A CASE STUDY | International Journal of Plant Sciences, (July to December, 2009) Vol. 4 Issue 2 : 633-635

Some ethno-medicinal plants used for various skin ailments by tribal and rural people of Surguja, Chhattisgarh

PRASHANT KUMAR SHARMA AND R.K.S.TIWARI

Accepted : April, 2009

Key words : Ethno-medicinal, Medicinal values.

Various plants species are commonly applied as paste or extract from externally on boils, wounds, cuts, swellings, burns, eczema, etc. ethnic and the tribal rural people of Chhattisgarh use to treat their aliments by using the fresh plant materials. Total 19 plant species are enumerated which have ethno-medicinal value. Tribal and rural people of Surguja district use to treat their ailments by using the fresh plant materials. In the enumeration, the medicinally used plants are arranged by botanical name, local name along with family and their mode of application

Ethnobotany deals with the direct, traditional and natural relationship between human societies and plants. Ethnobotanical studies have assume great importance in enhancing our knowledge about the plants grown and used by native/tribal communities, the rich diversity assembled by them for their sustenance and the different means adopted by them for its preservation and conservation. Vast Ethnobotanical knowledge exists in India from ancient times (Trivedi, 2002).

Since ancient period, the people are dependent on plants for their every basic necessaries *i.e.*, food, clothes, medicines and shelter (Watt, 1889). Without plants any living organism can not survive. Many plants have great Ethnobotanical values. The use of plants as a source of medicine and human sustenance has been in vogue since antiquity (Parihar, 2003). Out of an estimated, 17000 higher plants species occurring in India, about 2500 species belonging to more than 1000 genera are used by traditional healers over several centuries. According to WHO, about 80% population of world rely on traditional medicine for their primary health care needs (Retnam, 2006 and Shah and Khan, 2007). These medicines have fewer side effects and men can get it easily from nature. The people have, by trial and error, developed their own traditional ways of diagnosis and treatment of diseases and fulfill their basic requirement in this regard from the near by forest. As a consequence of this long experience and practice, it has become an effective way of accumulation of rich knowledge on medicinal plants and usage of other natural resources among them (Singh, 2002). Some plants posses antiseptic properties. The antiseptic property of plants may be antibacterial, antifungal, antiprotozoal, stypic, astringent, etc. the plant parts that posses antiseptic value are leaves, bark, seeds, roots and succulent stem, etc. the antiseptic value of plants is mainly due to certain phytochemicals present in them. The plant parts are applied as paste or juice on cuts, wounds, boils, swellings, etc. internally, it is taken as a decoction or extracted juice for dental, throat and skin disorders (Mitaliya, 2002).

Chhattisgarh is the only state of the country where about 43.85% (59285.27 heq) of the total area of state occupied by the forest. Chhattisgarh state is divided geographically into three regions, namely, Northern hills, Chhattisgarh plain and Bastar plateau. Various plants species are commonly applied as paste or extract from externally on boils, wounds, cuts, swellings, burns, eczema, etc. Ethnic groups and rural people of Chhattisgarh used to treat their aliments by using these fresh plant materials. Earlier, studies were carried out on the Ethnobotanical and medicinal aspects of plants by Thaker (1910), Nadkarni (1926), Dastur (1952), Roia and Smith (1977), Shah *et al.* (1981), Jain (1991), Agnihotri and Vaidya (1996), Kamboj (2000), Zafar *et al.* (2003), Laloo *et al.* (2006), Sandhya *et al.* (2006) and Verma *et al.* (2008).

The present study was mainly conducted in Surguja district of Chhattisgarh. The informations of medicinal aspect of plant, particularly on medicinal value have been collected by means of arranging meeting, dialogues and discussions with rural, tribal and knowledgeable people from various villages of Surguja district of Chhattisgarh from June 2007 to December 2007. The documental information was also verified by cross-questioning with key information and elderly people of different villages. In the enumeration the collected plants, their botanical names, family, local name and ethno-medicinal uses are given in Table 1.

Correspondence to:
PRASHANT KUMAR SHARMA, Bio Tech Lab Training and Demonstration Centre, Ambikapur, SURGUJA (C.G.) INDIA
Authors' affiliations:
R.K.S. TIWARI, Department of Plant Pathology, T.C.B. College of Agriculture and Research Station, BILASPUR (C.G.) INDIA