



Folklore claims of some ethnomedicinal plants used by Bhil Tribes of Dhar District Madhya Pradesh

Alawa KS, Sudip Ray* and Anuradha Dubey

Department of Botany, Govt. P.G. College, Dhar (M.P.)

*Department of Botany, PMB Gujarati Science College, Indore (M.P.)

Sudbot@yahoo.com

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Abstract

An ethnobotanical survey was carried out during 2012-2014 in the some ethnomedicinal plants used by tribal communities of Dhar district, Madhya Pradesh. The present paper exclusively deals with the Bhil tribe folk medicinal plants which are used for treating various ailments and disease in their day to day life. They are settled agriculturist and have a very rich knowledge on plant based resources utilization for their survival since time immemorial. During the investigation it has recorded 24 plant species belonging to 24 genera and 21 families which are widely used as medicines by this ethnic community. Some plants used for other purposes are also mentioned.

INTRODUCTION

Dhar district is situated in the south-western part of Madhya Pradesh, India. The study area lies between 22° 00 to 23° 10 Northern latitude and 74° 28 to 75° 42 Eastern longitude. Out of the total area of 8153 Km², this is 1.84 percent of the state. And 1214.8 Km² of the total geographical area of the district. The total population of the district is 2184672 of which is 83.93 percent belongs to tribal respectively. The main communities are Bhil, Bhilala Barela and Pateliya are the dominant tribal inhabiting in the study area. Bhil and Bhilala are the major tribal communities of the district of which Bhil tribes comprise larger population. The Bhil people move around the forest for their day today requirements, cultural activities and performing rituals. These tribal live close to the forest and largely dependent on the wild biological resources for their livelihood. They utilize wide variety of plant for their basic needs such as food, fodder, fiber, wood, medicine, gum, tannin, resin, dye and shelter.

Literature survey of ethnobotanical work was done (Srivastava 1984, 1985, Jain 2004, Jadhav

2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, Satya *et al.* 2010, Kalakoti *et al.* 1986, Maheshwari *et al.* 1986, Jain *et al.* 2010, Samvatsar *et al.* 2004, Wagh *et al.* 2010). The present communication given results of ethnobotanical survey done in south western part of Madhya Pradesh.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Ethnobotanical field work was carried out during 2012-2014, covering almost all seasons. Interviews were taken to gather the information's on plants used for other than medicinal purposes are also given. Information was obtained through field interviews with traditional healers. The medicinal uses and mode of administration were gathered from tribal medicine men and herbalists and compared with relevant literature. Each medicine practice was verified and cross checked. Plant specimens were collected, identified with the help of Herbarium and Floras (Mudgal *et al.*, 1997; Verma *et al.*, 1993; Singh *et al.*, 2001; Jain, 1991). Herbarium following standard method (Jain and Rao, 1977).

Table 1: Medicinal plants used against various ailments.

Plant name (Family)	Local name	Uses
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L. (Amaranthaceae)	Andhijhara	Roots crushed with fruit of <i>piper longum</i> are used twice a day for two weeks against "rabies" dog bite.
<i>Adansonia digitata</i> L. (Bombacaceae)	Khurasani imli	Bark powder with water is given 3 days to cure abdominal pain and piles.
<i>Adhatoda justica</i> L. (Acanthaceae)	Adusa	Decoction of fresh leaves with Adrak (<i>Zingiber officinal</i>) is also given twice a day for 3 days to cure Pneumonia and respiratory problem.
<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Correa.(Rutaceae)	Bel	Fruit pulp is applied to cure mouth disease.
<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm.f.) Wall.ex Nees. (Acanthaceae)	Kalmegh	Leaf-juice is given twice a day for 3 days to cure fever.
<i>Annona squamosa</i> L. (Annonaceae)	Sitaphal	Seed powder mixed with water is given twice a day to kill the intestine worms.
<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Willd. (Liliaceae)	Satawari	Root extract with water is given twice a day for 3-4 days to cure typhoid and jaundice.
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i> (L.) Delile. (Simaroubaceae)	Hingote	Extract of fruit pulp is applied to cure scorpion sting.
<i>Borassus flabellifer</i> L. (Arecaceae)	Tad	Inflorescence of male plant is given once day to woman in early morning in the empty stomach to cure for menstruation cycle.
<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam.) Taub. (Fabaceae)	Palash	Seed paste with water is taken twice a day for 3 day to cure kill intestinal worms.
<i>Cassia fistula</i> L. (Caesalpiniaceae)	Amaltas	Dry seed powders are used on burn to smoke take they do not dreams.
<i>Celastrus paniculatus</i> Willd. (Celastraceae)	Malkangni	Seed oil is used on healing wounds to cure skin disease.
<i>Chlorophytum tuberosum</i> (Roxb.) Baker. (Liliaceae)	Safed musli	Dried root powdered mixed with milk or water is taken orally once a day in early morning in the empty stomach for a month to cure health tonic.
<i>Curculigo orchiooides</i> Gaertn. (Hypoxidaceae)	Kali musli	Root powder is given with cow's milk for 3 days to cure spermatorrhoea, impotency and tonic in weakness.
<i>Curcuma angustifolia</i> Roxb. (Zingiberaceae)	Jangli haldi	Powder of dried rhizome with honey mixed is made in to paste. The paste is applied and bandaged to cure arthritis and fracture.
<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i> (L.) Jeffrey. (Cucurbitaceae)	Shivlingi	Seeds are given with water to cure promote conception.
<i>Enicostema axillare</i> (Lam.) Raynal. (Gentianaceae)	Naikui	Extract of whole plant is given with water to cure typhoid.
<i>Geodorum densiflorum</i> (Lam.) Schultr. (Orchidaceae)	Salam mishri	Powder of tubers with ghee mixed is also made in to "Laddu". These Laddu with cow's milk is take once a day in early morning in the empty stomach by male to cure increase male potency.
<i>Gloriosa superba</i> L. (Liliaceae)	Kalihari	Paste of roots is also applied against to cure Snake-bite and Scorpion-sting.
<i>Helicteres isora</i> L. (Sterculiaceae)	Marorphali	Root past with leaf juice mixed is given twice a day for a week to cure diabetes.
<i>Madhuca longifolia</i> (Koen.) Mac. (Sapotaceae)	Mahua	Boiled flower and hot poultice leaves are tied in the cure for abdominal pain, chest pain due to cough and cold.
<i>Nyctanthes arbortristis</i> L. (Oleaceae)	Harsinghar	Fruits and flower mixed with water is given twice a day for 3 days to cure cough and cold.
<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i> R.Br.var.rothii (G.don.) Hook. (Apocynaceae)	Kala kuda	Bark paste is applied on wounds twice a day for 3 weeks to cure leprosy disease.
<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lam. (Rhamnaceae)	Bor	Root paste is given twice a day for 3 days to cure cough and cold.

Deposited in the herbarium of the Department of Botany PMB Gujarati Science College, Indore (M.P.). Information on ailments, parts used, and doses prescribed, time and days of administration of dose efficiency of the drug etc. gathered from tribal have been enumerated (Table-1).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study includes information on the total 24 plant species belonging to 24 genera and 21 families. Generally local medicine men are known as 'Badwa' or Vaidyas. The rich treasure of indigenous knowledge of local medicinal plant is also under serious threat in rural areas due to the availability of allopathic medicines and treatment of ailments and disease. The indigenous knowledge of the tribal communities must be properly documented and preserved so that their knowledge could be passed on the future generation. Such studies and documents provide important for understanding the complex heritage of tribal communities and their association with environment and nature. It is also observe that were uses roots of 7, seeds of 5 species, barks, Inflorescence, leaves, rhizomes, fruits of 2 species each and whole plant of 1 species. the important medicinal plants were used again cough and cold 3, abdominal pain, piles, intestinal worms, typhoid, scorpion sting, menstrual cycle, tonic of 2 species each and dog bit, respiratory problem, fever, skin disease, arthritis, male impotency, snake bite, diabetes and leprosy of 1 species. Such information should be spread among other societies living in urban and remote areas.

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