

A NOTE ON MEDICO-ETHNOBOTANY OF VIJAYGARH (KHARGONE) MADHYA PRADESH

PUSHPA PATEL AND S.K. MAHAJAN*

Botany Department, Govt. P.G. College, Khargone
**31, Jain Mandir Path, Khargone*

A B S T R A C T

Medicoethnobotanical work of Vijaygarh and its neighbourhood is presented. In all, 26 species belonging to 25 genera and 18 families are reported, which are used by the tribals in the treatment of various diseases. Correct identification, local names and plant parts used are mentioned in each case.

INTRODUCTION

Medicoethnobotany deals with the relationship between human societies and plant used in curing the ailments. A review of past literature on Ethnobotany indicates that although sufficient research work has been done in different parts of our country in general and Madhya Pradesh in particular (Jain 1963, 1965; Jain & Tarafdar 1968; Maheshwari *et al.* 1981) but it has been mainly limited to Mandla, Balaghat and Sidhi districts of M.P. A preliminary ethnobotanical survey has also been done in Sirwel hills of Western Madhya Pradesh by Mahajan (1990). In the present communication, certain less known medicinal plants of Vijaygarh (27°45' N Lat., 75°30'E Long., 250m msl) and its neighbourhood have been mentioned which are used by the tribal people in Khargone district.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present work was done during 1999-2000. The plants used by the tribal people in curing various diseases were collected and herbarium sheets were prepared. Standard literature were followed for identification of these plants (Cooke, 1957; Chopra *et al.* 1956; Kirtikar and Basu, 1935; Nath *et al.* 1968; Solanki, 1984).

The information regarding the plants or plant parts used as medicine is collected from the old tribal persons and tribal medicineman who is generally called as 'Barwa'. The herbarium sheets are deposited in the Botany Department, Govt. Post Graduate College,

Khargone for future record. Following is the list of plants which are collected and arranged in alphabetical order with their local names, scientific names and the names of families to which they belong.

ENUMERATION

Achyranthes aspera (Hathijhara)

Fam. : *Amaranthaceae*

The leafjuice is applied on snake bite and scorpion bite. Root is used as tooth brush and during brushing if its juice is swallowed, it wonderfully cures the patients suffering from stone trouble.

Actinopteris dichotoma (Bhuitar)

Fam. : *Polypodiaceae*

The plant extract produces cooling effect in body.

Adhatoda zeylanica (Adusa)

Fam. : *Acanthaceae*

Leaf juice is used in cough and cold as an expectorant. If its two leaves are chewed and swallowed daily in morning for six months, then it cures tuberculosis.

Ageratum conyzoides (Osari)

Fam. : *Asteraceae*

It is useful in skin diseases especially in leucoderma.

Ailanthus excelsa (Arru)

Fam. : *Simaroubaceae*

Leaves and bark used in fever, asthma, bronchitis, and general debility.

Aristolochia bracteata (Girdhan)

Fam. : *Aristolochiaceae*

Its seeds are used in killing intestinal worms.

Asparagus racemosus (Nimari Haranchara)

Fam. : *Liliaceae*

Its dried and powdered roots are and used as tonic.

A. adscendens (Dhaulti musli)

Fam. : *Liliaceae*

Root powder is used as tonic.

Barleria prionitis (Deo Katasla)

Fam. : *Acanthaceae*

The dried and powered plant is used in dental troubles.

Boerhavia diffusa (Vishkhapra)

Fam. : Nyctaginaceae

Its leaves are used in jaundice and urinary troubles especially in kidney trouble.

Butea monosperma (Palas)

Fam. : Papilionaceae

The decoction flowers is used in urinary troubles and seeds are ant'helmintic. It is also used in colic pains.

Cheilanthes argentea (Bal)

Fam. : Cheilanthaceae

The plant extract produces cooling effect in body.

Eclipta alba (Bhangra)

Fam. : Asteraceae

Oil extracted from its seeds is used for hair growth.

Euphorbia clarkeana (Chhoti dudhi)

Fam. : Euphorbiaceae

It is used to cure spermatorrhoea and mouth blisters.

Evolvulus alsinoides (Sankhpushpi)

Fam. : Convolvulaceae

Plant extract is used to increase memory.

Gloriosa superba (Kalhari)

Fam. : Liliaceae

The extract of its tubers cures gout, rheumatism and gonorrhoea.

Ipomoea carnea ssp. fistulosa (Behaya)

Fam. : Convolvulaceae. Its leaves are used in case of swelling.

Leucas cephalotes (Gatta tumba)

Fam. : Lamiaceae

Its flowers are used for curing cough and cold.

Phyllanthus niruri (Bhui Amla)

Fam. : Euphorbiaceae

Extract of the plant is used in jaundice.

Tamarix ericoides (Jhau)

Fam. : Tamaricaceae

The infusion of the bark is used in diarrhoea and dysentery, and also as expectorant.

Tinospora cordifolia (Gulvel)

Fam. : Menispermaceae

Stem extract is used in stone trouble, vomiting, fever, sleeplessness, sunstroke and normal delivery.

Trianthema portulacastrum (Gotlai)

Fam. : Aizoaceae

Leaf juice is used in urinary troubles especially in dilation of the ureter.

Tribulus terrestris (Gokharu)

Fam. : Zygophyllaceae

Plant extract is used in stone trouble. Powder of dried fruits when taken with honey is used in urinary and kidney troubles.

Vernonia cinera (Sahdevi)

Fam. : Asteraceae

Plant extract is used in piles and also used as anthelmintic.

Vitex negundo (Nirgundi)

Fam. Verbenaceae

Leaves are used in catarrh and as an insecticide. Flowers are used in cardiac troubles and liver disease.

Withania somnifera (Asgand)

Fam. : Solanaceae

Its roots are stimulant, increase appetite and used as tonic. Roots possess antibacterial, antibiotic properties and used in rheumatism and also cures tuberculosis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study revealed some less known uses of plants and believes and taboos about plants among these tribals. In all total of 26 species belonging to 25 genera under 18 families were reported. Few plants of this locality possess potential of better economic exploitation. Important among these are *Ailanthus excelsa* (Arru), *Phyllanthus niruri* (Bhui Amla), *Butea monosperma* (Palas), *Achyranthes aspera* (Hathijhara), *Boerhavia diffusa* (Punarnava), *Aristolochia bracteata* (Girdhan), *Eclipta alba* (Bhangra), *Euphorbia clarkeana* (Chhoti Dhudhi), *Asparagus racemosus* (Satavari), *Asparagus adscendens* (Dhauhi musli), *Barleria prionitis* (Vajradanti), *Evolvulus alsinoides* (Shankhpushpi), *Adhatoda zeylanica* (Adusa), *Withania somnifera* (Asgandh), *Vitex negundo* (Nirgundi), *Cheilanthes argentea* (Bal) and *Actinopteris dichotoma* (Bhuitar). Further work in this direction is in progress.

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