



Noteworthy Traditional Remedies for Antivenin Practices in Jalgaon District (Maharashtra)

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Abstract:

The present paper deals with the information on the traditional uses of plants and plant products used as antidote against snake bite and scorpion sting by tribal people of jalgaon district (Maharashtra). The data is gathered from the tribes such as Bhil, Pawara, Tadvi, Vanjara etc., The tribal people uses juice, extract, latex, infusion, paste and slurry prepared from various plant parts and products. During the investigation about 21 different plant species from 18 families have been reported, of which 10 species against snake bite and 8 species against scorpion sting while 3 species are found commonly useful on both snake bite and scorpion sting.

Key words: Antivenin practices, Jalgaon District.

Introduction:

The use of plants and their parts is not a subject of interest, since the relationship between man and plants is in practice from time immemorial. But, due to the intrusion of modern civilization in the countryside, most of the people of the globe here abandoned the idea of traditional uses of plants in their daily life. The object of present study is to record mouth to ear knowledge transcended from generation to generation in tribal communities. In India, this study got proper attention only since the middle of 20th century (Jain, 1987, 1989). Of late, Patil and Patil (2006) and Pawar and Patil (2008) extended ethnobotanical investigations in north-western part of state. There are very few publications exclusively on this topic of (cf. Bhamare, 1995, Samwatsar and Diwangi, 1996, Reddy *et al*, 1996). Some plant species employed against snake bite and scorpion sting from Jalgaon District are being communicated in this paper.

Methodology:

The ethnobotanical surveys were carried out over all 15 tehsils. Field trips were organized in such a way as to cover different tribal hamlets and forest pockets at regular intervals in different seasons. Information about these underutilized species was gathered through personal interviews of local medicine-men, Bhagats, farmers, traditional healers and elder knowledgeable informants. The data was cross-checked in

different visits. To authenticate information plant specimens have been collected, preserved and housed in Rani Laxmibai Mahavidyalaya, Parola. District Jalgaon. Plants are arranged alphabetically by their botanical names, family, local plant names, part/s used, and their administration.

Discussion:

The present paper communicates information on the explorations of antivenin plants used specially for snake-bite and scorpion-sting. There are reports on exclusive plant based antidotes for snake bites, scorpion stings and bites of dogs, other insects or animals from Maharashtra. (Pawar and Patil, 2006; Bhamare, 1995; Bhogankar and Kadam, 2007). The tribal people of the district generally reside in forest areas often observe the positive effects of their formulations. They have strong belief in their own recipes. The present paper adds ethnomedicinal claims on the same line. Although the type of recipes was uniform, the dosage pattern varied according the severity of the ailment and age of the sufferers. The recipes are prepared mostly from single species. Many valuable drugs of today came into use through the study of ethnomedicines or folk remedies. The above crude drugs, however, should be subjected for further chemical and pharmacological investigations and compliments with the achievements of modern medicine. These will obviously help increase their efficacy and test toxicity, if any.

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Table I : Plant species used against Snake bites and scorpion stings

Sr. No.	Plant Name & Family	Local Name	Part Used	Recipe & Administration
1.	<i>Acacia polycantha</i> Willd. Mimosaceae	Ghubeta	Stem bark	Stem bark paste is applied on swelling caused on account of snake bite.
2.	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> L. Rutaceae	Bel	Roots	Root extract is administered as an antidote against snake bite.
3.	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Roxb.ex DC.) Wall. ex. Guill. Combretaceae	Dhamoda	Stem bark	Stem bark is made into paste by chewing and applied on injury of scorpion sting.
4.	<i>Amorphophallus commutatus</i> (Schott.) Engl. Araceae	Kolha-Kand	Rhizomes	Paste applied after scorpion sting.
5.	<i>Apluda mutica</i> L. Poaceae	Tikhdi, Shipi	Leaves	Leaves paste applied on injuries caused after snake bite or scorpion sting.
6.	<i>Argemone Mexicana</i> L. Papaveraceae	Bilait	Roots	Root juice, about 20 ml, taken orally after scorpion sting.
7.	<i>Aristolochia bracteolate</i> Retz. Aristolochiaceae	Gidhan	Roots	Root infusion, about a cup, administered after snake bite.
8.	<i>Balanites aegyptica</i> (L.) Del. Balanitaceae	Hinganbet	Fresh stem, fruits	(i) Stem paste applied after scorpion sting. (ii) Boiled fruits consumed after snake bite or scorpion sting.
9.	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Ait.) R.Br. Asclepiadaceae	Safed ruchkin	Plant latex	Milky latex is applied on the injury caused by scorpion sting.
10.	<i>Cassia tora</i> L. Caesalpiniaceae	Tarota	Roots	Paste applied after scorpion sting.
11.	<i>Cassine albens</i> (Retz.) Kosterm Celastraceae	Bhutkes	Roots	Decoction, about a glass, drunk after snake bite.
12.	<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (thumb) Matsumara & Nakai	Tarbij	Seeds	Powder applied on injury caused due to scorpion

	Cucurbitaceae			sting.
13.	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L. Cyperaceae	Nagarmotha	Leaves	Leaves chewed after snake bite.
14.	<i>Elettaria cardamomum</i> Maton Zingiberaceae	Vilayachi	Roots	Root paste applied after scorpion sting.
15.	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L. Moraceae	Wad	Tender leaves	Tender leaves paste is applied on injury caused by scorpion sting.
16.	<i>Holarrhena pubescence</i> (Linn.) Wall. Apocynaceae	Dudh kuda	Stem bark	Extract of stem bark is given orally. It results in vomiting and reduces snake bite poison.
17.	<i>Kedrostis rostrata</i> (Rott) Cogn. Cucurbitaceae	Mirchykand	Roots	Root extract is given orally. It results in vomiting and reduces snake bite poison.
18.	<i>Momordica dioica</i> Roxb. Ex Willd Cucurbitaceae	Karle	Roots	Roots slurry is given orally against snake bite.
19.	<i>Nerium indicum</i> Mill. Apocynaceae	Kanher	Roots	Roots paste is applied on injury caused by snake bite and scorpion sting.
20.	<i>Tribulus lanuginosus</i> L. Zygophyllaceae	Gokharu	Roots, Leaves	Root paste and leaves consumed against snake bite.
21.	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> Kurz. Lythraceae	Dhait	Leaves	Leaves juice is used as antidote against snake bite.