

USE OF FAT AS TRADITIONAL DRUGS PREVALENT AMONG THE GOND TRIBALS, MADHYA PRADESH

BED PRAKASH TIWARI^{1a}, V.K. TRIPATHI^b AND H.K. AZMI^c

^{ab}Department of Zoology, T.D. College, Jaunpur, U.P., India

^cDepartment of Zoology, Shibli National P.G. College, Azamgarh, U.P., India

ABSTRACT

The present paper deals with the medicinal usage of fat of animals as practiced by the Gond tribals of Madhya Pradesh covering five districts, Rewa, Sidhi, Satana, Panna and Tikamgarh. The species of animals numbering 11 may be treated as a new record for the medicinal usage, so for the important literature has been collected.

KEYWORDS : Animal Drugs, Diseases, Gond Tribals, Districts

During their long history the primitive people exploited varieties of opportunities from the nature for their survival since times immemorial. Their intimate relation with animals is noteworthy (Tikader et.al 1985 and Azmi, 1989, 90, 91).

Indeed, the tribals developed the art of healing, the usage 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 be benefited from the tribals experiences in its fight against the diseases and suffering (Azmi, 1990; Puri, 1970; Maite, 1984). Notably, the established system of Indian Medicine too felt the importance of such drugs, for the several drugs are obtained from the animals (Puri, 1970, Hussain, 1971).

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

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The medico-ethnozoological data obtained in this study are based on the information collected through personal contact and interview of the tribals of Madhya Pradesh. The general idea about districtwise distribution of tribals was Procured from the 'Tribal Map of India' (Gohain, 1971). Information regarding their location, population and social structure were collected from the District and Block Development Officers. The interviews were arranged with

the head or senior persons of the communities. In each and every district, the tribal community was repeatedly interviewed as many localities as possible to get accurate and elaborate information regarding the remedies derived from fat of various animals, mode of their applications and therapeutic uses. Whenever, the linguistic problem arose, the services of interpreters were utilized.

RESULTS

Information regarding the medicinal applications of fat of animal species were obtained from the interviews of Gond tribals of 5 districts of M.P.

The format is an alphabetical arrangement of the vernacular names of animals and zoological names are given in parenthesis (Table,1).

DISCUSSION

The information presented in this paper reveal curious and fascinating information regarding the medicinal applications of different animal species while majority of these avocations are novel, some do find place in earlier text. An examination of literature shows that our knowledge of traditional drugs is meagre except for the occasional writings (Elvin, 1951). Even in *Materia Medica* (Kent, 1970). Mentioned is made only of a dozen animals. (Josseph, 1982) stated the use of number of animals as a traditional drugs prevalent in various tribes of Madhya Pradesh. (Maiti, 1984) has reported animal drugs from ethnozoological survey of Bihar. Azmi (1989, 90, 91, 92, 96, 98, 2010, 2011, 2013) has published a lot of animal drugs prevalent among the tribals of different states of India. Azmi has covered all most all the tribals of the India and

¹Corresponding author

Table 1: Medicinal use of fats by Gond Tribes of M.P.

Name of animals (1)	Mode of application (2)	Name of disease (s) (3)	Name of District (s) (4)
1. Bat (<i>Pteropus spp.</i>)	Warmed and applied on chest of the children for 15 days twice a daily	Asthma, Whooping cough, Bronchitis	Rewa, Sidhi, Tikamgarh
”	Warmed and applied thrice daily for about a week	Skin disease, Eczema, Foot-crack	Panna, Tikamgarh, Rewa
”	Warmed and massaged externally for about 40 days, twice daily	Rheumatism, Paralysis, Fracture, Loss of erectile power	Rewa, Satana, Panna
2. Duck (<i>Anus indicus</i>)	Warmed and applied on the affected sites thrice a daily till the disease is cured.	Paralysis, Pneumonia, Loss of sexual power	Rewa, Sidhi, Satana
”	Warmed and massaged on the lumbosacral region twice a day for about 40 days.	Impotency	Tikamgarh, Sidhi, Panna
”	Warmed and applied on the chest of the babies during cough twice a day for 1 week.	Pneumonia, Chest pain	Panna, Sidhi, Tikamgarh, Satana
3. Horn bill (Non-descript)	Warmed and massaged externally once daily at bed time on the male sex organ for about 40 days.	Loss of sexual power	Tikamgarh, Satana, Panna
”	Warmed and applied on the scalp twice a day for about 1 week	Dandruff, Head bows, Baldness	Panna, Sidhi, Tikamgarh
”	Warmed and massaged on the affected sites twice a day.	Bone fracture, Rheumatism, Impotency	Rewa, Sidhi, Tikamgarh
4. Imperial Eagle (<i>Aquila helica</i>)	Taken orally along with vegetables or Dal twice a day till cured.	Weak-sight, Paralysis, Sciatica	Satana, Sidhi, Tikamgarh
”	Warmed and massage on the lambosacral region for about 21 days once at bed time.	Sexual desfunction	Panna, Sidhi, Tikamgarh
5. Jackal (<i>Canis aurues</i>)	Warmed and applied the palms three times a daily for about 14 days.	Eezema, Bone fracture, Rheumatism	Satana, Panna, Sidhi, Rewa

6. Kite (<i>Milvus migrants</i>)	Warmed and massaged on the male sexual organ for about 40 days once daily.	Impotency	Satana, Sidhi, Panna
”	Warmed and massaged on the chest and back twice a day for about 2 weeks.	Breathing trouble, Bronchitis, Pneumonia	Panna, Sidhi, Satana
”	Warmed and massaged on the joints twice a day for about 40 days.	Rheumatism, Arthritis	Tikamgarh, Sidhi, Rewa
7. Neelgai (<i>Bos camelus</i>)	Slightly warmed and massaged till the disease is cured twice daily.	Internal Injuries, Arthritis, Paralysis	Rewa, Panna, Satana
8. Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	Warmed and massage twice daily on the lumbosacral region twice daily for about 40 days.	Loss of sexual vigour	Satana, Panna, Sidhi
”	Warmed and massaged thrice a day for about 1 week.	Piles, Foot-crack, Skin diseases	Tikamgarh, Sidhi, Satana
9. Tiger (<i>Panthera tigris</i>)	Warmed and massaged thrice a day till the disease is cure.	Loss of sexual vigour, Paralysis, Asthama, Bronchitis, Eczema	Rewa, Sidhi, Satana
10. Vulture (<i>Gyps spp.</i>)	Warmed and applied on the chest of the babies	Whooping cough, Pneumonia, Chest pain	Tikamgarh, Panna
11. Wild bore (<i>Sus scrofa scrofa</i>)	Warmed and massaged twice a day, till cured	Muscular pain, Paralysis, Fracture, Rheumatism. Piles	Rewa, Sidhi, Satana, Panna

collected the informations regarding the treatment of common and chronic diseases through the animal drugs.

Perusal of available literature did not indicate the medicinal application and mode of application of some animals which have been reported in this paper. Remaining species have been mentioned for their therapeutic values. The overall reported claims suggest that the fat is used in many Unani medicines. It is mostly used as ointment for the external use in inflammation, muscular pains, piles, cuts, bowls & foot-cracks. Internally, it is nutrients and fattening. It generally gives a feeling of warmth. Fat of male animal is believed to produce more heat than the female animals (Hussain, 1971). These informations tableted in

the Scrip.

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