

USE OF ANIMAL FATS AS DRUGS BY THE TRIBALS OF MALWA REGION OF MADHYA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

The present paper deals with the medicinal usage of fat of animals as practiced by the tribals of Malwa region of M.P. covering 6 districts. The species of animals numbering 12, may be treated as new records for medicinal usage, so far the important literatures have been consulted

KEYWORDS : Animal Fats, Drugs, Tribals, Malwa

During their long history, the primitive people exploited varieties of opportunities from the nature for their survival since times immemorial. Their intimate relation with animals is noteworthy (Tikader et. al., 1985).

Indeed, aboriginals developed the art of the healing through the use of various remedies of zoological origin (Azmi H.K., 1989, 90, 91). These remedies are beneficial or claimed to be so, in a variety of human ailments. The contemporary society may benefit from the tribal experiences in its fights against diseases and suffering (Azmi, 1990). Notably, the established systems of Indian medicine too felt the importance of such drugs, for that several drugs are obtained from animals (Puri, 1970).

Incidentally, however the study of biologically active substances in the animals kingdom has remained comparatively unexplored which could be very rewarding (Throp; 1967). It is time to pay more attention to the faunal wealth through systemic exploration of this virgin field. Accordingly, appreciable measures have been initiated in this direction. The information, thus collected is presented in this paper.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The medico-ethnozoological data obtained in this study are based on the information collected through personal contact and interview of the tribal of Malwa region. The general idea about districtwise, distribution of tribal could be had from the 'Tribal Map of India' (Gohain, 1971). Information regarding their location, population and social structure were collected from the District & Block Development Officers. The interviews were arranged through the head or senior persons of the communities. In

each and every district, the tribal community was repeatedly interviewed from as may location as possible to get accurate and elaborate information regarding the remedies derived from various animals. Whenever, the language problem arose, the services of interpreters were utilized.

RESULTS

Information regarding the medicinal applications of animal species were obtained through the interview of 6 types of the tribes.

The format is an alphabetical arrangement of the vernacular names of animals and zoological names are given in paranthesis.

DISCUSSION

Information presented in this paper reveal curious and fascinating information regarding the medicinal applications of different animals species. While majority of these avocations are novel, some do find place in earlier text (Vohra and Khan 1978). An examination of literature shows that our knowledge of traditional drugs is meagre except for occasional writing (Verrier Elvin, 1951) Even in *Materia medica* (Kent, 1970) mention is made only of dozen of animals. Joseph (1982) stated the use of number of animals as traditional drugs prevalent in various tribes of Madhya Pradesh. (Maiti, 1984) has reported animal drugs from the ethnozoological survey of Bihar. Perusal of available literature did not indicate the medicinal application and mode of administration of some of the animals which have been reported in this paper. The remaining species have been mentioned for their therapeutic value incidentally for those ailments which are mostly different from the ones

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Table 1 : Medicinal Use of Fats By Certain Tribes of Malwa Region of M.P.

Names of Animals	Mode of Administration	Disease (s)	Name of District (s)	Name of Tribe (s)
Bat	Warmed and applied on chest and orally administered for 15 days, twice daily	Whooping cough, Asthma	Dewar Khargaon	Saur, Bhil
	Warmed and applied once or twice daily, till cured	Skin diseases,	Dhar	Kol, Sour
Bear (Male)	Warmed, massaged externally for about one month, twice daily	Rheumatism, Paralysis	Jhabua	Bhil, Bhilala
	Slightly warmed and massaged on lumbosacral region once daily at bed time, for about 40 days	Loss of erectile power,	Mandsaur	Kol, Gond
	Slightly warmed and massaged for about 7-8 days, once daily		Hoshangabad	Saur, Korkei
Duck (Male)	Warmed and massaged on the lumbosacral region once daily, at bed time	Rheumatism, Paralysis	Jhabua	Baija, Kol
	Warmed and applied on the affected sites thrice a day, till cured	Loss of sexual vigour	Jhabua, Dhar	Bhil, Bhilala, Kol
Duck (Male)	Warmed and massaged on the chest on the babies twice daily, for about one month	Paralysis, Jointpain, Weak bone, internal injury	Khargaon	Kol, Gond
Fox	Applied externally till the disease is cured	Chest pain	Mandsaur	Kol, Gond
	Slightly warmed and massaged twice daily, till cured		Jhabua, Dhar	Bhil, Bhilala, Kol
Hombill (Male) Non-descript	Warmed and massaged twice daily, for about 21 days	Skin disease, Eczema	Jhabua	Bhil
	Warmed and massaged externally once daily, for about 5-7 days	Rheumatism, Paralysis	Jhabua	Bhil
	Warmed and massaged on phallus for about 40 days, once daily		Mandsaur	Gond, Saur
	Warmed and massaged regularly	Bone fracture, Paralysis, Sciatica	Mandsaur	Gond, Saur
	Warmed and applied externally twice daily, till cured	Musculo-skeletal pain, Rheumatism	Hoshangabad	Gond, Kol
	Slightly warmed and applied once daily, for about 15 days	Impotency	Hoshangabad	Bhill, Gond
Indian Wolf	Warmed and massaged externally till the disease is cured, thrice daily		Dhar	Bhill, Gond
	Applied in the eyes regularly	Dandruff, Baldness	Jhabua	Bhil, Bhilala
	Warmed and massaged thrice daily, till cured	Cracked foot, Piles	Jhabua	Bhil, Bhilala
Jackal	Warmed and massaged on the affected site for 4-5 days, twice daily		Dewar	Saur, Gond
	Warmed and massaged on the phallus once at bed time, for about 40 days	Skin disease, Eczema	Khargaon	Gond, Korku
Kite	Warmed and massaged once daily, for 7-8 days	Rheumatism, Bone fracture	Khargaon	Gond, Korku
	Warmed and applied on the legs of the babies till cured		Hoshangabad	Baiga, Gond
	Warmed and applied externally	Weak sight Bone fracture	Hoshangabad	Baiga, Gond
	Slightly warmed and regularly till the disease is cured		Jhabua	Korku, Bhil
	Warmed and massaged thrice daily,		Jhabua	Bhil, Gond

Names of Animals	Mode of Administration	Disease (s)	Name of District (s)	Name of Tribe (s)
Pig	cured	Rheumatic pain	Dhar, Dewas	Bhil
Tiger	Warmed and massaged thrice a day, till cured	Loss of erectile power	Mandsaur	Saur, Gond
		Ribs-pain	Dewas	Korku
Wild Boar	Warmed and massaged twice a day, for about 15 days.	Weak bone	Jhabua, Dhar	Bhil, Bhilala Korku
		Skin disease, Piles	Jhabua	Bhil, Bhilala
		Cracked foot	Dewar, Dhar	BBhil, Gond
		Rheumatism, Paralysis	Jhabua	Bhil, Bhilala
		Weak bone, Bone fracture, Loss of erectile power	Jhabua, Dewas	Bhil, Saur
		Muscular pain, Rheumatism		
		Rheumatism. Paralysis		

treated by tribal people. The overall reported claims suggest that fat of animals is used in Many Unani Medicines. It is mostly used as ointment for external use in inflammations, muscular pains, piles, burns, wounds and sexual debility Internally it is nutrients and fattening. It is generally gives a feeling of warmth. Fat of male animal is believed to produce more heat than that of female animals (Table, 1).

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