

ROLE OF ANIMAL FAT AS FOLK MEDICINES PREVALENT AMONG THE TRIBALS OF CHHATTISGARH-I

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ABSTRACT

The present paper deals with medicinal usage of fat of animal as practiced by the tribals of Chattisgarh covering 8 districts namely, Baster, Betul, Raipur, Raigarh, Bilaspur, Jagalpur, Dantewada and Korba. The species of animals may be treated as new record of medicinal usage, so far the important literatures have been consulted.

KEYWORDS : Animal drugs, Diseases, Tribals districts

Since long, the primitive people exploited varieties of opportunities from the nature for their survival. Their intimate relation with animals is noteworthy (Tikader et al., 1985).

Indee, aboriginals developed the art of healing through the use of various remedies of zoological origin (Azmi, 1989). These remedies are beneficial or claimed to be so, in a variety of human ailments. The contemporary society may benefit from the tribal experiences in its flight against diseases and sufferings (Azmi, 1990, 1991) Notably, the established systems of Indian medicine too felt the importance of such drugs, for that several drugs are obtained from animals (Puri, 1970).

Incidentally, however the study of biologically active substances in the animal kingdom has remained comparatively unexplored which could be very rewarding (Throp., 1967). It is the time to pay more attention to the faunal wealth through systematic exploration of this virgin field. Accordingly, appreciable measures have been initiated in this direction. The informations, thus collected are presented in this paper.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The medico-ethnozoological data obtained in this study are based on the informations collected through personal contact and interview of the tribals of Chhattisgarh. The general idea about district-wise distribution of tribals could be had from the 'Tribal Map of India' (Gohain, 1971). Informations regarding their location, population and social structure were collected from the 'District and block Development Officers'. The

interviews were arranged through the head or senior persons of the communities. In each and every district, the tribal community was repeatedly interviewed from as many localities as possible to get accurate and elaborate information regarding the remedies derived from fats of various mammals and birds, mode of their administration/application and therapeutic uses. Whenever, the language problem arose, the services of interpreters were utilized.

RESULTS

Informations regarding the medicinal application of fat of 4 avian and 8 mammalian species were obtained through the interview of 8 types of tribes.

The format is an alphabetical arrangement of the vernacular names of avian and mammals, zoological names are given in paranthesis.

REMARKS

The information presented in this paper reveal curious and fascinating information regarding the medicinal applications of different animals species. While majority of these advocatons are novel, some do find place in earlier text (Vohra, 1978). An examination of literature shows that our knowledge of traditional drugs is meagre except for the occasional writings. Even in *Materia medica* (Kent, 1970) mention is made only of a dozen of animals. Joseph, 1982 stated the use of number of animals as traditional drugs prevalent in the various tribes of Madhya Pradesh. Malty, 1984 has reported animal drugs from the ethnozoological survey of Bihar.

Persual of literature did not indicate the medicinal application and mode of administration of some of the

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Medicinal use of fats by certain tribes of Chhattisgarh

Name of Animal	Made of Administration	Name of Disease (S)	Name of District (S)	Name of Tribe (S)
1	2	3	4	5
Bat (<i>Pteropus</i> spp.)	Warmed and applied on chest and orally administered for 15 days, twice daily	Whooping cough, Bronchitis, Asthma, Tuberculosis	Baster Jagdalpur,	Muria, Madia Bhattara
“	Warmed and massaged on lumbosacral region one daily at bed time for about 40 days only	Eczema, Boils	Bilaspur Korba	Gond Oraon Kamar
Bear (Male) (<i>Melursus ursinus</i>)	Slightly warmed and massaged on lumbosacral region one daily at bed time for about 40 days only	Loss of erectile power, Eczema	Dantewada, Rajgarh	Madia, Muria Oraon, Gond
“	Slightly warmed and massaged for about 7-8 days once daily	Rheumatism, Paralysis, Myalgia	Bilaspur	Gond, Oraon
Duck (Male) <i>Anus indicus</i>	Warmed and massaged on lumbosacral region once daily, at bed time.	Loss of sexual vigour	Raipur, Betul	Gond, Oraon Korku
“	Warmed and applied on the affected sites thrice a day, till cured	Paralysis, Weak bone, Internal injury	Jagdalpur, Rajgarh	Madia, Muria Oraon
Duck (0) <i>Anus Indicus</i>	Warmed and massaged on the chest of the babies twice daily, for about one month	Chest pain, Pneumonia	Dantewada	Madia
Fox (Not specific)	Applied externally till the disease is cured	Skin disease, Eczema	Datewada, Bilaspur	Madia Oraon
“	Slightly warmed and massaged twice daily, till cured	Rheumatism, Paralysis	Bilaspur	Oraon
Hornbill (male) (Nondescript)	Warmed and massaged twice daily, for about 21 days	Bone fracture, Paralysis, Impotency	Datewada, Jagdalpur	Madia, Muria, Gond, Korku
“	Warmed and massaged externally once daily for about 5-7 days	Musculoskeletal pain, Rheumatism	Raipur	Korku
“	Warmed and massaged on phallus for about 40 days once daily	Impotency	Rajgarh	Oraon, Gond
“	Warmed and massaged regularly	Baldness Dandruff	Raigarh	Oraon, Gond Korku
“	Warmed and applied externally twice daily till cured	Cracked foot, Pile	Betul	Korku, Gond
Indian Wolf (<i>Canis lupus</i>)	Slightly warmed and applied once daily for about 15 days	Skin diseases, Eczema	Raipur, Bastal, Jagdalpur	Kamar, Gond, Madia, Muria, Madia
“	Warmed and massaged externally till disease is cured, thrice daily	Rheumatism, Bone fracture, Paralysis	Jagdalpur, Datewada,	Madia, Gond, Madia, Murai
“	Applied in the eyes regularly	Weak sight	Betul	Korku, Gond
Jackal (<i>Canis aureus</i>)	Warmed and massaged thrice daily, till cured	Bone fracture, Rheumatism	Rajgarh	Kamar, Oraon
Kite (<i>Milvus migrans</i>)	Warmed and massaged on the affected site for 4-5 days, twice daily	Arthritis	Jagdalpur Dantewada	Madia Muria, Gond

“	Warmed and massaged on the phallus once at bed time for about 40 days	Loss of erectile power Impotency	Bastar	Murai Oraon, Gond
“	Warmed and massaged on the chest of babies twice daily till cured	Breathing trouble, Pheumonia	Bastar Raigarh	Muria, Madia, Gond
“	Warmed and massaged once daily for 7-8 days	Ribs-Pain	Bastar Raipur	Maria, Bhattra Gond
“	Warmed and massaged on the legs of the babies till cured	Weak bone	Dantewada	Madia, Bhattra
Neelgai <i>Bosdaphustragacaelus</i>	Slightly warmed, massaged till the disease is cured twice daily	Internal injury, Arthritis, Paralysis,	Rajgarh Bilaspur	Gond Gond, Oraon
Pig (<i>Susscrofascrofa</i>)	Warmed and applied externally	Skin disease, Piles, Cracked foot	Betul, Bilaspur, Bastar	Korku, Gond, Korku Madia
“	Slightly warmed and massaged regularly till the disease is cured	Paralysis	Raipur Rajgarh	Kamar, Saur Saur
Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris</i>)	Warmed ad massage thrice daily till cured	Weak bone, Bonefracture, Loss of erectile power	Bastar Dantewada	Bhattra, Saur Kamar
Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris</i>)	Warmed and massage thrice daily till cured	Weak bone, Bone-fracture, Loss of erectile Power	Bastar Dantewada	Bhattra, Saur Kamar
Vature (<i>Gypus spp.</i>)	Warmed and massaged thrice a day till cured	Rheumatism, Fracture, Paralysis	Bastar, Raipur, Rajgarh	Bhattra Korku
Wild Boar (<i>Sus scrofa scrofa</i>)	Warmed and massaged twice a day for about 15 day	Bone fracture, Paralysis	Bastar, Jagdalpur, Raipur	Madia, Murai Gond Oraon

animals which have been reported in this paper. The remaining species have been mentioned for their therapeutic value incidentally for those ailments which are mostly different from the ones treated by tribal people. The overall reported claims suggest that fat of animals is used in many Unani Medicines. It is mostly used as ointment to external use in inflammations, muscular pains, piles, burns, wounds and sexual debility. Internally it is nutrient and fattening. It generally gives a feeling of warmth. Fat of male animal is believed to produce more heat than that of female animals (Hussain, 1771). These informations are tabulated in the following pages.

Administration of some of the animals which have been reported in this paper. The remaining species have been mentioned for their therapeutic value incidentally for those ailments which are mostly different from the ones treated by tribal people. The overall reported claims suggest that fat of animals is used in many Unani Medicines. It is mostly used as ointment for external use in inflammation muscular pains, piles, burn, wounds and sexual debility. It is

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These information suggest that if animal kingdom, is scientifically explored, may have much to contribute to our therapeutic armamentariums.

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