

Studies on ethnomedicinal plants of Ranipur Wild Life Sanctuary, U.P.

R.B. YADAV AND S.K. VERMA

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SUMMARY

A study on ethno-medicinal plants was conducted in various locality of Ranipur Wild Life Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh. This study included 20 plants species from 16 families which have ethno-medicinal potential. Out of these 20 plants there were 8 trees, 3 shrubs, 6 herbs and 3 climbers. These plants materials were also collected for preparation of herbaria and authentic identification.

Key words : Ethno-medicine, Phytotherapy, Tribes, Wild Life Sanctuary

Ranipur Wild Life Sanctuary situated along the foot hills and the hilly regions of plateau of Vindhya hill series in the Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh. This area is enriched by rare and endangered flora and fauna. Nature has blessed this protected area with dense dry mixed deciduous forest, round the year flowing water streams, rivers, water falls and jalkunds. Total area of Wild Life Sanctuary is 263 Sq. Km., out of these 230 Sq. Km. area has been recognized as core area and 33 Sq. Km. as buffer zone. The Sanctuary make the border of M.P. State. The sanctuary and its adjoining forest area is inhabitat by tribes like Kols, Gonds and this protected area has very rich ethno-medicinal plant wealth that has been continuously exploited by the indigenious/local peoples. Inhabitants of this area depends directly or indirectly on these plants not only for livelihood but also for indigenious herbal drugs for treatment of their different ailments.

Studies on ethno-medicinal plants has been carried out earlier by some workers, like Jain (1973, 1989, 1991); Hembrom (1991); Maheshwari *et al.* (1981); Singh *et al.* (1996); Kamboj (2000); Joshi (2002); Behera (2006); Verma *et al.* (2008); Chak and Agrawal (2008) etc., in various states of India. But no ethno-medicinal study of this area has been conducted so far. Because of poor means of transportation and communication this area remain untouched by the botanists. Some documentation of medicinal plants has been done by department of forest but it is still incomplete.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Extensive and frequent field survey of ethno-

medicinal plants has been conducted from remote areas of Ranipur Wild Life Sanctuary that is mainly inhabitat by tribes like Kols and Gonds. During the field study ethno-medicinally important plants of the area were collected for preparation of herbaria. The collected plants were identified by available taxonomic literature of Joshi (2002) and Duthie (1994). The information on medicinal aspect of plants have been collected by means of having conversation with local informants, elderly peoples, knowledgeable persons and Vaidyas. The information regarding identification and mode of administration of crude drug, local name, common name, methods of preparation of crude drug etc. were also recorded and documented.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the course of field study and conversation with local peoples, information about medicinal importance of plants for the treatment of various ailments were recorded. Twenty such plants species were recorded and collected. These plants enumeration has been arranged in alphabetical order.

Aegle marmelos Correa.

Local name : Bael
Family : Rutaceae
Uses : Fresh roots and bark of the plant is used in curing of intermittent fever.

Abrus precatorius Linn.

Local name : Ghunghchi
Family : Papilionaceae
Uses : Decoction of fresh leaf and roots are used for curing cough and cold. Seeds are some time used as poison for homicide.

Adhotoda vesica Nees.

Local name : Arusa

Correspondence to:

R.B. YADAV, P.G. Department of Botany, Janta Mahavidhyalaya, Ajitmal, AURAIYA (U.P.) INDIA

Authors' affiliations:

S.K. VERMA, P.G. Department of Botany, Janta Mahavidhyalaya, Ajitmal, AURAIYA (U.P.) INDIA

- Family : Acanthaceae
 Uses : Decoction of fresh leaves and roots are taken orally for treatment of cough, colds and bronchitis.
- Achyranthes aspera* Linn.
 Local name : Chirchita
 Family : Amaranthaceae
 Uses : Paste of fresh leaves are applied for relieving the poison of insect and scorpion sting.
- Cuscuta reflexa* Roxb.
 Local name : Amarlata
 Family : Convolvulaceae
 Uses : The paste of whole plants is boiled with mustard oil and this filtered oil is used to cure rheumatoid pain.
- Calotropis procera* R. Br.
 Local name : Madar
 Family : Asclepiadaceae
 Uses : The latex (milk) of stem along with salt is used for massage of gums and teeth to relieve pain. Leaves with warm mustard oil applied externally for curing rheumatism.
- Eugenia jambolana* Lamk.
 Local name : Jamuni
 Family : Myrtaceae
 Uses : The decoction of bark is used for mouth wash to cure mouth sore and ulcer. The dried grinded seed powder is taken orally with water to control diarrhoea and dysentery of adults.
- Euphorbia thymifolia* Linn.
 Local name : Chhoti dudhi
 Family : Euphorbiaceae
 Uses : The paste of leaves with black paper is applied externally on snake bite wound to reduce poisonous effects.
- Ficus benghalensis* Linn.
 Local name : Bargad
 Family : Moraceae
 Uses : The latex (milk) of plant is applied on the skin for healing wounds of ulcer and boils.
- Ficus glumerata* Roxb.
 Local name : Gular
 Family : Moraceae
 Uses : The galls of leaves are removed and make paste with cow milk and honey. This mixture is taken orally for relieving burning pain of small pox blisters.
- Madhuca indica* Gmel.
 Local name : Mahua
 Family : Sapotaceae
 Uses : The dried flowers of the plant is used to prepare intoxicating drink to overcome the extreme cold. Seed oil is used to cure rheumatism.
- Oxalis latifolia* Humb. Kobuski.
 Local name : Tinpatia
 Family : Oxalidaceae
 Uses : The chewing of leaf of the plant remove foul smell of mouth and cure chronic disease of gums.
- Psoralea corylifolia* Linn.
 Local name : Bavchi
 Family : Papilionaceae
 Uses : Grinded paste of roots with cow urin is applied on skin for the treatment of leucoderma and leprosy.
- Pongamia pinnata* (Linn.) Merr.
 Local name : Kanji
 Family : Papilionaceae
 Uses : The juice of fresh leaves is used for massage of palm of hand and foot to cure erectile dysfunction of male sex organ. Chewing of seeds enhance sexual vitality.
- Phyllanthus niruri* Hook F.
 Local name : Bhumiamla
 Family : Euphorbiaceae
 Uses : The decoction of fresh leaves and roots are taken orally before meal to remove liver dysfunction and curing jaundice.
- Sida cordifolia* Linn.
 Local name : Kharentia
 Family : Malvaceae
 Uses : Decoction of whole plant with root is given orally to children for the treatment of scurvy.
- Solanum xanthocarpum* Linn.
 Local name : Bhatkataiya
 Family : Solanaceae
 Uses : The decoction of fruits is taken orally 2-3 time daily to cure cough,

fever, asthma and chest pain.
Terminalia arjuna (Roxb.ex D.C.) Wight and Arn.

Local name : Kahua
 Family : Combretaceae
 Uses : The decoction of bark is taken orally to control heart beats and urinary troubles.

Tinospora cordifolia (Willd.) Miers.

Local name : Gurich
 Family : Menispermaceae
 Uses : Decoction of stem is taken orally for the treatment of malarial fever. Crushed stem boiled with mustard oil and this filtered oil is used as eardrop to remove earwax.

Woodfordia fruticosa Kurz.

Local name : Dhawai
 Family : Lythraceae

Uses : Dried flowers are powdered and mixed with honey and used to massaging of gums of infants for easy raising of teeth.

Present study deals with the survey, collection, documentation and identification of medicinally important plants being in practice by indigenous population. The peoples have developed their own traditional ways of diagnosis and treatment of diseases and fulfill their basic requirement from the near by forest. As a consequence of this long experience and practice it has become an effective ways of accumulation of rich traditional knowledge on medicinal plants. The medicinal value of plants is mainly due to certain phytochemicals present in it. The plant parts are applied externally as a paste on cuts, wounds, boils, swelling etc. and internally, it is taken as decoction or extracted juice and in powder form for throat, lungs, liver, heart and other disorders.

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