A CASE STUDY | International Journal of Plant Sciences, (July to December, 2009) Vol. 4 Issue 2 : 604-606

Ethnomedicinal flora of Sohelwa Wildlife Forest Division

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Accepted : February, 2009

Key words : Ethnomedicinal flora, Sohelwa Wildlife Forest, Shrawasti

The present communication is the documentation of ethnomedicinally important plants of Sohelwa Wildlife Forest Division which are being used by Tharus and other local rural inhabitants living near the forest area for the cure of their ailments. There is enumeration of Twenty seven ethnomedicinal plant species being represented by twenty one families

Sohelwa wildlife forest division is situated in district Shrawasti and Balrampur. The geographical area of the forest is 45,000 hectares and is located in with in 27^0 30' 01'' and 27^0 55' 92'' N latitude and 81^0 55' 36'' and 82^0 48' 35'' E longitude. The two forest range East and West Sohelwa of Shrawasti district are in the administrative control of Sohelwa Wildlife Division, Balrampur.

The source of knowledge acquired by the traditional helars, and also their desirce to impart them to family members, relatives and other persons in the order of diminishing preferences provides sufficient evidences that the traditional therapeutic knowledge is mostly considered as personal property and are acquired from or handed over to the nearest relative or the dearest person. This attitude, accompanied by their desire to share the knowledg only at their late stages of life might have eroded much of the valuable knowledge accidently or due to other identical causes.

The present study area represents as a part of megadiversity center of India which is one of the twelve megadiversity centers of the world. The study area is full of lush green vegetation, forest and near by locality inhabitants dominated by Tharus, Bhars, Banjara and other backward community who are totally dependent on forest and its product.

Ethnobotanical values of plants are of paramount importance because examination of drugs used in the traditional medicne in the various countries of the world is one of the priority programs of WHO (Pasquale, 1984). Pharmacognosy is undoubtedly one of the best of botanical sciences since the primitive man started to use medicinal plants to overcome his various ailments. However, in most of the medico ethnobotanical studies, this aspect of information is greatly neglected (Jain, 1993). Consequently in present study, due attentions has been paid on how the plant are plant product is utilized, the method of drug preparation and its mode of adminstration have been tried to collect.

Extensive survey visits were conducted and tried to accompany the tribals. Plants were collected their local names, parts of the plant used in medicine, method of properation of the medicine and its mode of administration was noted in field notebook with the help of informants. Plants were brought to identfy botanically with the help of available texts (Duthie, 1960; Hooker, 1872- 1897; Maheshwari, 1963; Pant, 1986; Srivastava, 1976) and expertise. Herbarium specimen were prepared following Jain and Rao, 1967 and deposited in the departmental herbaria.

The plants of ethnomedicinal importance are enumerated below alphabetically.

The findings obtained from the present investigation are presented below :

Abrus precatorus L.; Ghoomachi; Fabaceac

Leaf paste is used in headache, swelling and boils.

Leaves are also used in Leprosy with *Swertia chiravata*

Powder of seeds are useful in baldness which help in rejuvenating the hairs.

Roots are used in impotency.

Argemone ochroleuca Sweet; Pilikataiya; Papaveraceae:

The roots are bioled with leaves of *Ocimum sanctum* L and black pepper in an earthen pot. This decoction is given thrice in fever.

The root paste is applied externally in skin diseases.

Aristolochia indica L.; lshraul, Arkmul; Aristolouchiaceae:

Root paste along with Kali mirch *(Piper nigrum* L.*)* is given as an antidote in scorpion- sting and snake bite.

Roots are also useful in the treatment of fever, rhumatism and artheritis.

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