

ROLE OF PLANTS AS INTOXIFICANTS & MASTICATORIES IN KARAULI DISTRICT

Dr. Mahesh Chand Meena and Dr. Vikram S. Meena

1. Dr. Mahesh Chand Meena

Assistant Professor

Department of Botany,

Rajesh Pilot Govt. PG College, Lalsot (Dausa)

2. Dr. Vikram S. Meena

Assistant Professor

Department of Botany,

Govt. PG College, Karauli

Abstract

Intoxification plays an important role in the life of tribal world. Many species of angiospermic plants are used as intoxicants and masticatories which are used by the tribals of the district under study. The important intoxicification observed in the Karauli region are liquor and tribal people like Meena, Gadia Lohar and other nomadic tribals like, Sansi, Bagaria are engaged in liquor preparation since time immemorial. Intoxification is not only essential but of paramount importance in tribal life. Approximately 6 plant species are used for intoxicification. *Acacia nilotica*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Calotropis procera*, *Datura innoxia*, *Cannabis sativa*, *Nicotiana tabacum* are important plant species. Ten plant species are consumed as masticatories by tribals viz. *Cordia gharaf*, *Holoptelia integrifolia*, *Piper betel*, *Tamarindus indica* and *Zizyphus nummularia*.

Key Words:- Intoxification, Masticatories, Wild Plant Species, Tribes, Karauli, Rajasthan

Introduction

In Rajasthan which is one of the largest state of India, a lot of work has been done in few decades regarding subject. A complete picture of folk medicine, being practiced by the rural and tribal practitioner has been given by Joshi (1989). The districts Karauli is having diversified

climate and physiographic condition which is enriched with biodiversity and various, tribals and ethnic groups i.e. Meena, Bhils, Godia Lohar, Sansi, Kalbelia, Banjara etc.

District Karauli has got an abundance of natural greenery and scenic beauty and traversed by Aravali ranges in the area. The general topography of the area is partly flat having plains while remaining regions are occupied by undulating slopes and hills of Aravali Mountains. Subdivision Karauli as got some what hilly area but rest of the part of district is occupied by fertile plains the soil is light and sandy, the 'Dang' region of district Karauli is full of hillocks and rivers which are famous for there lengthy and deep ravines.

The average altitude of the area is approximately 400-600 Meter above M.S.L. (Mean Sea Level). The region is located from 26°3' to 26°49' northern latitudes and 76°35' to 77°26' eastern longitudes. The area is situated in the Eastern part of Rajasthan state and adjoining with neighboring state of Madhya Pradesh. Its western limits touch the Dausa district, south western sides Sawaimadhopur, north-east and north-west boundaries touch to Bharatpur district of Rajasthan. River Chambal runs in subtehsil Mandrayal from south to eastern direction and determines the boundary between Rajasthan and M.P. The total area of the district is near about 5070 square KMs. and approximately its covers 1.5 percent of total Rajasthan. Total population of district according to the census of 2001 was 1209665 (651998) males and (557667) females of this the Urban population was 171945.

Tribals are the oldest ethnological groups which live away from the civilized world, preferably in forest areas, follows primitive customs and occupation, have, common language and social culture and are economically dependent on each other. India has over 67 million of 227 ethnic group. In habiting in about 5000 forest villages or leading of numeric life in the forever. About people belonging to 550 tribal which communities representing 7.78 per cent of

the total population of the country, It is spread over 18.7% of total area of the country. They have typical problems of their own due to their socioeconomic status, environment, historical experiences and extent of political articulations, On account of these factors ethnically as well as economically and culturally, the tribals are at different stages of socio-psychological orientation and politico-economic development, The total tribal population of Rajasthan state is 70, 97, 706 which is 12.44 percent of the total population of this state 3, 42, 239. The tribals of Rajasthan constitute about 8.00% of the total population of tribals in India (Census, 2001). There is a significant percentage (53%) of Meena tribal in Rajasthan. The literacy of Tribals in Rajasthan is 10.27% only

The tribes commonly presently in Karauli district are Meena, Nomadic tribes viz. Gadia Lohar, Banjara, Kalbelia, Kanjar, Bhat, Sansi, Nut, Bauri and Bagri are also present in Karauli district. The Meenas represent the largest tribe present in the district.

Meena tribe

Meena tribe represents about 50 percent population of tribals in Rajasthan. According to 'Meena Puran' the word "Meena" originated from fish and consider their ancestors as fishermen, the word Meena is synonyms to matshya (fish) in Sanskrit language. Some authors believe that they are derived from Hoons or Sithiyans. But in the scientific manner Meena are the photo-Draw ids (Mina, 1998). However, the remains of Mohan-Jodaro prove the existence of this community before Aryans in India. The substances of Meena are closely allied to Rajpoots.

Unlike other tribal communities, Meena follow joint family system. The house of Meena are rather big, built up of mud, timber and grasses. A group of 10-12 houses form a 'Dhanni'. Prosperous people however construct their houses with stomas and tribes like advances people.

Although some of the tribals of the area have acquired new agricultural techniques considerably and grow new fast growing varieties including local land varieties adopted to specific local environment. These local varieties are more palatable and tasty. Jain *et al.* (1990), Das (1990), Doshi (1995), Goud and Pullaian (1996), Bajpayee and Dixit (1996), Arora (1997), Katewa *et al.* (1999) and Javier *et al.* (2005) gave detailed information about the wild plants used as source of food by tribals and local people.

Material and Methods

The present study has been carried out by performing field visit through advance planning, arrangement and preparation, several attempt were being made to interview men and women of different castes, age, and origin in order to collect valuable information. We have definite planned about particular place which is hot spot of district Karauli.

Results

The important intoxicification observed in the Karauli region are liquor and tribal people like Meena, Gadia Lohar and other nomadic tribals like, Sansi, Bagaria are engaged in liquor preparation since time immemorial.

Meena are following the traditional and crude method for preparation the Liquor (Deshi Daroo). Barks of different plants are used in preparation of liquor (Deshi Daroo) :

S. No.	Plants	Usable part
1.	<i>Acacia nilotica</i>	(Root bark)
2.	<i>Acacia leucophloea</i>	(Root bark)
3.	<i>Albizia lebeck</i>	(Stem bark)
4.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	(Root bark)
5.	<i>Balanite aegyptica</i>	(Stem bark)
6.	<i>Butea monosperma</i>	(Root bark)
7.	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	(Seeds)

8.	<i>Datura spp.</i>	(Seeds & Roots)
9.	<i>Ziziphus spp.</i>	(Root barks)
10.	<i>Saccharum officinales</i>	(Jaggery)

Hukka, Chilam, Sulpi and Bidi:

- Intoxification plays an important role in the life of tribal world.
- Offering hukka, chilam, bidi, sulpi is sign of hospitality and brotherhood among the tribals.

Plant used made up of Hukka

Hollow Bamboo, Dalbergia sissoo, Anogeissus pendula, Acacia nilotica.

Sulpi or Chilam : It is believed that 'chilam' of *Calotropis procera* leaves helps in curing asthma.

Other leaves of various plants used to made chilam are *Ficus religiosa, Calotropis gigantia, Datura innoxia.*

Bidi : Tobacco is rolled in leaves of *Diospyros melanoxylon.*

Other plants used in intoxicification are as :

S. No.	Plants	Usable parts
1.	<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i>	Leaves
2.	<i>Diospyros melanoxylan</i>	Leaves
3.	<i>Calotropis procera</i>	Leaves
4.	<i>Datura innoxia</i>	Leaves & Seeds
5.	<i>Canabis sativa</i>	Dried and Fresh leaves
6.	<i>Datura metal</i>	Dried seeds & leaves
7.	<i>Balanite aegyptiaca</i>	Dried fruit

Plants as Masticatories

Some wild species are consumed as masticatories by tribals in the area of Karauli district as :

Acacia nilotica: Tender fresh leaves chewed

Cardia gharaf: Bark chewed like pan (Beetal)

Piper betal (Nagar pan): Fresh leaves smeared with lime and katha (heart wood product of *Acacia catechu*) with nuts of *Areca catechu* is chewed.

Tamarindus indica (Imli): Seeds are chewed by children and especially pregnant ladies.

Cyprus rotendus: Tuber of roots is chewed by cowmen.

Holoptelia integrifolia: Seeds are chewed by children.

Zizyphus nummalaria: Fruits chewed.

References

1. Arora, R.K. 1997. Native food plants of tribals in north-eastern India. In S.K. Jain (Ed.) Contribution to Indian Ethnobotany. 3rd ed. Scientific Publishers, Jodhpur.
2. Bajpayee, K.K. and Dixit, G. 1996. Ethnobotanical studies of food stuffs of tribals of Tarai region, Uttar Pradesh, Jour. Econ. Taxon. Bot. Addl. Ser. 12: 128-132.
3. Das, S.N. 1990. Floristic and ethnobotanical studies on Sawai Madhopur district, Rajasthan. Ph.D. Thesis, Jodhpur Univ., Jodhpur.
4. Doshi, S.L. 1995. Anthropology of Food and Nutrition. Rawat Publications, Jaipur/New Delhi: 1-246.
5. Goud, P.S. and Pullaiah, T. 1996. Ethnobotany of Kurnool district, some wild plants used as food. Jour. Econ. Taxon. Bot. Addl. Ser. 12: 224-227.
6. Jain, S.K.; Sinha, B.K. and Saklani, A. 1990. Some lesser known food plants among aboriginals in India. In Posey, D. & W.L. Overal (Eds.) Ethnobiology implications and applications (Proc. 1st Intern. Cong. Ethnobiol) Geoldimus. Nat. Hist. Belem, Brazil.

7. Javier, T.; Higinio, P. and Ramon, M. 2005. Wild food plants traditionally used in the province of Madrid, Central Spain. *Jour. Econ. Bot.* 59(2): 122-136.
8. Joshi, P. 1989. Herbal drugs in tribal Rajasthan from child birth to child care. *Ethnobotany* 1: 77-87.
9. Katewa, S.S.; Nag, A. and Guria, B.D. 1999. Ethnobotanical studies on wild plants for food from the Aravallis hills of South-east Rajasthan. *Jour. Econ. Taxon. Bot.* 23(1-2): 259-264.

