



ETHNOMEDICINAL INFORMATION OF SOME MEDICINAL PLANTS USED BY TRADITIONAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER AND VILLAGERS OF AMRAVATI, MAHARASHTRA.

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Abstract - An ethnobotanical study was carried out in some villages of Amravati district and Melghat forest. The study comprises information on traditional formulations, mode of use and the ailment for which they are effective. In the present investigation nine medicinal plant species were reported for the treatment for gastrointestinal disorder. The most significant plants used in the gastrointestinal disorder by most of the herbal healers in the district are *Bombax ceiba*, *Desmodium gangeticum*, *Euphorbia indica*, *Helicteris isora*, *Holarrhena antidysenterica* and *Ventilago denticulate*.

Key words – Ethnobotany, medicinal plants, Traditional practitioner, Amravati

INTRODUCTION

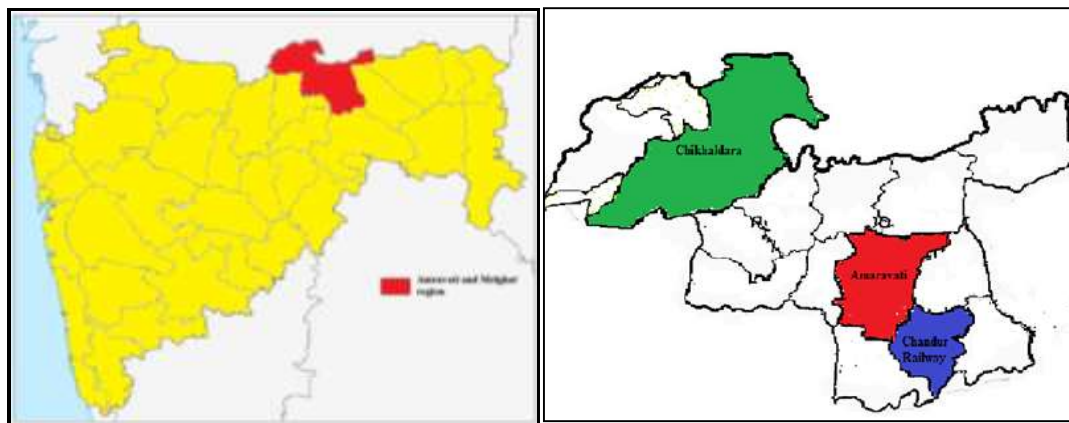
Ethnobotanical studies are expected to provide new material for ever expanding pharmaceutical industry (Gupta, 2011). In recent years, use of ethnobotanical information in medicinal plant research has gained considerable attention in segments of the scientific community (Heinrich, 2000). Interest in medicinal plants has been fuelled by the rising costs of prescription drugs in the maintenance of personal health and well-being and the bioprospecting of new plant-derived drugs (Hoareau and DaSilva, 1999). Historically all medicinal preparations were derived from plants, whether in the simple form of plant parts or in the more complex form of crude extracts, mixtures, etc. The primary benefits of using plant-derived medicines are that they are relatively safer than synthetic alternatives, offering profound therapeutic benefits and more affordable treatment.

Human activities such as deforestation and farming risk the availability of medicinal plants of medical importance; therefore, there is a need to document knowledge and information on these plants. Structured questionnaires, which involved oral interviews and discussions, were used to gather information from the selected herbalists (Mutai *et al.* 2021). Keeping this in view the present study deals with the collection of ethnomedicinal information of some medicinal plants of Amravati area.

Material and Method:

Ethnobotanical information on plants was collected from some areas of Melghat forest and Amravati district. The plant species were collected, identified with help of various floras (Dhore, 1986; Naik, 1981) and documented along with the data on ethnobotanical uses gathered from tribal chiefs and medicinal practitioners of villages. Information of medicinal properties of plant species has collected through interview with local inhabitants.

The information was obtained through interviews to various informants. The plants have been enlisted with botanical name, family to which it belongs, parts used, vernacular names, botanical names. Botanical names, family to which it belongs, local names, parts used and ethnomedicinal preparation and their uses were noted.



Geographic location of the sampling area

Enumeration

Andrographis paniculate (Burm. f.) Wall. ex Nees. **Acanthaceae**

Local name - Kalmegh, Kadukirayat

Part used - Leaf, Stem, Root, Whole plant

Leaves are shade dried, powdered and mixed with boiled rice and cow's milk 50 ml mixture taken orally thrice a day after food for 20 days in snake bite.

Leaves paste is applied externally on bitten site of snake, beetle and scorpion.

Leaves powder mixed with cow or goats milk is taken orally to treat diabetes.

Leaves paste mixed with paste of black pepper is given in the morning once in a day for 7 days in case of liver complaints, malaria, fever, jaundice and stomach pain.

Equal amount of dried root and turmeric with water is applied for itching and skin rash.

The whole plant extract of water is used to wash the infected part in skin troubles.

Bombax ceiba (Linn.) **Bombacaceae**

Local name - Katsawar, Semal

Part used - Root, leaves, Bark, flowers, young fruits and seeds

The root paste mixed with cow milk in 1:3 ratio is prescribed to regulate the menstrual cycle and against leucorrhoea.

The root powder (5-10g) mixed with 5 ml of honey is suggested to take orally twice a day in weak memory.

To cure wound the fresh root paste is applied externally.

In pyrexia 50-100ml root infusion is taken orally once a day.

To cure anaemia the juice of bark mixed in a little honey is given internally.

The gum secreted from bark is used to treat diarrhoea, dysentery, menorrhoea and demulcent.

Flowers and fruits are used to treat snake bite.

Desmodium gangeticum (Linn. DC.) **Fabaceae**

Local name - Salparni, Salwan, Dirghamul

Part used - Root, Leaves

The water extract of root is given orally for cough and cold.

Decoction of roots and seeds is taken in case of diarrhoea or in any stomach related problems.

The leaves (2-3g) boiled with 5-7 tulsi, neem (5-7) leaves and black pepper in water and filter. Decoction is taken twice a day for curing skin diseases.

Decoction of leaves and juice of root is given twice/thrice a day to cure diarrhoea and dysentery.

Leaf paste mixed with *Aloe vera* applied on hair to cure hair fall.

The paste of leaves is also useful in ulcer.

Euphorbia indica (Lamk.) **Euphorbiaceae**

Local name - Gulabi Dudhi

Part used - Whole plant, Leaf and Latex

The whole plant decoction is taken to treat diarrhoea and dysentery.

The grounded whole plant is used for bathing to treat oedema.

The whole plant extract (5-10 ml) is taken orally twice a day after each meal to cure gastrointestinal or stomach problems.

In sore throat problem the whole plant decoction is used for gargle.

The 5ml extract of whole plant mixed with honey is taken orally twice a day to promote lactation.

The fresh leaves extract (25-30ml) is taken orally twice a day in diarrhoea.

The leaf paste is applied externally to treat skin diseases.

The latex is used as a cream and a caustic on skin lesions

***Helicteris isora* (Linn.) Malvaceae**

Local name- Muradsheng

Part used - Fruit, Seed, Stem, Bark and Leaves

Few drops of stem bark decoction are dropped in ears in case of ear ache.

The stem is hardly heated many times in water and a spoonful of it is administered to children for flatulence up to cure.

The pods are fried and are given to children which are best for killing internal worms.

The fruit powder decoction is given twice a day to treat diarrhoea and dysentery.

The water seed extract is applied for body pain.

The root juice or decoction is prescribed for diarrhoea, dysentery, griping pain in bowels.

***Holarrhena antidysenterica* (L.Wall. A.ex. DC.) Apocynaceae**

Local name - Kuda, Kutaja

Part used - Stem bark, Root and Seed

The powder of bark and leaves taken with milk to get rid of pain in bone fracture and the paste of bark is also applied externally for the same.

The seed powder and bark taken orally with water in dysentery, diarrhoea and fever.

The powder of bark is applied externally in piles and in skin trouble.

For veterinary uses the bark powder along with buttermilk is used in bone fracture.

The bark paste with water warmed and applied on wound.

The powder of bark is used to kill worms in children.

***Mytenus emarginata* (WILLD. DING) Celastraceae**

Local name - Bharati

Part used - Root, Stem, Stem bark and Leaves

The root is used in gastro intestinal troubles, especially to cure dysentery.

Pulverized leaves are mixed with milk and given to children for killing stomach worm.

The tender leaves are chewed and the juice is swallowed slowly thrice a day to cure jaundice.

A decoction of the leafy twig is used as a mouth wash to relieve toothache.

The mixture of leaf ash and ghee is an ointment used for sores.

Root decoction is used in fever, asthma and rheumatism.

Young shoots of stem help for treating mouth ulcer.

The bark powder mixed with mustard oil is used to kill lice in the hair.

Ash of leaves is used to heal up wound by giving cooling effect.

The powder of fruits is taken with water early in morning to purify blood.

***Sida acuta* (Burm. F.) Malvaceae**

Local name- Chikna, Bala

Part used - Leaf, Root, Whole plant

The fresh root is chewed in case of dysentery.

The fresh roots used in malnutrition.

The juice of leaves or in form of crushed leaves are applied on venomous snake bite as antidotes.

The juice of the root is applied to cure wounds.

The whole plant extract is taken orally twice a day for one week to treat fever, headache, diarrhoea and dysentery.

The juice of leaves is mixed with vinegar to make a digestive remedy.

***Ventilago denticulate* (Willd. In Ores. Naturf.) Rhamnaceae**

Local name - Raktarohita, Raktchandan

Part used - Stem bark, Root

The stem bark of is mixed with bark of *Syzygium cumini* and crushed together in water and extract of about 15-20 ml is given orally twice a day to cure dysentery.

The bark paste mixed with ginger in 4:2 is applied externally in bone crack.

The stem bark powder is given with water in night blindness.

Stem juice is also used in rheumatism, sprains and stomach ulcers.

Two drops of root juice are put in ear in pus formation.

Tribal people use root juice externally as antidote for snakebite.

*Andrographis paniculate* Burm.f.*Bombax ceiba* Linn.*Desmodium gangeticum* Linn.DC.*Euphorbia indica* Lamk.*Helicteris isora* Linn.*Holarrhena antidysenterica* L.Wall.*Mytenus emarginata* WILLD . DING*Sida acuta* Burm.*Ventilago denticulata* Willd.

Result and Discussion

A total of 9 plant species belonging to 9 families were reported to be used against various health problems in Amravati district of Maharashtra. Leaves were the most utilized plant part with decoction as the major mode of herbal recipe preparation. The most reported uses were for gastrointestinal problems, followed by dermatological problems. The most commonly used plant parts were leaves, followed by roots, fruits and stems and they were most commonly ordered as a paste, decoction, infusion, juice, or taken orally.

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