ISSN: 0976-3376

Available Online at http://www.journalajst.com

ASIAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Asian Journal of Science and Technology
Vol. 08, Issue, 10, pp.6281-6282, October, 2017

RESEARCH ARTICLE

A SURVEY OF SOME ETHNO-MEDICINAL PLANTS USED BY THE TRIBES OF MELGHAT IN AMRAVATI DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA WITH REFERENCE TO GASTRO-INTESTINAL DISORDERS

***Patil, U. S. and Kutemate, O. G.**

Department of Botany, Bharatiya Mahavidyalaya, Amravati

ARTICLE INFO

Article History:
Received 09th July, 2017
Received in revised form
25th August, 2017
Accepted 10th September, 2017
Published online 30th October, 2017

Key words:

Melghat, Korku tribes, Ethno-medicine, Gastro-intestinal disorders, Amravati district, Maharashtra, India.

ABSTRACT

Melghat is situated in the northern part of Maharashtra and southern part of Madhya Pradesh. An ethno-medicinal survey was carried out during 2015-2016. The Melghat region is dominated by Korku and Gond tribes. These tribals are basically depends on locally available plant species to cure their various ailments. These communities used these plant species with traditional way. Herbal healers used plant parts either single or in combined formed to treat digestive disorders. The tribal groups do not easily share their ancient knowledge with the other peoples. An attempt has been made to procure traditional knowledge from the traditional healers with the repeated interrogations with them.

INTRODUCTION

Melghat forest is situated in the Satpuda range. It was declared a tiger reserve and was among the first nine tiger reserves notified in 1973-74 under the Projects Tiger. It is located at 21^0 26^1 45^{11} N 77^0 11^1 50^{11} E in northern part of Amravati district of Maharashtra state in India. The Tapi river flows through the northern end of the Melghat Tiger reserve, through a forest which lies with the catchment area of river system. Tropical dry deciduous forest is the characteristic feature of the study area. Ethno-botany shows the relationship of plant species with human societies. Biodiversity of medicinal plants is the nature gift to mankind. In various parts of our country traditional healers used 2500 plant species out of which 100 species served as regular sources of medicine (Pei 2001). Herbal medicines are safe and eco-friendly. About 80% of the world population used traditional medicine for their primary health care (Behera 2006). Almost all the people are the susceptible to digestive problems such as constipation, stomachache, dysentery, diarrhoea, etc. Local herbal practitioners in the study area are using a variety of plant species for the treatment of various ailments related to gastrointestinal disorders. The conservation, sustainable utilization of biological resources and the documentation of indigenous knowledge through ethno-botanical study is very essential.

Corresponding author: **Patil, U. S.,**
Department of Botany, Bharatiya Mahavidyalaya, Amravati.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

An extensive ethno-medicinal survey was conducted in the tribal villages of Melghat which is dominated by Korku and Gond tribes (Jadhav, 2006). Informal discussions were made with the traditional healers. The data regarding medicinal properties of plants species was procured by filling the questionnaire (Jain, 1991). The information procured from the tribal healers in the study area was documented and authenticated with various sources. The collected plant species were identified with the help of regional flora and authenticated by the taxonomist. The scientific name of plant species with local name, family, parts used to cure specific ailments is given in Table 1.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Ethno-medicinal properties of 32 plant species belonging to 25 families have been procured for the treatment of various gastro-intestinal disorders. Most of the crude drugs used by the herbal healers are obtained from roots, stems, leaves, seeds and whole plants. The traditional herbal healers plays an important role in the rural healthcare system of Melghat.

Table 1. Plants used by the tribes associated with Gastro- intestinal disorders

Botanical name	Local name	Family	Plant parts used
Acacia nilotica (L.) Willd ex. Del.	Babul	Mimosaceae	Pod powder is given to cure piles
Ailanthus excelsa Roxb.	Maharukh	Simaroubaceae	Leaf paste is applied on stomach against worms
Aegle marmelos (L.) C. Orea	Bel	Rutaceae	Fruit pulp is eaten to treat diarrhoea
Aloe vera L.	Guwarphata	Liliaceae	Leaf juice is given in constipation
Balanites aegyptiaca L.	Hinganbet	Zygophyllaceae	Fruit and root is used in dysentery
Biophytum sensitivum (L.) DC	Rajal, Chhotilajalu	Oxalidaceae	Root powder is given in diarrhoea and piles
*Caesalpinia bandulosa*Roth.	Sagargoti	Caesalpianaceae	Seed powder with jaggery is given against dysentery
Capparis zylanica L.	Vaghati	Capparaceae	Fruit powder is used to treat indigestion, acidity and constipation
Cassia fistula L.	Amaltas	Caesalpinaceae	Pod pulp is eaten in piles & dysentery
Cassia tora L.	Tarota	Caesalpinaceae	Leaf juice is given against constipation
Cocculus hirsutus (L.) Diels	Wachaniyo, Wasnvel	Menispermaceae	juice extracted from the stem is given to treat dysentery
Croton tiglium L.	Jamalghota	Euphorbiacae	Seed powder is given against intestinal disorder
Curcuma angustifolia Roxb.	Tikhur, Ranhaldi	Zingiberaceae	Tubers extract is given to treat stomachache
Cyperus rotundus L.	Nagarmotha	Cyperaceae	Tubers powder is given to treat dysentery
*Desmodium triflorum(*L.)DC	Kudaliya	Papilionaceae	Leaf juice is given against diarrhoea
Dioscorea bulbbifera L.	Dukkarkand	Dioscoriaceae	Boiled tubers are eaten to treat ulcers
Diospyrus melanoxylon Roxb.	Tembun	Ebenaceae	Unripe Fruit is used to treat acidity
Embelia rebes Burm.f.	Wavding	Primulaceae	Soaked seeds are given against indigestion
Euphorbia hirta L.	Dudhi	Euphorbiaceae	Whole plant extract along with ghee is given to treat Piles
Euphorbia microphylla Lam.	Chotidudhi	Euphorbiaceae	Fresh plant extract is mixed in cow milk and given to cure dysentery
Helicteres isora L.	Morodfali	Sterculaceae	Fruit powder is given in diarrhoea
Holarrhena antidysenterica Wall.	Kadukuda	Apocynaceae	Bark extract is given to treat diarrhoea
Litsea glutinosa (Lour.) C.B.Rob.	Lenja	Lauraceae	Bark powder is used to treat dysentery
Leucus cephalotes (Roth.) Spreng.	Goma, Dronpuspa	Lamiaceae	Leaf decoction is given to treat intestinal worms
Oroxylum indicum L.	Tetu	Bignoniaceae	Stem bark powder is given in dysentery
Oxalis corniculata L.	Chakri	Oxalidaceae	Leaf juice is used to treat stomach problem and dysentery
Plumbago zeylanica L.	Chitrak	Plumbaginaceae	Root powder is mixed with milk to treat stomach disorder
Pterocarpus marsupium Roxb.	Bija sal	Papilionaceae	Bark extract is given in diarrhoea and dysentery
Ruta graveolens L.	Satap	Rutaceae	Leaf juice with Dikamali is given to treat dysentery
Tacca leontopetaloids (L.) O.Ktze.	Tagun	Taccaceae	Decoction of corm is given to treat dysentery and diarrhoea
Terminalia chebula Retz.	Hirda	Combrataceae	Fruit powder is given against dysentery
Tridax procumbens L.	Kamarmodi	Asteraceae	Leaf juice or dried leaf powder is given to treat dysentery

Since the villages are located in remote areas in which large population does not access to modern allopathic medicine system. During the course of investigation it was noticed that the tribals of Melghat are shy and very conservative in nature. The herbal healers do not want to share their traditional knowledge with the other peoples. The present knowledge associated with the herbal informant is diminishing fast because of lack of interest amongst the young tribal population. The valuable infomations about the medicinal properties of plant species are also disappearing because of rapid destructions of forest. The wild species are the main source of nutrients and medicine for the peoples inhabiting the remote places. There is an urgent needs to document traditional knowledge related to the medicinal properties of the plant species.

Acknowledgement

Authors are grateful to the tribal herbal practitioners of Melghat, district Amravati who co-oparated during the course of investigations.

Authors are also thankful to the chief conservator of Melghat forest and forest official of different forest division of the district for their co-operation during field survey. Authors are gratefully acknowledge the help and co-operation extended by Dr. S. M. Bhuskute, Principal, Bhavabhuti Mahavidyalaya, Amgaon district Gondia, M. S. in identifying the plant species.

REFERENCES

Behera, K. K. 2006. Ethnomedicinal plants used by the tribals of Similipal Biosreserve, Orisa India. A pilot study, *Ethnobotanical Leaflets,* 10: 149-173.

Jadhav, D. 2006. Ethnomedicinal plants used by Bhil tribe of Bibdod, Madhya Pradesh*, Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge,* 5 (2): 263-267.

Jain S. K and A.K. Goel, 1991. Dictionary of Indian Folk Medicine and Ethnobotany, edited by Jain S.K. (Scientific Publisher, Jadhpur).

Pei, 2001. Ethnobotanical approaches of traditional medicine studies some experience from Assia, *Pharma Bio.,* 39: 74-79.

****