ETHANOBOTANICAL SURVEY OF MEDICINAL PLANTS OF MURBAD TALUKA, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA.

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Abstract: **Plant biodiversity refers to total of all variety and variability of plants in a particular area. plant diversity of india is enriched with various medicinal plants which are still unexplored. ethnobotany is the study of regional plants and its particular uses through the traditional knowledge of local tribes which has greater scope and applications in herbal medicine. there is lack of scientific knowledge in tribal community, so they are completely dependent on plants for survival and for treatment of diseases and disorder. in present study, various ethnomedicinal information was collected from local tribes of murbad taluka and their uses for several diseases were enlisted. the study revealed the importance of sacred groves in conservation of diversity.**

key-words: **ethnobotany, plant diversity, medicinal plants, sacred groves.**

I. Introduction

Ethnobotany is a branch of science which is defined as the interaction between plants and humans. the relationship between plants and humans is not only for food, clothing and shelter but also includes the traditional uses of plants for medicines and health treatment. although the term ethnobotany was used for first time by an american botanist john. w. harsh, but the indigenous knowledge of plants is as old as human communities. the ethnomedicine is the single easily reached and affordable therapy available also it is non-nacrotic, having no side-effects, hence, ethnomedicines have increasing demand in both developed and developing countries.

The current study aimed to report the indigenous medicinal knowledge of plants and herbal remedies used as folk medicines in murbad taluka. ethnobotanical knowledge is one of the preciuos culture heritage part of an area that depicts the lifecycle and relationship of local community with their environment and their mutual interaction has profound importance for long term survival of people and biodiversity in an ecosystem. medicinal plants provide health security to millions of rural people all over the world. according to who estimates over 80% of people in developing countries depend on traditional medicines for their primary health needs.

Following are the results of the ethnomedicinal survey:


(a)


(b)


(c)

(d)

(e)


(f)

(h)

(a).*Cieba insignis* (White floss silk tree**)**

Divison : Spermatophyta
Sub-division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Malvales
Family: Malvaceae
Genus: *Ceiba*
Species: *insignis*

Plant part used : Bark
Used for treatment of: Kidney Stone
How to use: The bark dried to make a powder. That powder is used to to treat the kidney stones.

(b).Bombax ceiba **(Red silk cotton tree)**

Division: Spermatophyta
Sub-division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Malvales
Family: Malvaveae
Genus: *Bombax*
Species: *ceiba*

Plant part used: Root
Used for treatment of : Kidney stone.
How to use: The extract of root is made by crushing. That extract used to treat the disease.

(c).*Ficus glomerata* **(Indian fig tree)**

Division: Spermatophyta
Sub-division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Rosales
Family: Moraceae
Genus: *Ficus*
Species:. *Glomerata*

Plant part used: Bark
Used for treatment of: Piles
How to use: The epidermis of the bark removed and a boiling extract is made. That extract is used to treat the disease.

(d).Riccinus communis **(Castor plant)**

Division: Spermatophyta
Sub-division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Unisexuales
Family: Euphorbiaceae
Genus: *Riccinus*
Species: *communis*

Plant part used: Leaves
Used for treatment of: Jaundice
How to use: The leaf extract is made by crushing. That extract is used as medicine for the treatment of jaundice.

***(e).Tinospora cordifolia* (Heart-leaved moonseed)**

Division: Spermatophyta
Sub-division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Ranunculales
Family: Menispermaceae
Genus: *Tinospora*
Species: *T. cordifolia*

Plant part used: Stem
Used for treatment of: Jaundice
How to use: The stem is dried to make a powder. This powder is used as Medicine to treat the disease.

***(f).Mangifera indica* (Mango tree)**

Division: Spermatophyta
Sub-division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Sapindales
Family: Anacardiaceae
Genus: *Mangifera*
Species: *M. indica*

Plant part used: Bark
Used for treatment of: Excess menstruation.
How to use: The extract is made by crushing. That extract is used to treat the disease.

***(g).Carica papaya* (Papaya plant)**

Division: Spermatophyta
Sub-division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Violales
Family: Caricaceae
Genus: *Carica*
Species: *papaya*

Plant part used: Leaves
Used for treatment of : To recover WBC count.
How to use: The extract of leaves is made and it is to treat the disease.

II. Materials and Methods

Data collection from the local tribes area near Murbad taluka. The materials was also collected from the visit to local tribes in selected area of Murbad taluka.

Results

Ethnomedicinal studies are significant for the discovery of new crude drugs from indigenous medicinal plants. The tribals depend mostly on forest flora for meeting their day to day needs and primary health care. The ethnomedicinal information which was collected reveals that various tribal and local plants are useful for the treatment of various diseases and disorder. In some plants only selected plant parts are used as medicine and in some cases the whole plant is useful.

Discussion

The study of ethanomedicinal plants of Murbad taluka provide very useful and interesting results. The concept of plant uses differs among different people, ethanobotany has become a more important subject. The traditional healers known by different names in different parts of country. The result of the present study shows the findings of the interaction with 'Thakar' tribe of Murbad region. From the present study it is interesting to note that the tribe under study possesses vast knowledge on ethanobotanically important plant species and most amazing fact is that the medicine-men have sharp knowledge about the classification of plant and they can easily distinguish between herbs, shrubs and trees(reference:chapter-7; Result and discussion of ethanobotanical study). From the study we got a long list of ethanomedicinal plants such as Carica papaya, Solanum surrattense, Abelmoschus manihot, Mangifera indica and many more. Out of which we have studied only few plants viz., Ceiba insignis, Bombax Ceiba, Ficus glomerata, Carica papaya, Mangifera indica, Riccinus communis, Tinospora cordifolia; for their pharmaceutical uses. We found that the data and information about the plants listed in our study is different from the other similar studies.Rasingam, 2012; Rekha and Kumar, 2014; Mahadkar and Calvin, 2011; these researchers also have studied the wild medicinal products used by the tribes of Maharashtra. They also stressed the revival of this knowledge(reference: Journal of Medicinal Plants Studies; www.PlantsJournal.com).

Conclusion

This study provides information regarding the traditional uses of plant wealth which can be utilized in integrated tribal development. Ethnomedicinal studies play an important role in the development of new drugs and becoming increasingly important in defining strategies and actions for conservation or recuperation of residual forests. Important medicinal plants, reported in this study have been screened for pharmaceutical activities. The ethnobotanical studies throw light on certain unknown useful plants and new use of many known plants which can be utilized for developing new sources for some plant products and some agro based industries.

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