

THE ROLE OF MEDICINAL AMPHIBIANS IN RELATION TO HEALTH CARE AMONG THE GOND TRIBAL OF MADHYA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

During the course of medico-ethnozoological survey of Madhya Pradesh covering 6 districts namely, Rewa, Sidhi, Satna, Panna, Tikamgarh and Chhattarpur, available information with regard to native use of medicinal fishers by the Gond tribals in the treatment of human disease have been recorded. The study has revealed the use of 4 amphibians in the treatment.

KEYWORDS : Medicinal, Amphibian, Gond, Tribal

The medico-ethnozoological system makes extensive uses of large number of drugs from zoological origin. These remedies are beneficial or claimed to be so, in a variety of human ailments. Ethnozoological survey highlights how the animal resources found in these communes could be conserved and utilized for the betterment of the tribals races who have been exploiting verities of opportunities related to nature for their survival in steep and remote forests since times immemorial Joseph, (1982). Indeed these tribals developed the art of healing through the use of different remedies. The study of pharmacological active substances in the animal kingdom is comparatively unexpected and could well be rewarding (Thorp, 1967, Puri, 1970).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The medico-ethnozoological data obtained in this study are based on the information collected through the personal contact and interview of Gond tribals 6 of districts of M.P. The general idea about district wise distribution of Gonds could be had from the 'Tribal Map of India (Gohain, 1971). Information regarding their location, population and social structure were collected from Tribal Welfare and Block development office. The interviews were arranged through the head or senior person of the communities. In each and every district, the tribal community was repeatedly interviewed from as many localities as possible to get accurate and elaborate information. Whenever the language problem arose, the services of interpreters were utilized.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Information regarding the medicinal application of different parts of four species of Amphibians were obtained through the interview of Gond tribals belonging to six districts (Rewa, Sidhi, Satna, Panna, Tikamgarh & Chhattarpur) of M.P. These applications are tabulated in the following pages. The format is an alphabetical arrangement of the vernacular names of the Amphibians. Zoological names are given in parenthesis. The medico-ethnozoological data obtained from the survey of these districts, revealed fascinating information regarding the medicinal applications of different parts of 4 Amphibians species while majority of these advocations are novel, some do find place in the earlier monographs (Vohra and Khan, 1978) and (Azmi, 1989, 90, 91). Perusal of literature on medicinal utility of amphibian has indicated that flesh of frogs and *Hyla* have been separately recommended as *Gnetoschesia*, *Pneumonia* etc. and the bile of frogs suits in jaundice and liver abscess. These informations together with those embodied in earlier reports (Azmi, 1989, 1990 and Joseph 1982) and other compilation. Animal origin drugs are interesting enough to receive the attention of biomedical scientists to make systematic sorties in this field in order to explore the potentialities, effectiveness and proper utilization of such drugs in the parent struggle against disease and suffering (Table, 1).

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Table 1 : Medicinal Use of Amphibians by Gond Tribals of M.P.

| Names of Animals | Part (s) Used | Mode of Administration | Disease (s) |
|----------------------|------------------|--|---|
| Frog | Skin | Fresh skin, skinned and wrapped over the affected site, three to four times for a week till cure | Ring Worm, other allied disease |
| | Bile | Diluted in water and orally taken for 8-10 days, once or twice a day | Jaundice, liver abscess, Enlargement of liver |
| | Flesh | Cooked and consumed by the lactating ladies for about one week, just after the delivery | Glactoscheisa, General weakness waist pain |
| | Whole body Blood | Boiled and wrapped around the affected site once or twice daily Applied on the affected site for 3-4 days, once daily | Muscular pain, internal injury Measle |
| Hyla | Whole body | Given to cattle alongwith bread once daily for 2-3 days | Maggot wound |
| | Bile | Applied in diluted form in the eye | Eye disease |
| Rachacophorus | Flesh | Cooked and consumed once daily, for 3-4 days | Pneumonia, Ribs-pain |
| | Whole Body | Chopped and tied round the affected site 3-4 times a day daily | Snake bite Hyperpyrexia |
| Bufo | Bile | Applied over forehead 4-5 times a day | |
| | Bile | 4-5 drops are dropped into a glass of water and given to the patient once daily, in the empty stomach | Enlargement of liver |

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