

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

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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 ailments 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 necessities *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 ailments 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

Table 1 : Some ethno-medicinal plants in Surguja district Chhattisgarh

Sr. No.	Botanical name	Local name	Family	Ethno-medicinal uses
1.	<i>Vitex negundo</i> Linn.	Nirgundi	<i>Verbenaceae</i>	The leaf juice is used to cure boils and blisters
2.	<i>Eclipta alba</i> Hassk	Bhringraj	<i>Asteraceae</i>	The fresh leaves juice is used to baldness
3.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Neem	<i>Meliaceae</i>	Seed oil is applied on eczema and paste is used to healing the ruptured small boils
4.	<i>Carica papaya</i> Linn.	Papita	<i>Caricaceae</i>	Latex used to gum swelling
5.	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> L. Sweet	Kanghi	<i>Malvaceae</i>	Seed paste used as in piles, root paste is applied externally on various skin diseases
6.	<i>Allium cepa</i> Linn.	Pyaj	<i>Liliaceae</i>	Paste of bulb is externally applied on boils and blisters
7.	<i>Aloe barbadensis</i> Mill.	Gwarpatha	<i>Liliaceae</i>	Leaves pulp is used as skin cream
8.	<i>Annona squamosa</i> Linn	Sitaphal	<i>Annonaceae</i>	Leaves paste is applied on cattle to remove lice and externally used to healing
9.	<i>Ricinus communis</i> Linn.	Arundi	<i>Euphorbiaceae</i>	Seed paste is applied on boils and swellings
10.	<i>Boerhaavia diffusa</i> Linn.	Patharchata	<i>Nyctaginaceae</i>	Root paste is applied on boils and blisters
11.	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> Roxb.	Shisham	<i>Fabaceae</i>	Leaf paste is used in order to cure various skin diseases
12.	<i>Lawsonia alba</i> Lamk.	Mehndi	<i>Lythraceae</i>	Paste of leaves is applied on wounds, burns, boils, cuts and swellings
13.	<i>Madhuca indica</i> Ginel.	Mahua	<i>Sapotaceae</i>	Paste of fallen dry flowers is applied on wounds
14.	<i>Jasminum officinale</i> Linn.	Chameli	<i>Oleaceae</i>	Leaves are chewed in order to cure mouth ulcers
15.	<i>Buchanania lanzan</i> Spreng.	Chironji	<i>Anacardiaceae</i>	Seed oil is used to baldness
16.	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> Linn.	Peepal	<i>Moraceae</i>	Stem latex is applied externally over wounds to stop bleeding
17.	<i>Lansea coromandelica</i> Merr.	Gunja	<i>Anacardiaceae</i>	Bark juice is externally applied on cut and wounds
18.	<i>Cassia tora</i> Linn.	Charota	<i>Caesalpiniaceae</i>	Seeds are applied on ringworm, eczema and scabies
19.	<i>Jatropha curcas</i> Linn.	Ratanjot	<i>Euphorbiaceae</i>	Paste of leaves is applied on rheumatism and swellings

In the enumeration, data of medicinal uses of plant are arranged by botanical name, local name along with family and their mode of application. Total 19 plant species are enumerated (Table 1) which have ethno-medicinal value. Tribal and rural people of Surguja district used to treat their ailments by using these fresh plant materials. These people are prone to victim injuries, wounds, cuts, swelling etc. because they do hard work in their routine life. There are number of plants available in nature. Each plant species has its particular uses. The tribal and rural people of Surguja district used to treat various ailments by plants whatsoever are available, and used them directly as and when required. These plant taxa are commonly applied as paste or extract from externally on boils,

wounds, cuts, swellings, burns, eczema, ringworm etc. Some plant species are employed orally as decoction or tooth brush from, in cases of mouth ulcers, sore, throat, spongy gums, toothache, pyorrhea, tonsillitis etc. The enumerated plants have proved handy and easily available remedy material, which give quick results also.

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