Some Antifertility Ethnomedicines Used by Tribals of Satpuda Forest Region of East Khandesh Maharashtra, India

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Abstract: Study deals with 10 medicinal plant species used traditionally by Pawara and Barela tribes of Jalgaon district of Maharashtra state in India for the treatment of various ailments. Some medicinal plants with unexplored ethnomedicinal uses of plants have been reported. It covers the area falls in Jalgaon district situated between 20°17’ and 21°26’ north latitude and 74°4’ and 76°28’ east longitude. Topographically it can be distinguished as 1) The rich Tapi valley in the centre, 2) The high mountainous ranges on the north & 3) Barren ridges of Satmala and Ajanta ranges on the south. The study is confined to first two regions only and more specific to Satpuda mountainous ranges from 2006-2009. Present study reveals about total no. of medicinal plant families 82 ‘composed of pteridophytes (3), Dicot (66), and monocots (15). The genera are 234, spread over pteridophytes (3), dicots (209) and monocots (22). Similar species are 270 out of which pteridophytes are (3), dicots (244) and monocots (23). The most Prominent & common method of administration of medicinal plants is oral 252(56.00%) followed by external 109(24.22%), internal applications are 49 (10.08%), poultice 31 (6.88%), smoking 3 (0.66%), inhalation 4 (0.88%) and steam bath 2 (0.44%). The present paper highlights 10 antifertility folk ethnothepathies belonging to 09 genera, 10 species and 7 families with reference Vernacular name, Botanical name, Family, their Distribution & Threat status. Mode of administration of Ethnomedicine with critical note.

Keywords: East Khandesh, Satpuda, Antifertility, Mountainous Ranges.

1. Introduction

Most of the countries worldwide has compiled the information on traditional medicines of centuries old. In India ancient drugs have been mentioned in Rigveda which is about 4000-5000 B.C. old. Atharva veda also described about 2000 medicinal plants. Well documented account on properties of medicinal plants are found in Sushruta, Samhita of 1000 BC. Indian Materia-medica accounts about 3500 medicinal plants. Satpuda is rich in biodiversity both in flora and fauna. Tribals (several tribes like Pawara, Barela & Bhills.) are the inhabitants of the area of Satpuda forest. These people are very poor and cannot afford the expenses for modern medical facilities, hence they are depend on local medicinemen who help them to cure their ailments at lowest cost. East Khandesh Satpuda lies on northern part of Jalgaon district. It is rich in vegetation composed of humid and many semi evergreen species apart from dry deciduous ones. The climate is generally dry except in monsoon. Rain fall is 639.7 to 696.0 mm. The forest types of Satpuda ranges classified by Champion and Seth in 1966 are Dry Teak forest, Southern Dry mixed deciduous forest, Anjan forest & Scrub forest. Studies on medicinal plants of the area are lacking except few sporadic references like Karnik,1966[10], P.B.Bhamare,1989[5], I.B.Salunkhe,1995[11], S.S. Yadav & Patil,2001[13], R.M.Bagul and S.S. Yadav,2003 a & b[1,2]. R.M.Bagul,2010, 2011a & b. [3],[4], G.P.Roy, B.K.Shukla & Bhaskar Dutta, described importance of economically important plants in Flora of Madhya Pradesh,1992.[7]

2. Materials and Methods

Present study is based on the field work and literature survey from June 2006 to July 2009 through systematic planning and meticulously exploring the areas for gathering various information related to medicinal uses of plants. During outgoing all the information collected were noted in field book. Pertinent attention was paid to habit, habitat, distribution pattern, diseases for which plants used, dosages and mode of administration. As far as possible correct information were confirmed by repeated queries at different places. Specimens collected during the field work are processed for herbarium as per the customary methods suggested by Jain & Rao,1977[9]. Specimens thoroughly studied for correct identification with the help of standard floras viz. Flora of Presidency of Bombay, Cook, 1957[6], Flora of British India,Hooker, 1872-1897[8], B.S.I. Flora of Maharashtra State, Vol. I, II & III. Edited by Sharma et al, 1996; Singh & Kartikeyan, 2000; Singh & Laksh 2001[12].

The identification was confirmed by authentically identified species at B.S.I. Pune. Herbarium sheets were neatly labelled and deposited in the herbarium of department of botany, A.S.C. College Chopda.

Simple Questionnaire used for data collection is like Occurrence of Plant, Respondents age, sex & education, Community Status (medicine man, nurse, doctor), Forest type where plant was found & its availability in nature (Common, Frequent, Rare, Occasional etc), Plant part used to treat, Mode of administration (oral, external) & dosages given with, & How many times & days the drugs prepared roughly given (glassful, teaspoonful, paste etc.)

3. Results

Following are some important Antifertility ethnomedicinal plants used are given with reference to Vernacular name, Botanical name, Family, their description, Distribution,
Threat status, Mode of administration of ethnomedicine and Critical note.

(1) Hinganbet
Balanites aegyptiaca (L.) Del.
Distribution: Throughout in scrub forest,
Threat Status: Critically Endangered
Medicinal Uses: 10-20gm Fruit epicarp paste is made in to the water and use externally after menstruation to Prevent conception before sex
Critical Note: Leaves and bark used as fish position (Salunkhe,1995). Steroid hormones prepared from the drug diosgenin extracted from fruits and roots for the use of herbal contraceptives for women.
Exsiccata: RMB 374, Dhavali.

(2) Ruchkin
Calotropis gigantea (L.) R.Br.
Distribution: Throughout common,
Threat Status: Not Endangered
Medicinal Uses: 10-20 ml of Latex is obtained from the whole plant collected in the morning with cotton & applied externally before and after sex to prevent conception.
Critical Note: Plant used as antidote on Snake and scorpion Sting (G.P.Roy, 1992)
Exsiccata: RMB 322, Sakali

(3) Safeda
Calotropis procera (Ait) R.Br
Asclepiadaceae: Tall shrubs. Leaves, sessile or sub sessile, thick glaucous-green. Flower's in umbellate cymes, white. Follicles paired glaucous green. Seeds flat.
Distribution: Not common in east Satpuda,
Threat Status: Not Endangered
Medicinal Uses: 10-20 ml of Latex obtained from the stem and whole plant applied externally with cotton before cotton before and sex to prevent conception.
Critical Note: Latex and flower buds used in stomachache and body pain (Tewary et al.1982).
Exsiccata: RMB 403, Jamnya Gadrya.

(4) Khota Lajalu
Biophytum sensitivum (L.) DC. Prodr.
Mimosaceae: Herbs, Annual, Stem unbranched, up to 20 cm tall. Leaves 4-6 cm long, leaflets 5-14 pairs oblong, oblic, punctuateon upper surface. Flowers in terminal umbels, peduncles up to 10cm long, sepals sometime glandular-pubescent, petals oblong obovate yellow. Capsules 0.2-0.3 cm long, ellipsoidal, covered with persistant calyx. Seeds ovoid brown.
Distribution: Common throughout as a weed near wet places.

(5) Lajalu
Mimosa pudica L. Sp Pl
Mimosaceae: Herbs, woody diffuse, prickly, leaflets sessile 12-20 pairs coriaceous, sensitive, acute. Flowers pink, in globose head, pods 1.2-2.0cm, flat sutures clothed with yellowish bristles. Seeds 3-5.
Distribution: Not Common
Threat Status: Not threatened
Medicinal Uses: 5-10 gm seeds paste made with cold warer applied externally before sex. Sex to prevent conception.
Exsiccata: RMB 405, Gorgavale.

(6) Aghada
Achyranthus aspera L. Sp.Pl
Amaranthaceae: Herbs, woody diffuse, prickly, leaflets 12-20 pairs coriaceous, sensitive, acute. Flowers pink, in globose head, pods 1.2-2.0cm, flat sutures clothed with yellowish bristles. Seeds 3-5.
Distribution: Common in open areas, forest edge.
Threat status: Not threatened
Medicinal Uses: Decoction of 100 g of dry roots made with water & given orally early in the morning after menstrual period for antifertility up to 15 days.
Exsiccata: RMB 133, Chunchale;

(7) Adrak
Zingiber officinale Rosc
Zingiberaceae: Herbs, Stem leafy, up to 2 meter high perennial. Leaves 10-25X1.5-2.0 cm, lanceolate to linear to lenceolate, sessile, narrowed to the base. Inflorescence 4-5X2 cm, Ovoid.
Distribution: Grown frequently in Yaval field area.
Threat status: Rare
Medicinal Uses: Glassful of (100 ml) of juice obtain from rhizome by crushing in water taken orally for 30 days creates temporary impotency.
Exsiccata: RMB 303, Chharthana.

(8) Kala dhotra/Dhanturo
Datura innoxia Mill
Solanaceae: Tall, glabrous annuals. Leaves broadly ovate-triangular, entire or shallowly lobate. Flowers tinged purple or wholly purple, axillary, solitary. Capsules drooping, with stout tubercles. Seeds orbicular, smooth.
Distribution: Not common, found in dense forests of Manudevi, RMB
Threat Status: Not threatened
Medicinal Uses: Seed paste made with cold water applied externally before sex to prevent conception.
Critical Note: Asthma : Ash prepared from roots is smoked daily twice and at the time of asthmatic attack.
Exsiccata: RMB 202, Manudevi.
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**References**


**Author Profile**

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