

Ethnomedicinal flora of Sohelwa Wildlife Forest Division

T.P. MALL

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° 30' 01" and 27° 55' 92" N latitude and 81° 55' 36" and 82° 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 healers, and also their desire 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 knowledge only at their late stages of life might have eroded much of the valuable knowledge accidentally 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 medicine 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 administration 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 preparation of the medicine and its mode of administration was noted in field notebook with the help of informants. Plants were brought to identify 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 precatorius L.; *Ghoomachi*; *Fabaceae*

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, rheumatism and artheritis.

Correspondence to:

T.P. MALL, Post Graduate Department of Botany, Kisan P.G. College, BAHRAICH (U.P.) INDIA

Bombax ceiba L.; Semel, Sema; Bombacaceae:

The roots are crushed for making bread during famine period.

Decoction of root is given in general weakness

Bridelia squamosa Gehrman. (B. retusa Hook. f.); Khaja; Euphorbiaceae:

The paste of pounded root is given in diarrhoea and stomach pain.

Centella asiatica L.; Brahmi; Apiaceae:

Fresh leaf juice mixed with mishri is used to improve memory.

Fresh leaf juice is applied to hair for making long black and healthy.

Cissampelos pareira L.; Purain Parhi; Meinspermaceae:

Root powder mixed with half amount of Kali mirch seed powder given thrice to cure malarial fever.

Root pest is also used to lower down the blood pressure, headache, diarrhoea and indigestion.

Clerodendrum indicum (L.) Kuntze; Agiya- Sukhiya; Verbenaceae:

Decoction of root is given in gartric trouble.

The paste of the root bark is applied as a poultice on the body in the treatment of fever.

Crateva unilocularis; Buch, Ham, Baibaran; Capparidaceae:

Decoction of the bark is used in treatment of boils present over the skin.

Khadaun of the plants wood is useful in the treatment of swelling and boils in toe of feet.

Curculigo orchoides Gaertn. Fruct; Kali musli; Hypoxidaceae:

The rhizomes are soaked in water with sugar and taken daily in weakness,

Spermatorrhoea, Nocturnal emission and leucodeima.

The rhizome paste is mixed with cows milk and given in impotency.

The rhizome paste is applied on sprain.

Cyperus rotundus L.; Motha; Cyperaceae:

Phizome pest is given in diarrhoea irritation of the bowels, cholera cuts and wound.

The tuber are taken for treating spermatorrhoea, over

heating as a tonic.

Gloriosa superba L.; Agnishikha, Karihari; Liliaceae:

Fresh leaf juice are given in treatment of ear's blister and boils.

Tuber paste is applied in the treatment of scorpion sting and as antidote in snake bite.

Tuber paste is applied on the supra-pubic region and vagina for abortion.

Grewia sclerophylla Roxb.; Dapher; Tiliaceae:

Fruit are taken to overcome the impotency.

Helminthostachys zeylanica Hook; Kamraj; Ophioglossaceae:

The rhizome powder is used for curing impotency.

The fresh leaf juice is used in the treatment of mouth blisters.

Hemidesmus indicus R.Br.; Anantmul; Kapuri; Asclepiadaceae:

Root decoction is used in the treatment of fever.

Root is used in curing diabetes.

Root powder is used to increase appetite.

Root extract along with sugar is taken as a tonic.

Inflamed eyes are cured by milky drops of the root.

Holarrhena antidysenterica Wall; Kachari; Apocynaceae:

Fresh Bark extract with very small amount of salt is used to cure chronic fever and cough.

Dried bark powder is used in diarrhoea and dysentery.

Jatropha gossypifolia L.; Parvati Rend; Euphorbiaceae:

Stem latex is applied for toothache, stop bleeding gums.

Stem latex and seed oil is applied to cure eczema.

Soft stem is used as datoon for cleaning and maintaining the teeth healthy.

Leucas cephalotes Koenig ex Roxb Spreng; Gooma; Lamiaceae:

Leaf juice is used in stomachache, gas and loss of appetite.

Leaf juice is used in toothache.

Leaves of gooma along with Neem, Karanj, Bhiringraj, Hing and Lahsun are mixed together and made into small pellets and taken thrice a day to cure gas, stomachache and loss of appetite.

***Litsea glutinosa* Lour. Robinson; Maida; Lauraceae:**

Stem bark paste is applied externally on sprains, bonefractures and inflammations.

***Mimosa pudica* L.; Lajwanti; Mimosaceae:**

The Leaf paste is used for healing the wounds.

The fresh leaves are used to stop the bleeding.

The root powder with honey is useful as bronchodilator.

***Momordica dioica* Roxb ex Will; Kheksi; Cucurbitaceae:**

Tubers are used in curing diabetes.

Root paste is applied externally to lower down the temperature.

Fruits are edible and used as vegetable.

***Piper longum* L.; Peepar; Piperaceae:**

The powder of dry fruits are used in fever.

The powder of dry fruits along with honey is used as bronchodilator, soar throat and cold.

***Pueraria tuberosa* (Roxb, ex Willd.) DC; Bilra kand; Fabaceae**

Tuberous root are used to overcome impotency.

Tuberous root are also used as tonic as well as to increase milk formation in mother.

Tuber paste are also applied externally in inflammation.

***Rauwolfia serpentina* L.; Dhamarbarua, Sarpghandha; Apocynaceae:**

Fresh roots are used for treatment of fever.

Root powder is used in curing high blood pressure.

Roots are also used as antidote of snake bite.

***Streblus asper* Lour; Sihor; Lauraceae:**

Bark extract with small amount of salt is applied to toothach and bleeding gums.

Decoction of bark with curd is used for depoisoning.

***Tephrosia purpurea* (L.) Pers.; Sarpokha; Fabaceae:**

The fresh leaf paste is applied externally in headache, in leprosy on affected area.

The whole plant dry powder mixed with pinch of salt and harre powder given thrice to cure indigestion and gas.

***Urginea indica* (Roxb) Kinth.; Jangalipyaz; Liliaceae:**

Fresh juice of tuberous rhizome is used in curing pain and inflammation.

Ethnomedicinal uses of twenty seven indigenous medicinal plants from Sohelwa Wildlife Division were studied and documented. Tharu tribes and other rural inhabitants of near by localaty use these plants in day to day life for treatment of their ailments. *Piper longums*, *Rauwolfia serspentina* and *Gloriosa superba* are now rarely available and becoming endengered species. There use should be in judicious manner and management to protect them is necessary.

Further pharmacological studies and investigations on these plants will benefit mankind. Some plants may be cultivated which will provide alternate employment to the local rural people as well as it will help in conserving the biodiversity of the area.

Acknowledgment:

The author is thankful to the rural people of Raniapur, Sohelwa, Kathkueya. Bargadwa for help in identification of the plants and providing important ethnomedicinal information of the plants.

REFERENCES

- Duthie, J.E. (1903-1929). *Flora of Upper Gangetic Plain and the Adjacent Siwalik and Sub-Himalayan Tracts* B.S.I. Calcutta Vol. 1-3 (Repr Ed. 1960 Vols 1-2).
- Hooker, J.D. (1872-1897). *Flora of British India* 7 Vols. Reeve and Co. Ltd. England
- Jain, S.K. (1993). *A manual of ethonobotany*. Scientific Publishers, Jodhpur.
- Jain, S.K. and Rao, R.R. (1967). *A hand book of Field and Herbarium Methods Today and Tomarrow* Printers and Publishers, New Delhi.
- Maheshwari, J.K. (1963). *The Flora of Delhi*. CSIR New Dehli Illustration of the flora of Delhi, CSIR, New Delhi.
- Pasquale, A.D. (1984). Pharmacognosy : *The oldest modern Science J. Ethnopharmacol.*, **11** : 1-16
- Pant, P.C. (1986). *Flora of corbett National Park*, BSI, Howrah.
- Srivastava, T.N. (1976). *Flora Gorakhpurensis*. Today and Tomorrow Printers and Publishers, New Delhi.

