



ETHNO MEDICINAL PLANTS OF RAVER TALUKA, (MAHARASHTRA-I) WITH REFERENCE TO MEDICINAL PROPERTY

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ABSTRACT

Information on 10 plant species used especially for the treatment of respiratory diseases by rural and tribal communities of Raver Talukha, Maharashtra is presented. This paper reveals utilization of 10 species of flowering plants belonging to of 09 families and one fern is recorded. Brief information about the plant part/s used, botanical names, local names, families and the mode of preparation of drugs and method of applications have been presented. As the traditional herbal remedies are based on ancestral knowledge and empiric experiences, this type of ethno-medicinal survey

appeared to be useful for the research on medicinal plants for the betterment of mankind.

Key words: Medicinal plants, Uses, Satpuda, Raver, Traditional herb

1. INTRODUCTION:

Raver Taluka, a part of Deccan plateau is located on northern border of the state of Maharashtra. It lies between 20° and 21° north latitudes, and 74°55' and 76°28' east longitudes. The Satpuda ranges extend to northern region of the district, whereas the part of western ghat extends to other areas. The forests in the district are typically dry deciduous type. The major part of the district is predominately inhabited by rural population. However, in the Raver and Chopda tahsils there are few tribal pockets scattered in this region. The tribal inhabitants like



Bhils, Pardhis, Pawaras, Tadavis, Wanjaris, etc. form small pockets in this district. Tribals of the region use traditional herbal formulations to treat common ailments despite the availability of the modern pharmaceutical drugs in the nearby towns and cities. Except some sporadic reports on some edible and medicinal plants and their uses in floristic studies (Shisode and Patil1, 1993; Kshirsagar and Patil2, 1998 and Subhangi Pawar and Patil3, 2000), the district has largely remained unexplored with regards to its studies on medicinal plants. Keeping this view in mind, studies on traditional medicines and health care system in tribal communities and experienced elderly village people in the Jalgaon district have been undertaken. The present study deals with 56 plant species used by natives of parts of Jalgaon district to

treat problem related to respiratory system and most of the plant derivatives have been found to be very effective.

Materials and Methods:

The survey of all Raver Talukha was conducted during 2013-14. The desired information regarding plant /plant part used medicinally was collected during field trips on the basis of interview with the tribals and local people. By repeated enquiries, changing the pattern of questioning like showing the plant collected from one tribal healer/ rural people to another of a distinct locality and asking them for its use as medicine and vice-versa. The mode of making the preparation and their application in each case was minutely recorded. Voucher specimen were collected, processed as per routine herbarium methods, identification of collected plant material were made either in the field itself or in laboratory following the district and state floras (Cook4, 1903; Bentham and Hooker5, 1862-1883; Hooker, J.D6. 1872-1897; Naik, V.N7.1980, etc.), Under the enumeration the plant species are arranged in alphabetical order, which include family, local names, place of collection, voucher number and their ethnobotanical information.

Enumeration

Acalypha indica L. (Euphorbiaceae, Kupi, Khokali), Jincy, VRP- 01

The decoction (10-15ml, twice daily) of whole plant is given in acute and chronic bronchitis.

Achyranthus aspera L. (Amaranthaceae, Aghada), Jincy, VRP- 02

The decoction (5-10ml, twice daily) or infusion (10-15ml, 2-3 times daily) of leaves and roots is given in asthma.

Adiantum philippense L. (Adiantaceae, Hansraj), Pal, Jincy, VRP- 03

The infusion (10-15ml, 3-4 times daily) of the leaves is given in asthma and other respiratory diseases.

Aegle marmelos (L.) Corr. (Rutaceae, Bel), Mangrul, VRP- 04

The decoction (10-20ml, once at bed time) of the leaves is used in asthma and cough.

Ailanthus excelsa Roxb. (Simaroubaceae, Ghod-limb), Mangrul, VRP- 05

The decoction (10-15ml, twice daily) of stem bark is given to rid of asthma.

Allium sativum L. (Liliaceae, Lasun), Pal, VRP- 06

The tea of garlic (5-7 bulblets) with honey is advised in asthma.

Alstonia scholaris (L.) R. Br. (Apocynaceae, Satvin), Pal, VRP- 07

The decoction of stem bark, 5-10ml once daily is given in asthma.

Amaranthus spinosus L. (Amaranthaceae, Kate-math), Pal, VRP- 08

The decoction (15-20ml, thrice daily) of whole plant is given in allergic bronchitis and asthma.

Argemone mexicana L. (Papaveraceae, Pivla dhotra, Bilayat), Raver, VRP- 09

The infusion of seeds (10g in 1 litre water) used in the dose of one teaspoonful for one cup of boiling water, twice daily for curing asthma.

Artocarpous heterophyllus Lam. (Moraceae, Phanus), Pal, VRP-10

The decoction (10-15ml, twice daily) of root bark is given in rhinitis and asthma.

ml, twice daily) is used internally to treat asthma and bronchitis.

Discussion

The detailed information regarding the therapeutic application of different plants/plant parts of 56 plant species were obtained and their role in curing various diseases of respiratory system like common cold, rhinitis, chronic bronchitis, allergic bronchitis, sinusitis, asthma etc. and mode of

administration is given in the enumeration. The data obtained by interviewing these tribal healers, faith healers, priests and ordinary villagers who have knowledge of the curative properties of plants. Data compared with available literature in different regions of India on medicinal plants [Chopra et al.8, 1956; Kirtikar and Basu9, 1933; Jain10, 1981; Ambasta11, 1986; Agrawal12, 1986; Sivrajan and Indira Balachandran13, 1994 and Wealth of India14 (1948-1976)]. It was found that many of the uses listed are not recorded earlier. It provides deeper insight into the indigenous method of application and effectiveness of the plant derivatives in treating different ailments of the respiratory system. Authors hoped that these botanicals might provide a rich potential for future phytotherapy.

Although root, bark, stem, leaves and whole plant is used but leaf is the commonest part used in the treatment. Majority of the preparations are used internally in the form of infusion, decoction. Investigations on ethnomedicinal plants bring out clues for the phytochemical research people to better evaluate the efficiency of medicines of plant origin.

This paper provides a report on ethnomedicinal uses of some important plants locally available for curing different ailments of the respiratory system. A thorough investigation may provide remedies for ailments related to respiratory system and also raw material for undertaking further scientific research to confirm the findings.

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