

Traditional Herbal Medicines for the Treatment of Scorpion Sting by the Melghat Tribes.

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ABSTRACT

Ethno-botanical use of plants has been known since time immemorial and several plants were used to cure diseases and to maintain good health. Documenting the indigenous knowledge through ethno-botanical studies is not only useful for conservation of cultural traditions and biodiversity but also for community healthcare and drug development in the present and future. The risk of scorpion sting is higher in rural areas, but some species are found close contact with man, and live around or inside human dwelling. Globally, 1988 species of scorpions are known to occur of which, 113 valid species of 25 genera under 6 families exist in India Among them 86 species of scorpion in India.

Keywords: Melghat, Herbal Medicine, Scorpion sting, Ethnobotany, Korku tribes

INTRODUCTION

Since primitive time people have been using natural products, mainly plants to attenuate or treat diseases [1]. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), people are turning to traditional medicine worldwide because of its availability and affordability [2]. People who have been suffering from chronic diseases are also moving towards traditional medicine as they are now more and more shown to be scientifically validated in their uses. Usually the knowledge of this practice is transferred in different generation orally [3]. There is no standard protocol for the treatment of scorpion venom poisoning.

Various regimens including decongestive treatment, beta blocker, nifedipine, excessive diuretics, lytic-cocktail and insulinglucose were tried, with no benefits even the serotherapy for the scorpion envenoming is not established in India [4]. Hence in the present study an attempt is made to study the herbs that are used for scorpion stings that are used by the korku tribes of Melghat region.

Scorpions are generally found in dry, hot environments, although some species also occur in forest and deserts. All species are nocturnal, hiding during the day under stones, wood or tree barks Red scorpion (*Mesobuthus tamulus*) is the most lethal among all poisonous species of scorpion [5].

METHODOLOGY

Study area:

Melghat forests provide an excellent piece of rich biodiversity. The tribal community is solely depends on the forest product products, not only this, they

have their own herbal health care system. In this these peoples use various plants, and their products to combat with numerous human diseases.

This study was undertaken by conducting enquiries to the traditional healers and local peoples used in scorpion sting cases. In addition, this study included the information on plants used for scorpion sting in Melghat region.

Scorpion Bite Symptoms

1. Profus Sweating
2. Vomiting
3. Increased Salivation
4. Bradycardia
5. Priapism
6. Cold Extremities Or Transient
7. Hypertension
8. Hypotension
9. Tachycardia



Fig. Interacting with korku tribes.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

table 1. Medicinal plants that are used by the Korku tribes of Melghat for scorpion sting.

Sr. No.	Botanical name	Local name	Family	Plant part used
01	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Linn.	Ber	Rhamnaceae	Root
02	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> Linn.	Apamarg	Amaranthaceae	Root
03	<i>Boswellia serrata</i> Roxb.	Saliha	<i>Burseraceae</i>	Bark
04	<i>Solanum xanthocarpum</i> Sachrad & Wendl.	Bhatkataiya	Solanaceae	Root
05	<i>Ricinus communis</i> Linn.	Arand	Euphorbiaceae	Root

CONCLUSION

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The roots and bark are the two major plant parts which are frequently used for the treatment on scorpion sting by the tribes of Melghat. The results of the present study provide evidence that medicinal plants continue to play an important role in the healthcare system of tribal community of Melghat region.

The herbs used in the treatment of scorpion stings are easily available, common and cheaper. The method of preparation and mode of action is also simple and convenient. They are comparatively safer than synthetic drugs. From the above discussion it can be concluded the plant parts used for scorpion sting can be possible sources of traditional medicine, which may lead to the discovery of new drug.

Conflicts of interest: The authors stated that no conflicts of interest.

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