

Phytotherapeutic Drugs used by the Tribes of Amarkantak District Anuppur, Central India

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Abstract: The present paper deals with 30 plants species which are conserved by the tribes of Amarkantak district Anuppur Madhya Pradesh. Due to destruction of habitat, biotic interference and indiscriminate exploitation of natural plants, many valuable plant species of this area are fast disappearing. Aborigines conserve these species by faiths, taboos and religious aspects.

Keywords: Phytotherapeutic, Tribes, Amarkantak, Anuppur

1. Introduction

Amarkantak plateau is one of the important tourists place in district Anuppur, Madhya Pradesh. This district is located in the central part of India. It is lying between 23°15' to 24°N Latitude and 81°0' to 81°45'E longitude. The total area of 3701 Sq. Km extends 80 Km. from east to west and 70 Km. from North to South. Several tribals as Gond, Kondar, Kol, Baiga, Bharia, etc. are maintaining their culture and traditions since these cultures are influenced by scientific and economic changes, it is therefore, essential to study and conserve them before they become extinct. Madhya Pradesh still has the aboriginal tribals living in the forest as well as in the remote villages inhabited by so called higher castes. Since they are distributed mostly in the areas previously occupied by thick forest, they have learnt to use these habitats better for their living. (Figure 1)

A survey of literature indicates that Dwivedi (2003), Jain (1963, 1997), Khare (2001), Prajapati and Khare (2004), Saxena and Tripathi (1989, 1990), Shah and Singh (1990) and Singh *et al* (2004) has made important contribution in this field.

The tribals do not have any well defined conservation strategy of the kind we understand in modern terms. But they do conserve plants that are medicinally, economically, socially and culturally significant to them. Their mode of conservation depends on faith and tradition.

2. Materials and Methods

For the ethnobotanical study plant human interaction has to be observed carefully in the dynamic ecosystem in which they exist. The plants were collected by the investigator from the different study sites of Anuppur district during 2002-2003 by extensive field work. The queries were made as per plan suggested by Jain and Goel (1987) and the

preservation methods were followed as prescribed by Agrawal (1983) and Ahirwar (2011).

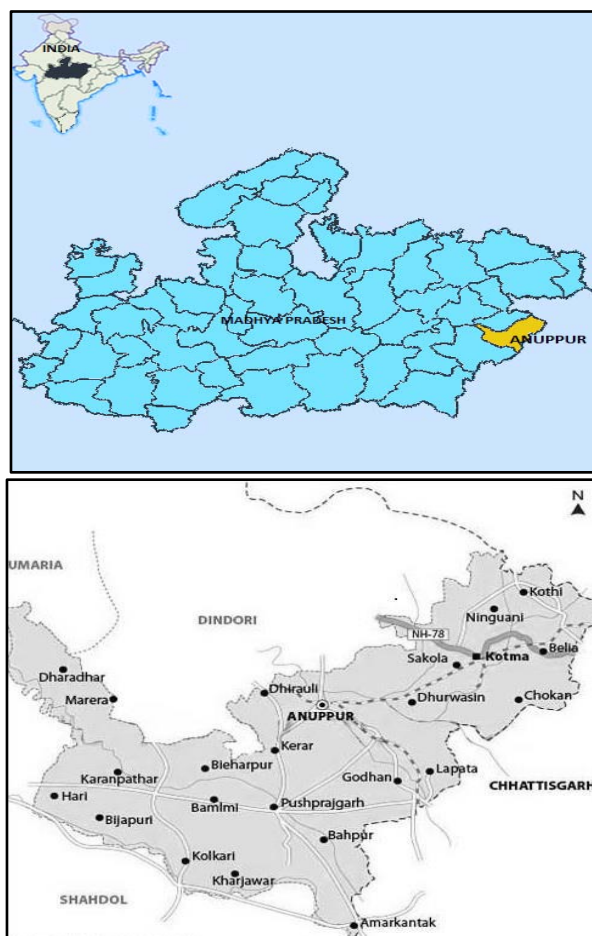


Figure 1: Location Map of Madhya Pradesh and study site District Anuppur

Table 1: Phytotherapeutic drugs used by the Tribes of Amarkantak, District Anuppur, Central India

| S.No. | Plant Name (Local Name) | Family | Plant part uses | Reason for Conservations |
|-------|--|----------------|--------------------|---|
| 1. | <i>Achyranthusaspera L.(Chirchita)</i> | Amaranthaceae | Root and leaves | Roots are leaves are used in medicine. |
| 2. | <i>Adina cordifolia Benth. & Hook (Haldu)</i> | Rubiaceae | Wood | The wood is considered auspicious. |
| 3. | <i>Aegle marmelos (L.) Corr.(Bel)</i> | Rutaceae | Leaf | Sacred plant, the leaves are used to worship 'Lord Shiva'. |
| 4. | <i>Annona squamosa (Sitaphal)</i> | Annonaceae | Fruit, seed | For fruits and medicine. |
| 5. | <i>Anthocephalus chinensis (Lamk.) Rich.(Kadam).</i> | Rubiaceae | Whole plant | Sacred plant , fruits are edible. |
| 6. | <i>Azadirachta indica Juss.(Neem)</i> | Meliaceae | Leaf | Plant is an abode of 'Marhi Mata' (The Goddess of small pox) Leaves are used in medicines and pest control. |
| 7. | <i>Boswellia serrata Colebr.(Salaiya)</i> | Burseraceae | Wood | The poles of wood are considered auspicious for wedding place. |
| 8. | <i>Buchanania lanzan Spr.(Char)</i> | Anacardiaceae | Fruits and seeds | For fruits and seeds. |
| 9. | <i>Butea monosperma (Lamk.) Taub. (Palas)</i> | Papilionaceae | Leaves and flowers | Leaves are used for thatches , and the flowers are used to worship 'Lord Jagannath. |
| 10. | <i>Calotropis procera Br.(Madar)</i> | Asclepiadaceae | Flowers and fruits | The flowers and fruits are used to worship 'Lord Shiva'. |
| 11. | <i>Erythrina suberosa Roxb.(Handua)</i> | Papilionaceae | Wood | The wood is considered auspicious for wedding place. |
| 12. | <i>Ficus bengalensis L.(Bar)</i> | Moraceae | Whole plant | Sacred plant worshiped on 'Bara Barsat' festival. |
| 13. | <i>Ficus religiosa L.(Pipal)</i> | Moraceae | Whole plant | The plant is considered on abode of 'Barsat' festival. |
| 14. | <i>Gymnema sylevestre (Retz.) R.Br.(Gurmar)</i> | Asclepiadaceae | Leaf | The leaves are used in medicine . |
| 15. | <i>Holarrhena antidysenterica Wall.(Dudhi)</i> | Apocynaceae | Bark | The bark is used for medicine. |
| 16. | <i>Holoptelea intergrifolia (Roxb.) Planch.(Chirol)</i> | Ulmaceae | Leaf and Bark | Leaves are used as fish poison and bark is used in medicine. |
| 17. | <i>Lawsonia inermis L. (Menhdi)</i> | Lythraceae | Leaf | The leaves are used for dye. |
| 18. | <i>Madhuca longifolia (Koen.) Mac. Br.(Mahua)</i> | Sapotaceae | Whole plant | Sacred plant, flowers used for liquor, and the wood is considered auspicious. |
| 19. | <i>Mangifera indica L.(Aam)</i> | Anacardiaceae | Whole plant | For wood, leaves and fruits . The inflorescences are offered to 'Lord Shiva' at Mahashivratri festival. |
| 20. | <i>Ocimum sanctum L. (Tulsi)</i> | Lamiaceae | Whole plant | Sacred plant, worshiped by girls for good groom. |
| 21. | <i>Phoenix sylvestris Roxb. (Khajri)</i> | Araceae | Leaf, fruit | The fruits are edible and leaves are used to make headgear and brooms. |
| 22. | <i>Emblica officinalis L.(Amla)</i> | Euphorbiaceae | Whole plant | Sacred plant, worshipped on 'Akshaya Navmi' , fruits are eaten and used in medicine. |
| 23. | <i>Sterculia urens Roxb.(Kullu)</i> | Sterculiaceae | Whole plant | The plant is conserved for gum, wood and medicine use. |
| 24. | <i>Sterculia villosa Roxb.(Udar)</i> | Sterculiaceae | Root | The root is taken as a medicine. |
| 25. | <i>Syzygium cumini (L) Skeels.(Jamun)</i> | Myrtaceae | Fruits | Fruits are edible. |
| 26. | <i>Terminalia arjuna (Roxb.ex. DC.) Wt. & Arn. (Kahwa)</i> | Combretaceae | Whole plant | Sacred plant, bark is used in medicine. |
| 27. | <i>Terminalia bellerica (Gaertn.) Roxb.(Bahera)</i> | Combretaceae | Fruits | The fruits are eaten with of Amla as a medicine. |
| 28. | <i>Terminalia chebula Retz.(Harra)</i> | Combretaceae | Fruits | Roasted fruits are eaten as a medicine. |
| 29. | <i>Terminalia tomentosa Wt.& Arn.(Saja)</i> | Combretaceae | Whole plant | Sacred plant , dwelling place of 'Bara Dev'. |
| 30. | <i>Woodfordia fruticosa (L.) Kurz.(Dhwai)</i> | Lythraceae | Flowers | Flowers used in medicine. |

3. Results and Discussion

During study period is reported with 30 plant species , which are conserved by the tribals of Anuppur district for obvious reasons . These tribals organise various occasions and worship plants time to propitiate their gods and goddess. These traditions encouraged us to know their beliefs and ethnobotanical importance behind it. The botanical name of plants are alphabetically arranged, followed by their local name . All the data obtained as a sequence of present study has been reported.(Table 1)

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