

Plant folk medicines practiced in Deulgaon Raja tehsil of Buldhana District, (M.S.), India

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Abstract

Ethnobotany is a distinct branch of natural science dealing with various aspects such as medicine, religious, cultural, agriculture instruments, household implements and several other disciplines. The present paper reviews plants used ethnobotanically by the communities in Deulgaon Raja Tehsil of Buldhana district, Maharashtra, India. The results of ethno botanical forays in Deulgaon raja Tehsil of Buldhana district (M.S.) are commutated in this work. The information collected for 20 species belonging to 16 Angiosperm families. Peoples depends mostly on their surrounding plants communities for their day to day need including medicaments. Detailed studies on this folk drug are disserving to identity. The bioactive compounds and investigate their pharmacological effect. Plant species are documented here with their botanical names, local names, family and their ethnobotanical uses. The species were arranged family wise according to the flora of Maharashtra state.

Keywords: Ethnobotanical, Folk medicine, Deulgaon raja Buldhana District

1. Introduction

Ethnobotany deals with the study and evaluation of plant-human relations in all phases and the effect of plant environment on human society. Ethnobotany is considered as a branch of ethnobiology. The term "Ethnobotany" was coined by J. W. Harshberger in 1895 to indicate plants used by the aboriginals: From "ethno"-study of people and "botany" study of the plants. Ethnobotany is the study of how people of a particular culture and region make of use of indigenous plants. Ethnobotanists explore how plants are used for such things as food, shelter, medicine, clothing, hunting, and religious ceremonies.

Buldhana district is the western most district of the Vidarbha, of Maharashtra State. The administrative headquarters of the district is Buldhana since 1867, about 450 km from Mumbai. The name of this district is derived from the corrupt form Bhil-Thana i.e. the place of Bhils. Buldhana district is bounded on the north by Nimar district of Madhya Pradesh state, on the west by Jalgaon and Aurangabad districts, on the south by Jalna and Parbhani districts and Akola district to the east. The Buldhana district is located in the northern part of Maharashtra. Seventy percent of the population is rural. The main occupations of these people are dairy, farming and agriculture. Buldhana is the district headquarters. The famous salt water Lonar Crater is situated in this district, 90 kms from here. And, The Rajmata Jijabai's father Lakhuji Jadhav's native place is located at Sindkhed Raja which is important historical place in district also. The major crop of this district is cotton, jawar and groundnut. Several taxonomists and ethnobotanists continued to survey many areas of Maharashtra, Addition to Maharashtra Flora Vol. I (Singh N.P. & Karthikeyan S. 2000) ^[14], Flora of Buldhana District (Diwakar P.G. & Sharma B.D. 2000) ^[3]. Saxton and Sedgwick (1918), The ethnobotanical and floristic work, were carried out by Saxton, W. T. and Sedgwick, L. J. (1918), Earlier the works were carried out an ethnobotanical,

medicinal and floristic aspects of plants by a good number of workers.

2. Study Area

Buldhana district having hilly and forest area near the range of Gavilgad hills. The district is situated partly in Tapi basin and partly in Godavari basin. The total area of district is 9640 sq kms. The forest covers an area of 1151.83 sq. Km near about 11.92% of the district. The proposed study is carried out in Botha Forest of Dnyanganga Wildlife Sanctuary. There are two lakes within the 205 sq km sanctuary. The district is situated between 19°51' and 21°17' North latitudes and 75°57' and 76°49' East longitudes. The total population according to 2011 census is 2586298. The rural population is 2037398 (78.78%). The average rainfall is 946 mm in district. The rural commonly are Maratha, Kunabi, Rajput and Muslims etc. The adivasi commonly are Bhils, Bhilala, Pardhi, Banjara, Mahadeo koli, Naykada, Tadavi Bhil and many more. Their principal means of livelihood is agriculture and live stalk. The main crops raised are Maize, Wheat, Chana, Tur and Bajra.

3. Materials and Methods

Extensive field trips were organized during the year 2015-2016 in Deulgaon tehsil of Buldhana Districts. Tehsil areas and villages of such regions were frequently visited, to collect the information about the forest wealth and uses of plant species were noted. The information was gathered using various techniques such as open and structured interview, and discussion with local informants, such traditional healers and experienced village elders including midwives and by direct observations on the way different plant materials were being collected and used. Plants were identified using relevant scientific literature (Hooker 1872 – 1877; Cooke 1967 (Rpr.); Sharma *et al.* 1996; Naik 1998; Singh and Karthikeyan, 2000; Singh *et al.* 2001) ^[6, 2, 12, 9, 14, 13]. Voucher specimens are deposited in the Department of

Botany, Shri Vyankatesh Arts, Com & Sci College, Deulgaon Raja, Dist. Buldhana (M.S.). Valid scientific name, local name, Family and ethnomedicinally uses are described.

4. Observation and Results

The present study was primarily aimed to investigate the plants used by the local peoples of villages and in Tehsil area for their medicinal values. The present study has brought in to light 20 recipes of plant folk medicines represented by 20 plant species and 16 families used for a medicinal purposes by local peoples. A brief information including botanical name, family, local name, parts used and their medicinal value by the peoples is given in Table No.1. The local people and villagers are using these plants to cure many diseases i.e. the skin diseases, scabies, wounds, boils, vomiting, fatigue, blood purifier, antipreganancy, urinogenital disorder, toothache, menstrual disorder, hypertension, cough, diarrhea, dysentery, wound healing, diabetes, jaundice, unstroke, fever, headache etc. are the major diseases in the villages. They prepare the plant product as decoction, oral treatment, ointment etc. The extracts and the paste are the two main methods for treatments of diseases. The plant parts used for medical preparation were bark, roots, rhizome, leaves and whole plants. In some cases the whole plant including roots was utilized. The Deulgaon Raja Tehsil of Buldhana district are rich in medicinal plants, many are still not known to us. Present investigation indicates that study area of Deulgaon Raja Tehsil of Buldhana district is blessed with magnificent diversity of ethno-medicinal plants used to cure many diseases. The present study will give new incentive to the traditional system of healthcare.

5. Discussion and Conclusion

The information as a outcome of study will serve as a useful tools to botanist, herbal medicinal practitioners, foresters, as well as drug industry in tribal tracts for providing self-employment opportunities. Therefore, documentation of these plants is the only way to preserve the traditional knowledge of the plant resources endemic to this area.

6. List of ethnomedicinal plants with their uses.

1. *Abrus precatorius* L.

Local name: Gunj

Family: Papilionaceae

Use: Few leaves are eaten for the treatment of bronchitis.

2. *Abutilon indicum* (L.) Sweet.

Local name: Mudra, Atti.

Family: Malvaceae

Use: Leaf extract about half glass is drunk twice a day for body ache.

3. *Acacia nilotica* Willd. Ex. Del. Sub sp. Indica (Bth) Brenan.

Local name: Bhabhul.

Family: Mimosaceae.

Use: Decoction of thorns about 10 ml per day is used to stop hiccups.

4. *Aegle marmelos* (L.) Corr

Local name: Bel

Family: Rutaceae

Use: Extract of stem bark about two to three spoons with honey once a day prevent vomiting.

5. *Argimon Mexican* L.

Local name: Piwaladhotara

Family: Papaveraceae

Use: Leaves are applied locally to relieve body pain.

6. *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss

Local name: Nimb

Family: Meliaceae

Use: About two spoon of leaf juice is taken orally to avoid vomiting.

7. *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub.

Local name: Palas

Family: Papilionaceae

Use: Paste of stem bark is applied in case of swelling of the body.

8. *Cissus Quadrangularis* L.

Local name: Kand- wel.

Family: Vitaceae

Use: Infusion of a stem is applied locally on bone fractures.

9. *Clematis Heynei* M.A. Rao

Local name: Ranjai.

Family: Ranunculaceae.

Use: Extract of leaves about a spoon mixed with black pepper (*piper nigrum* L.) and some sugar stops vomiting.

10. *Gossypium herbaceum* L.

Local name: Kapas

Family: Malveceae

Use: Cotton fibers mixed in few leaves of *Acacia nilotica* (L.)

Del, Sub sp. *Indica* (Benth) Brenan and *Hibiscus rosasinensis* L. are cheaved for mouth ulcer at morning till cure.

11. *Limonia Acidissima* L.

Local name: Kavath.

Family: Rutaceae

Use: Equal amount of pulp of ripe fruit of this plant and *Tamarindus indica* L. are mixed homogeneously and sharbat is drunk once a day to stop hiccup.

12. *Pongamia Pinnata* (L.) pier.

Local name: Karanj

Family: Papilionaceae

Use: Half spoon of paste of leaves is given with warm water to purify mother milk.

13. *Polyalthia Longifolia* (Sonner) Thire

Local name: Ashok

Family: Annonaceae

Use: Powder of wood is applied locally on piles till cure.

14. *Portulaca Oleracea* L.

Local name: Ghol

Family: Portulacaceae.

Use: Extract of leaves about one spoonful mixed in suger is given daily for a week to relief instrangury

15. *Raphanus sativus* L.

Local name: Mula

Family: Brassicaceae

Use: Spoonful of root extract mixed in honey and spoonful amount of ginger (*Zinziberofficinale* Rose) thrice a day for three days to cure fever.

16. *Sapindus Emarginatus* Vahl.

Local name: Ritha

Family: Sapindaceae

Use: Past of seed is applied over the piles till cure.

17. *Salmalia malabarica* (DC.)

Local name: Lalsawar, katesawar

Family: Malvaceae.

Use: Decoction of stem bark about half cup is prepared in goat milk is drunk for general weakness.

18. *Tamaridus indica* L.

Local name: Chinch

Family: Caesalpiniaceae

Use: A cupful of ripe fruit extract is taken daily for foure days to treat colera.

19. *Terminalia chebula* Retz.

Local name: Hirda

Family: Combretaceae

Use: Paste of fruit boiled in cow urine is applied on swelling of body till cure.

20. *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lamk.

Local name: Bor

Family: Rhamnaceae.

Use: About half cup of decoction of fruit is taken twice a day for constipation.

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