

SOME ETHNOMEDICINAL PERCEPTIONS OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES OF REWA DISTRICT, MADHYA PRADESH

MANISHA YADAV^{a1} AND KHALID KAFEEL KHAN^b

Department of Botany, Shibli National College, Azamgarh, U.P., India

^a E-mail: manisha.mgs@gmail.com

^b E-mail: kafeel1864@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Rewa is a rich in ethnic and biological diversity since ancient times. Several tribal communities like Kol, Gond, and Mawasi inhabit Rewa region and utilize wide variety of plant resources for food, fodder, fiber, medicine etc. An ethnobotanical study among the tribal communities of Rewa has been carried out during 2007-2009. In the study, ethnomedicinal uses of 28 plant species have been reported. The plant parts most commonly used in the treatment of various diseases are root, leaves, whole plant and bark. Mode of drug administration in different ailments are discussed.

KEYWORDS: Ethnobotany, ethnomedicine, Gond, Kol, Mawasi, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh

Use of plant based drugs and chemicals for curing various ailments and personal adornment is as old as human cultivation. Plants and Plant-based medicaments are the basis of many of the modern Pharmaceutical we use today for our various ailments (Abraham, 1985). The use of the traditional medicine is widely accepted by tribal in Rewa.

Rewa is formerly the capital of the princely state of Rewa and former state of Vindhya Pradesh in central India. It is an important city in the North Eastern part of Madhya Pradesh State of India. The district is bounded on the north by Uttar Pradesh, on the east and southeast by Sidhi, on the south of Shahdol, and on the west by Satna. It lies between 24°18' and 25°12' north latitudes and 81°2' and 82°18'. The forest of the Rewa predominated by consist of tropical mixed deciduous types. It is famous of its religious importance, elegant environment and spiritual peace (Sharma, 2003, and Prasad and Tulsidasa, 1994). Several tribal communities like Kol, Gond, Mawasi etc. reside in Rewa forest area and utilize a wide variety of plants for food, fodder, fuel, medicine, dye, gum, tannin, household, etc. The age-old tribal knowledge of Plants in an important aspect of ethnobotanical research. The tribal facts is an important aspect of ethnobotanical research. The tribal facts are the store house of information and knowledge on the multiple uses of plants.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

An ethnobotanical survey were conducted by me during the period of November 2007 to July 2009 in tribal

areas of district Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. An extensive data sheet was prepared regarding the utility of plants and food and medicine, their application, doses and duration. The distribution was obtained by tribal map of Madhya Pradesh, Tribal Welfare Office and Block Development office regarding their population and location. The ethnobotanical data were obtained from tribal people, Vaidyas, Ojhas, Village Pradhan and many other experienced informants having knowledge of Herbal drugs used by different tribal people. The plants were collected with the help of floristic literature (Oomanchanl and Shrivastava, 1996) and their herbarium was prepared as per standard protocol as described by Varghese (1996) and Dwivedi and Pandey, (1992).

The Collected Plants thus pressed, mounted and properly numbered were identified with the help of local floras and other useful works viz. Hooker (1872-1897), Haines (1921-1924).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study revealed that the Rewa is rich in ethnomedicobotanical diversity. The tribal people use locally available plant species for the treatment of human as well as livestock ailments and diseases (Dwivedi, 1999; Jain, 1962 and Maheshwari, 1986). Out of 28 species reported, *Abutilon indicum*, *Aegle marmelous*, *Madhuca longifolia* and *Terminalia arjuna* are used in veterinary medicine and rest are used in the treatment of human ailments. It is revealed that a number of plants are of wide

¹Corresponding author

application in day to day life of the tribal, especially for medicinal uses.

1. *Acacia catechu* (Mimosaceae)

Khair

Part used- Bark

Bark paste is applied in skin diseases. Warm decoction of entire wood about 50gm, boiled in a cup of water) is taken 2-3 times a day for 3-4 days to relieve throat infection and cough.

2. *Abutilon indicum* (Malvaceae)

Kakai

Part used- Leaf

Crushed leaf powder with wheat roti is given to cattle to treat diarrhoea.

3. *Achyranthes aspera* (Amaranthaceae)

Latjira

Part used- Whole plant and root

Whole plant extract is given orally once as antidote in snakebite. Root decoction is used in stomach pain, fever and cough. Six inches long piece of root is taken, its one end is tied with thread, which is held in hand, and the other end is placed at the mouth of the uterus. The child, dead or alive will come out at the time of delivery. The root is immediately taken out to avoid uterus damage.

4. *Aegle marmelos* (Rutaceae)

Bel

Part used- Leaf, fruit and root bark

Leaf ash is used to kill of animal wound worms. Ripe fruits are used in summer season for cooling and stomach disorders. Root bark is used in fever.

5. *Amaranthus spinosus* (Amaranthaceae)

Atelichauli

Part used- Leaf and root

Boiled leaves and roots are given to children as laxative. Fresh roots collected on saturday are given to chew daily in the morning for three days in spermatorrhoea.

6. *Argemone mixicana* (Papaveraceae)

Bharbhanda

Part Used- Latex and root

Latex used in dropsy, jaundice and eye troubles. Roots paste is applied in scorpion sting.

7. *Balanites aegyptiaca* (Simaroubaceae)

Ingua, Hingot

Part used- Fruit

Fruit pulp is taken once a day for a mouth to cure tuberculosis. Unripe fruits are used for whooping cough and skin trouble.

8. *Butea monosperma* (Fabaceae)

Chihula Palas

Part used- Leaf and flower

Fresh leaves coated with mustard oil and warmed are bandaged in rheumatic pain. Dried flowers soaked in water are used for taking bath for preventing sunstroke.

9. *Calotropis procera* (Asclepiadaceae)

Madar

Part used- Leaf and root

Ash of roots is used to remove pus from the fums. Ash of the leaves mixed with sugar is used to cure asthma and bronchitis.

10. *Clerodendrum phomides* (Verbenaceae)

Inni

Part used- Leaf

Leaf powder is taken twice a day with milk during fever. Leaf sap is dropped into ears to get relief from earache.

11. *Cordia dichotoma* (Ehertiaceae)

Lasora

Part used- Leaf and bark

Leaf decoction with wheat husk and salt is taken to check chest congestion and influenza. Powdered stem bark with salt is given thrice a day for a week to treat body pain.

12. *Dalbergia sisoo* (Fabaceae)

Sheesham

Part used- Bark

Powdered bark is given with water to relieve body pain and decoction is given twice a day in diarrhoea.

13. *Elephantopus scaber* (Asteraceae)

Batisjadi

Part used- Whole plant and leaf

Plants used as a tooth brush to cure toothache. Leaves are crushed and mixed with salt. The mixture is taken with curd to check desentery.

14. *Ficus virens* (Moraceae)

Pakri

Part used- Bark

Bark decoction is used as gargle and as a wash for ulcers.

Bark extract are given to cure leucorrhoea.

15. *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* (Malvaceae):

Gurhal

Part used- Flower

Flower extract is used in urinary problems. Fresh flower is chewed thrice a day to cure bronchitis and whooping cough staminal column is used as diuretic in kidney troubles.

16. *Litsea glutinosa* (Lauraceae)

Maidal

Part used- Bark

Stem bark aqueous extract is given to cure blood urine and leucorrhoea, paste mixed with common salt is applied externally in bone fractures.

17. *Malvastrum coromandelianum* (Malvaceae)

Bariara

Part used- Seed

Dried seed powder with sugar is given twice a day with water to cure premature ejaculation of semen due to erotica.

18. *Madhuca longifolia* (Sapotaceae)

Mahua

Part used- Leaf, fruit and flower

Leaves are warmed in mustard oil and tied over the testes in case of hydrocele. Fruits are cooked with milk and given daily for strength and vitality. Flowers decoction is given to calf to expel stomach worms.

19. *Orozylum indicum* (Bignoniaceae)

Part used- Leaf

Leaf decoction is used in diarrhoea and rheumatism.

20. *Peristrophe paniculata* (Acanthaceae)

Chachera

Part used- Whole plant and root

Whole plant paste mixed with common salt is warmed and applied externally in bone fractures and sprains. Root powder is given with water twice a day to check fever.

21. *Puiranjiva roxburghii* (Euphorbiaceae)

Patjhi

Part used- Fruit

Dried fruits beaded in a garland is put on the neck to cure skin allergy.

22. *Ricinus communis* (Euphorbiaceae)

Rendi

Part used- Leaf and seed

Leaves coated with mustured oil and wormed are applied externally on the chest and stomach during pumesnial fever. Luke warm seed oil is massaged over joints in rheumatism.

23. *Shorea robusta* (Dipterocarpaceae)

Sal

Part used- Gum

Gum mixed with curd is given in dysentery.

24. *Sida cordata* (Malvaceae)

Baharbuta

Part used- Leaf and root

Leaf decoction is used for healing cuts. Roots juice with powdered *Piper nigrum* (Kali mirch) is given twice or thrice daily as aphrodisiac.

25. *Syzygium cuminii* (Myrtaceae)

Jamun

Part used- Bark

Fresh juice of bark is given with goat's milk in diarrhoea.

26. *Terminalia arjuna* (Combretaceae)

Kahua

Part used- Leaf and root

Leaves of kahua, Jamun (*Syzygium cuminii*), and Khair (*Acacia calechu*) pounded together is given to cattle for treatment of diarrhoea. Root paste is applied on headache. Tender leaf paste with sugar and milk in given once a day for 20 days for the treatment of Spermatorrhoea.

27. *Withania somnifera* (Solanaceae)

Ashwagandha

Part used- Root

Dry root powder with cow's milk is taken daily for one month to increase the fertility in women for conception.

28. *Ziziphus oenoplia* (Rhamnaceae)

Jharberi

Part used- Fruit

Ripe fruits are eaten to check dysentery and get relief of burning sensation during urination.

REFERENCES

Abraham Z., 1981. Glimpses of Indian Ethnobotany, Oxford & Publishin Co., New Delhi:308-320.

- Dwivedi S.N., 1999. Traditional healthcare among tribals of Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh with special reference to conservation of endangered and valuable species, *J Econ Tax Bot.*, **23**(2): 315-320.
- Dwivedi S.N. and Pandey A., 1992. A Ethnomedicinal studies on wild and indigenous species of Vindhya Plateau, Vol. **1** Herbaceous flora, *J Econ. Tax. Bot., Addl Ser.*, **10**:143-150.
- Haines H.H., 1921-1924. The Botany of Bihar and Orissa, 6 Parts. London. Reprinted 1961, **1-3** Vols. Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta.
- Hooker J.D., (Hook. F.) (Ed.), 1872-1897. The Flora of British India. Vol. **1-72**. Reeve and Co. London. Reprinted 1973. Bishan Singh Mahindra Pal Singh. Dehradun and periodical experts, Delhi.
- Jain S.K., 1962. Studies in Ethnobotany- Plants used in medicine by tribals of Madhya Pradesh. *Bull Reg Res Lab Jammu*, **1**(2):126-128.
- Maheshwari J.K., 1986. Kalakoti B.S. & Brijlal, Ethnomedicine of Bhil tribes of Jhabua District, Madhya Pradesh, *Ancient Sci Life*, **5**:255-261.
- Oomanchanl M. and Shrivastava J.L., 1996. Flora of Jabalpur, Scientific Publishers, Jodhpur..
- Prasad R.C. and Tulsidasa's R., 1994. Motilal Banarasidas Publishers, New Delhi.
- Sharma., 2003. Shrimadvalmikiya Ramayana, Gita Press, Gorakhpur.
- Varghese E., 1996. Applied Ethnobotany, A case Study among the Khairas of Central India. Deep Publication, New Delhi.