth of India 1948-76; Breseers 1951; Chopra *et al.* 1956, 1969; Dastur 1951, 1952; Jain 1963, 1965, 1968, 1971, 1973, 1975; Kirtikar *et al.* 1935; Tarafder 1979, 1981, 1983; Watt 1889-1899.

The species are arranged alphabetically:

Family names are given in brackets. Local names, localities from where this information was collected and the collection number of the author are also given.

The abbreviations used in this paper are as follows : Bir.—Birhor ; H.—Hindi ; H.N.P.—Hazaribagh National Park ; Haz.—Hazaribagh district ; J.T.—Jhumri Tilaiya ; L.N.—Local Name ; Loc.—Locality ; M.—Munda ; Or.—Oraon ; Ra.—Ranchi ; S.—Santhal.

Apluda mutica Linn. (Poaceae)

L.N. : Chotki-basar (Or.)

Loc. : Kanahari hill.

This grass is fed to cattle for 3 or 4 days for curing wound/sore on tongue and in mouth (24060, 18617).

Atylosia scarbaeoides Benth. (Fabaceae)

L.N. : Bonkurthi (Bir.)

Loc. : Koderma.

Leaf paste is applied on tongue of cattle for curing wounds (18913).

Bauhinia purpurea Linn. (Caesalpiniaceae)

L.N. : Kainara (S.)

Loc. : Jate (Ra.)

Paste of bark is applied on wounds. The powder of dry bark is also applied on wounds (24219).

Borreria hispida (Linn.) K. Schum. (Rubiaceae)

L.N. : Haddha (S.)

Loc. : Ramgarh.

Paste of roots mixed with coconut oil is

applied twice a day for 4-5 days to cure wounds. This is also used for Cattle (18959).

Boswellia serrata Roxb. (Burseraceae)

L.N. : Salai (S.)

Loc. : Chalanga (Barsaud)

Decoction of bark is applied on wounds once daily for 3-4 days (18712).

Calotropis gigantea (Linn.) R. Br. (Asclepiadaceae)

L.N. : Akanda (S.)

Loc. : Chota Pathol Pahar (Netarhat)

Leaf paste is applied on wounds of Cattle ; also used as vermicide. Small quantity of latex is applied in eczema and ring worm once daily for 7 days (24114).

Carissa spinarum Linn. (Apocynaceae)

L.N. : Konod Kanta (S.)

Loc. : Kanohari hill (Haz.), Chaterba (J.T.)

Paste of bark with seed oil of *Pongamia pinnata* is applied on wounds of cattle for 7 days (24055).

Celastrus paniculatus Willd. (Celastraceae)

L.N. : Kujri (S.)

Loc. : Ramubera (Barsaud)

Seed oil is applied on wounds once daily for 4-5 days (18547).

Cheilanthes tenuifolia Swartz (Polypodiaceae)

L.N. : Naganacha (S.)

Loc. : Jate (Ra.)

A paste of roots with Karanj oil (*Pongamia pinnata*) is applied on wounds for 7 days (24252).

Cleome viscosa Linn. (Capparaceae)

L.N. : Barhur (Or.)

Loc. : Chor-Pahar (Guryakorma)

Leaf paste is applied on wounds once daily for 7 days (18516).

Croton oblongifolius Roxb. (Euphorbiaceae)

L.N. : Putri (Bir.)

Loc. : Chaterba (J.T.)

Latex from young shoot is applied for ring worms once daily for 7 days (18614).

Curculigo orchioides Gaertn. (Amaryllidaceae)

L.N. : Kalimusli (H.)

Loc. : Barsaud (Haz.)

In case of syphilitic disease the paste of roots is applied once daily till cure (18544).

Curcuma longa Linn. (Zingiberaceae)

L.N. : Hardi (S.)

Loc. : Chota-Pathal-Pahar (Netarhat)

Paste of root is applied for eczema once daily for 7 days (24115).

C. aromatica Salisb. (Zingiberaceae)

L.N. : Jangli ada (S.)

Loc. : Jate (Ra.)

Paste of root is applied on wounds once daily for 4-5 days for remedy (24270).

Cuscuta reflexa Roxb. (Convolvulaceae)

L.N. : Amarlata (S.)

Loc. : Usri falls (Haz.)

Paste of stem is applied once daily for 4-5 days for itches (23729).

Dioscorea pentaphylla Linn. (Dioscoreaceae)

L.N. : Chundura (S.)

Loc. : Chaterba (J.T.)

The root is made into a paste with mustard oil. The rapid preparation is applied on wounds or chilblain at bed time for 4-5 days (18632).

Dipteracanthus suffruticosa Voigt (Acanthaceae)

L.N. : Bodik Ranu (M.)

Loc. : Chatra (Haz.)

Paste of roots is applied once daily for 5-6 days.

The above preparation can also be used, in case of cow or buffalo (15138).

Dregea volubilis Benth. ex Hook. f. (Asclepiadaceae)

L.N. : Par (Bir.)

Loc. : Koderma

Paste of roots is applied externally on blisters or wounds due to blister (18902).

Eclipta alba Hassk. (Asteraceae)

L.N. : Bhengria (S.)

Loc. : H.N.P.

Paste of twig is applied on wounds daily before going to bed. It is continued for 4-5 days (24048).

Elephantopus scaber Linn. (Asteraceae)

L.N. : Medurchundi (Nagashia), Marachuta (S.)

Loc. : Netarhat, Jate (Ra.)

Roots of this plant is made into paste with roots of *Cassia tora* and applied on chilblain, at bed time for 3-4 days (24268).

Eriosema chinense Vogel. (Fabaceae)

L.N. : Konden (S.)

Loc. : H.N.P.

The decoction of leaves and bark of *Symplocos racemosa* is applied on chilblain ; powder of dry leaves with salt is also applied. This is to be continued once daily at bed time for 3-4 days (24040).

Eucalyptus globulus Labill (Myrtaceae)

L.N. : Eucalyptus (S.)

Loc. : Netarhat.

Gum is applied on wounds once daily for 3-4 days (24134).

Euphorbia hirta Linn. (Euphorbiaceae)

L.N. : Dudhia Bon (S.)

Loc. : Jate (Ra.)

Paste of roots is applied on wounds once daily for 3-4 days and in case of cattle one root is also to be hanged on the neck (24187).

Evolvulus alsinoides Linn. (Convolvulaceae)

L.N. : Nilghas (Bir.)

Loc. : Chaterba (J.T.)

A bunch of plants is swept over the body of cattle for 5 times from head to tail and then allowed to take smell of the same bunch for remedy for wounds (18619).

Hemidesmus indicus (Linn.) Schult. (Asclepiadaceae)

L.N. : Towadaru (M.)

Loc. : Chaterba (J.T.), Chatra

The root is made into a paste with water and applied on wounds once daily for 3-4 days (15146).

Paste of leaves is applied once daily for 6-7 days for itch and tumer on head (18627).

Holarrhena antidysenterica (Roth) A. DC. (Apocynaceae)

L.N. : Karila (S.)

Loc. : Koderma

Powder of dry bark is taken once daily for 3-4 days for worm infested wounds (18921).

Lagerstroemia parviflora Roxb. (Lythraceae)

L.N. : Sidha (H.), Sakrai, Kahu (S.)

Loc. : Gangapur (Haz.)

Fruits are made into a paste with midrib of leaves and applied on wounds once daily for 7 days (23748, 15291).

L. speciosa (Linn.) Pers. (Lythraceae)

L.N. : Jarul (S.)

Loc. : Chatra

Powder of dry bark is spread on wounds for 4-5 days (18499).

Leea crispa Linn. (Leeaceae)

L.N. : Barkur (Or.)

Loc. : Chor-Pahar (Guryakorma)

Paste of roots is applied on wounds and on swollen parts for 3-4 days (18520).

Leonotis nepataefolia R. Br. (Lamiaceae)

L.N. : Katjurus (Majhi)

Loc. : Madhuban

Ashes (prepared by burning) of fruit, stem and leaves are mixed with mustard oil and applied on itch or on wounds for 7 days (23785).

Martynia annua Linn. (Pedaliaceae)

L.N. : Bag-nakhi, Kana (S.)

Loc. : Netarhat

Oil of seeds is applied once daily for 7-10 days for skin diseases (24131).

Plumbago zeylanica Linn. (Plumbaginaceae)

L.N. : Chita (S.)

Loc. : Chota-pathal-pahar (Netarhat)

Paste of leaves is applied on wounds created due to blisters. This is to be continued for 3-4 days (24108).

Scoparia dulcis Linn. (Scrophulariaceae)

L.N. : Chinaghas (S.)

Loc. : Ramgarh

Paste of roots is applied on wounds. The paste is also used for killing worms of wounds (19866).

Semicarpus anacardium Linn. f. (Anacardiaceae)

L.N. : Valua (S.)

Loc. : Kanahari Hill (Haz.)

Oil of nuts is applied on chilblain (wounds between the hoof). This is to be continued once daily at night time for 4-5 days (24054).

Shorea robusta Gaertn. (Dipterocarpaceae)

L.N. : Sakhua (S.)

Loc. : Laskari (Haz.)

Resin is made into a paste with karanj (*Pongamia pinnata*) oil and applied on wounds once daily for 3-4 days.

The gum is made into a paste with ash of tortoise shell and mustard oil. The preparation is kept for few minutes in cold water and then applied on itch, ring worm, wounds, eczema etc. This is to be continued once daily for 3-4 days (15196, 15208).

Sida cordifolia Linn. (Malvaceae)

L.N. : Berala (H.)

Loc. : Barsaud (Haz.)

A paste of roots is applied on wounds (18546).

Tagetes erecta Linn. (Asteraceae)

L.N. : Genda (S.)

Loc. : Netarhat

Juice of leaves or the paste of leaves is applied on wounds (24142).

Tragia involucrata Linn. (Euphorbiaceae)

L.N. : Latlatia (M.)

Loc. : Chatra

Paste of roots is applied on urticaria (allergic eruption) (15133).

Trapa bispinosa Roxb. (Onagraceae)

L.N. : Pakhanchata (K.M.)

Loc. : H.N.P.

Paste of leaves or root or fruit is mixed with mustard oil and applied on chilblain once daily at night for 3-4 days (24020).

Tricodesma indicum R. Br. (Boraginaceae)

L.N. : Hetmuria (S.)

Loc. : Netarhat

Paste of root is mixed with mustard oil and applied on wounds once daily for 3-4 days (24138).

Tridax procumbens Linn. (Asteraceae)

L.N. : Kuri (Bir.)

Loc. : Koderma

The juice of leaves or paste of leaves is applied on scratches (18931).

Viscum articulatum Burm. f. (Loranthaceae)

L.N. : Banda (S.)

Loc. : Jate (Ra.)

Plant is made into a paste with mustard oil and is applied externally for skin diseases (24210).

Vitex negundo Linn. (Verbenaceae)

L.N. : Sinduar (S.)

Loc. : Netarhat

Powder of dry leaves is applied on tongue sores (24113).

Xanthium strumarium Linn. (Asteraceae)

L.N. : Varycat (S.)

Loc. : Chatra

Seeds are fried in mustard oil and applied on itch or for other skin diseases (15178).

Ziziphus oenoplia Mill. (Rhamnaceae)

L.N. : Sekra (S.)

Loc. : Majhidi (Haz.)

Paste of bark is kept in mouth overnight for wound or sore on tongue (23766).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to Dr. S. K. Jain, Ex Director, Botanical Survey of India for encouragement and guidance and to the Joint Director, Central Botanical Laboratory, Botanical Survey of India for providing necessary facilities. Thanks are also due to the Deputy Director, Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India for encouragement. The author is also thankful to various tribals who accompanied him to collect the materials and to the forest autho-

rities of the Government of Bihar for rendering necessary help during the field work.

REFERENCES

- ANONYMOUS. Wealth of India (Raw Materials) Vol. 1-11, New Delhi. 1948-76.
- BRESEERS, J. Botany of Ranchi District, Bihar. 1951.
- CHARI, R. B. Census of India, Series 1, Paper 1 of 1875. 1971.
- CHOPRA, R. N., S. L. NAYAR AND I. C. CHOPRA. Glossery of Indian Medicinal Plants, New Delhi. 1956.
- , I. C. CHOPRA AND B. S. VERMA. Supplement to the Glossery of Indian Medicinal Plants, New Delhi. 1969.
- DASTUR, J. F. Medicinal Plants of India and Pakistan, Bombay. 1951.
- Medicinal Plants of India and Pakistan, Bombay. 1952.
- JAIN, S. K. Studies on Indian Ethnobotany—less known uses of fifty common plants from the Tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh. *Bull. bot. Surv. India* 5(3-4) : 223-226. 1963.
- Medicinal Plant lore of the tribals of Easter. *Econ. Bot.* 10 : 236-250. 1965.
- Indian Medicinal Plants, New Delhi. 1968.
- Some Magico-religious beliefs about plants among Adibasi of Orissa. *Adivasi* 12 (1-4) : 39-44. 1971.
- Medicinal plants, New Delhi, 1968, Rev. ed. 1975.
- JAIN ET AL. Medicinal plants among certain Adibasis in India. *Bull. bot. Surv. India* 15(1-2). 1973.
- KIRTIKAR, K. R. AND B. D. BASU. Indian Medicinal Plants, Vols. 1-3, Allahabad. 1935.
- TARAFDER, C. R. Some interesting new uses of the well known plant, *Vitex negundo* Linn. (Nisinda). *Bull. bot. Surv. India* 20(1-4). 1979.
- Less known medicinal uses of plants among the Tribals of Hazaribagh district of Bihar, pp. 208-217 (*Glimpses of Indian Ethnobotany*, Ed. S. K. Jain, Oxford & IBH Publishing Co., New Delhi) 1981.
- Ethnobotanical observation on Nisinda. *Folklore* 24(8) : 170-174. 1983.
- On two less known and unknown edible plants. *Ibid.* 24(4) : 88-89. 1983.
- Traditional Tribal Medicinal Plants of Ranchi and Hazaribagh districts, Bihar : Stomach trouble. *Journ. Econ. Tax. Bot.* 4(2). 1983.
- Ethnogynaecology in relation to Plant part I : Plants used for antifertility and conception. *Ibid.* 4(2). 1983.
- Ethnogynaecology in relation to Plant part II. Plants used for abortion. *Ibid.* 4(2). 1983.
- WATT, G. The Dictionary of Economic products of India, 6 Vols. Supdt. Government Printing, Calcutta. 1889-99. (Reprint. ed. 1972, New Delhi).