



Ethnobotanical studies of some sacred plants of Jalgaon district, Maharashtra, India

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Abstract

The communication deals with 20 sacred plant species related with religious beliefs, taboos and other motifs of the tribal's and rurals. These plant species are used in the treatment of various diseases. List of these plant species has been given along with their family name, local name, mode of administration preparation of medicine and dosage in the present paper.

Keywords: ethnobotanical studies, sacred plants, Jalgaon district, Maharashtra

Introduction

Numerous references are available in literature where plants are treated as to the adobe of the gods. In the scriptures, these plants are mention of the *kalpvriksh*, indicating that worship of the trees is an Indian tradition. These plants are often grown along the temples and can be considered as "Sacred plants". Many of these sacred plants are multipurpose medicinal plants. They play a significant role in daily life.

Material and Methods

Jalgaon district is located on the Northern part of the State of Maharashtra, India. It lies between 20° and 21° north latitude and 74°55' and 76° 28'' east longitude. The observation is based on survey conducted on urban, rural and tribal areas of Jalgaon. Mostly the temple groves in this region are visited. Information was obtained through interview with Poojaries, Maharajas, Bhagats, traditional healers, Head men and elder women. The plants are identified by the authors with the help of related literature [1-6, 8, 9]. Voucher specimen is deposited in the herbarium, Department of Botany, Pratap College, Amalner, District Jalgaon, Maharashtra. The plants enumerated alphabetically with their correct botanical names,

followed by family, vernacular names and brief note on administration.

Discussion and Conclusion

In tribal and rural areas of Jalgaon district, poojaries, buva and bhagats are possess considerable knowledge of the therapeutic properties of local plants. If one herb cannot cure an ailment, another plant known to cure the disease is used. Certain disease believed to be caused by witches and can only be cured by witch craft i.e. some rituals performed before the patient is cured with the herb. Animal's sacristry, exorcism, propitiation of god and alleged powerful oracles were usually an essential part of the treatment. The present author observed 20 plants species of 19 genera belonging to 17 angiospermic families use to cure diseases. The tribal and rural employ different part root (2 species), stem (4 species), leaves (11 species) and fruits (1 species) Flower (2) Seed (2) etc. clinical validation of these needed to confirm the claims.

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Table 1

Botanical Name	Vernacular Name	Family	Ailment	Mode of preparation
<i>Abelmoschus moschatus</i> Medik.	Kasturi bhendi	Malvaceae	Indigestion	Half spoonful of seed powder is mixed in one cup water and a teaspoon honey. Mixture is given to patient as a thrice a day in the problem of indigestion, until it is cure.
<i>Abitulon indicum</i> (L.) Sweet	Ati bala	Malvaceae	Urinary tract infection	Spoonful of bark extract with some jaggery is prescribed thrice a day in the treatment of Urinary tract infection.
<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Gunj	Fabaceae	Cough	Acup of leaf extract is mixed with half teaspoon ginger extract and three teaspoon honey. sFrom this mixture, a teaspoon is given thrice a day in the treatment of the cough until its cure.
<i>Acacia chundra</i> (Roxb. ex Rottle.) Willd.	Khair	Mimosaceae	Toothache	The bark powder is recommends to use as tooth powder in the treatment of toothache.
<i>Acacia concinna</i> (Willd.) DC.	Shikekai	Mimosaceae	malaria	One glass extract of the leaves is mixed in one glass boiled water with two-three teaspoon of sugar or jaggery and from the prepared syrup it is advice, one cup twice a day for treatment malaria.

Botanical Name	Vernacular Name	Family	Ailment	Mode of preparation
<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.) Del	Babhul	Mimosaceae	eye problems	The leaf paste is used externally on swollen eye.
<i>Adhatoda vasica</i> Nees	Adulasa	Acanthaceae	Indigestion	In the treatment of indigestion, a spoonful of decoction of fresh leaves mixed with halfspoonful of ginger paste and given twice in a day is very effective.
<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr.	Bel phal, Bel mool	Rutaceae	diabetes	Leaf juice is taken orally for diabetes twice a day.
<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> Roxb.	Maharuk	Simarubaceae	abdominal pain	The decoction of stem and bark about one cup is mixed with one cup milk is prescribed one cup after delivery for stopping the excess bleeding and abdominal pain.
<i>Allium cepa</i> L.	Kanda	Liliaceae	swollen	Paste of turmeric powder and bulb pills are used on the treatment of swollen knees.
<i>Alstonia scholaris</i> R.Br.	Saptaparni	Apocynaceae	malaria	The root extract about two cup mixed with sort of jaggery is recommended two teaspoon twice a day in the treatment of malaria up to ten days.
<i>Amarantus spinosus</i> L.	Kate - math	Amarantaceae	regulate the urination	A glass decoction of leaf with two teaspoon sugar and one teaspoon lemon juice is mixed. From this preparation, prescribed three teaspoon twice a day to regulate the urination.
<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	Sitaphal	Annonaceae	Dysentery	A mixture of leaf decoction about one cup diluted with one cup warm water and two teaspoon honey and three drops of ginger is prepared. From this mixture two teaspoon is given twice a day in the treatment of dysentery.
<i>Arachis hypogaea</i> L.	Bhuimug	Fabaceae	ear problem	In the case of ear problem, normally warmed seed oil is dropped in ear.
<i>Argemone mexicana</i> L.	Pivla Dhotra	Papaveraceae	cough	A half spoon of leaf extract is mixed with honey or sugar and a half spoon of ginger is prescribed twice a day in the treatment of cough.
<i>Aristolochia indica</i> L.	Sapsun, Ishwari mul	Aristolochiaceae	fever	A spoonful of extract of leaves is mixed with ginger, and jaggery is prescribed twice in a day in the treatment of fever up to six days.
<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Willd.	Shatavari	Liliaceae	For bleeding nose	Two to three drops of leaf extract is dropped in nose to stop the bleeding.
Botanical Name	Vernacular Name	Family	Ailment	Mode of preparation
<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Kadu neem	Meliaceae	blood purification	A half cup of leaf juice is prescribed for blood purification for a week
<i>Barleria prionitis</i> L.	Kate koranti.	Acanthaceae	skin fairness	Flower paste used for skin fairness and softness with milk and turmeric powder.
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> L.	Kanchan.	Caesalpiniaceae	cuts, wounds and swellings	The extraction of roots is used as antiseptic in cuts, wounds and swellings.
<i>Benincasa hispida</i> (Thunb.) Cogn.	Kohla.	Cucurbitaceae	cough and fever	Extract of fruit about one teaspoon mixed with jaggery and prescribed twice a day in the treatment of cough and fever.

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