

ETHNOBOTANICAL PLANTS USED FOR CURING SKIN DISEASES BY TRIBALS OF REWA DISTRICT (MADHYA PRADESH)

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ABSTRACT

Plant species used in the treatment of skin diseases among the indigenous communities of Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh was conducted between 2007-2009. Twenty three plant species belonging to 17 families were found to be used specifically in the treatment of various skin diseases viz., dandruff, leprosy, eczema, impetigo, rash, scabies, tinea cruris and tinea versicolor. The tribal communities of Rewa district use plant species invariably for the treatment of all kinds of skin diseases, while two species viz., *Ageratum conyzoides* and *Ipomoea eriocarpa* used to treat leprosy. *Aegle marmelos* and *Clitoria ternatea* becomes vulnerable, since it is frequently used for the treatment of scabies.

KEYWORDS : Ethnomedicine, Ethnobotany, Skin disease, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh

Plants are of immense value to human health and roughly 80% of world's population relies on them for cure of various ailments. (Chauhan, 1999). The world health organization estimates that about 80% of the population of most developing countries relies on herbal medicines for their primary healthcare needs (De Silva, 1997). Indigenous knowledge on natural resources, utilization of medicinal plants not exceeding the resilience of the surrounding environment is regarded as an important measure of sustainable plants biodiversity conservation. (Kala, 2005). Without proper documentation of such knowledge, the cultural heritage is loosing and also the exploitation, by the patent rights, communities and the countries who invented the material and the process have been facing short fall in this regard.

The age-old tribal knowledge of plants is an important aspect of ethnobotanical research. Tribal people are important for their treasured and unique knowledge of plant. Wealth and for continuous research of new source of herbal drugs and other aspects of plants. The tribal tacts are the store house of information and knowledge on the multiple uses of plants. Presently ethnobotany has become increasingly valuable in the development of healthcare and conservation programs in different parts of the world.

The present investigation has been carried out to explore the medicinal plants of tribal areas of Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh. (Dwivedi, 2003), for the treatment of various types of skin diseases. The study based on collections made during 2007-2009. The district Rewa

inhabited by a large number of tribes such as Gond, Kol, Baiga, Panika, Khairwar, Manjhi, Agaria and Mawasi. Among these, the Baiga tribe is the dominant in the pursuit of therapeutic use of plants. Extensive study in relation to medicinal flora of the area has not been carried out so far and in particular, there is a paucity of information on medicinal plants traditionally used in skin diseases (Anonymous, 1994; Kapur, 1991.; Samwatsar and Diwanji, 1996; Sharma et al., 2003 and Singh and Prakash, 1996). The study was carried out with an aim to document medicinal plants of Rewa district, used for the treatment of various kinds of skin diseases.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Several ethnobotanical survey were conducted during the period of 2007-2009 in tribal areas of District Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. The study area lies on the Vindhyan plateau in the Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh. An extensive data sheet was prepared regarding the utility of plants in food and medicine, their application, doses and duration. The distribution was obtained by tribal map of Madhya Pradesh, District tribal welfare office and Block development office regarding their population and location.

The ethnobotanical data were obtained from tribal people, Vaidyas, Ojhas, Village Pradhan and many other experienced informants having knowledge of herbal drugs used by different tribal people. The plants were collected with the help of floristic literature (Oomanchanl and Shrivastava 1996), and their herbarium was prepared as per

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Table 1: Enumeration of ethnobotanical plants of tribal areas of District Rewa used in cure of skin diseases

S. No.	Botanical Name	Family	Local Name	Parts used	Mode of application
1.	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Fabaceae	Ghumchi	Seed	Seeds paste is used externally in skin diseases.
2.	<i>Acacia catechu</i> (L.f.) Willd.	Mimosaceae	Khair	Bark	Bark paste is applied in skin diseases.
3.	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.) Willd. Ex Delile	Mimosaceae	Babool	Leaf	Leaves are orally consumed as such and paste is applied locally to cure body swelling.
4.	<i>Acanthospermum hispidum</i> DC.	Asteraceae	Starbur	Leaf	Leaf paste is used in skin diseases.
5.	<i>Acorus calamus</i> Linn.	Araceae	Bach/Vaj	Rhizome	Pounded rhizomes along with <i>Curcuma aromatica</i> rhizomes and <i>Azadiracta indica</i> leaves are applied twice a day, after bathing and before bed time for one week against eczema.
6.	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (Linn.) Corr. Serr.	Rutaceae	Bel	Fruit	Fruit crushed with seeds of <i>Strychnos nuxvomica</i> , <i>Pongamia pinnata</i> and boiled with coconut oil is applied on the affected parts to cure scabies and other similar skin diseases twice a day, till cured.
7.	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> L.	Asteraceae	Neelam, Khajju	Leaf & stem	Formented leaves and stems are used in leprosy.
8.	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm. F.) Wall ex Nees.	Acanthaceae	Kalmega, Kirayat	Leaf	Leaf juice mixed with cow milk is taken orally twice a day for 6-8 days to cure tinea cruris.
9.	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Willd.	Liliaceae	Satawar	Tuber	Tuber along with the leaves of <i>Plumbago indica</i> made into paste is applied on skin diseases, once a day till cured.
10.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Meliaceae	Neem	Flower & leaf	Flowers boiled in gingili, oil (Sesam Oil) (<i>Sesamum indicum</i>) applied on head against dandruff, once a day in the morning after taking bath till recovery Leaf decoction is used in skin diseases.
11.	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i> Linn.	Fabaceae	Gokari, Aparajita	Leaf	Leaf juice is given orally twice a day for six days to cure scabies.
12.	<i>Curcuma longa</i> L.	Zingiberaceae	Haldi	Rhizome	Rhizomes and <i>Terminalia chebula</i> seeds made into paste, is applied on the affected parts twice a day till the recovery to cure impetigo.
13.	<i>Datura metel</i> Linn.	Solanaceae	Kala Dhatura	Leaf	Leaf juice along with <i>Curcuma aromatica</i> rhizomes made into a paste is applied against swellings for fast relief till the swelling reduces.
14.	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> Linn.	Euphorbiaceae	Lal dudhi	Latex	Latex is applied against skin parasites twice a day till cured.
15.	<i>Hygrophila auriculata</i> (Schum.) Heine.	Acanthaceae	Talmakha na	Leaf	Dried leaf powder mixed with castor oil is applied twice a day till the recovery on the affected parts to cure skin diseases.
16.	<i>Ipomoea eriocarpa</i> R. Br.	Convolvulaceae	Nakhari	Whole Plant	Plants boiled in oil are used in leprosy.

17.	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i> Linn.	Lythraceae	Mehndi	Leaf	Leaf paste is applied twice a day till it is cured on the affected parts of impetigo.
18.	<i>Madhuca longifolia</i> (Koenig.) Macoride	Sapotaceae	Mahua	Seed	Pounded Seeds mixed with leaf extracts of <i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i> are applied on the affected parts to cure skin diseases, twice a day.
19.	<i>Mallotus Philippensis</i> (Lam.) Muell. Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Rohini	Fruit	Red powder obtained from fruits mixed with coconut oil is applied externally as an antiseptic in skin diseases.
20.	<i>Ocimum tenuiflorum</i> Linn.	Lamiaceae	Tulsi	Leaf	Leaves pounded with <i>Curcuma aromatica</i> rhizomes are applied on the affected parts once a day in the night before bed time to cure tinea versicularis.
21.	<i>Phyla nodiflora</i> (Linn.) Greene	Verbenaceae	Gahdi	Leaf	Leaf juice mixed with equal volume of gingili oil and boiled is applied twice a week on head to remove dandruff.
22.	<i>Putranjva roxburghii</i> Wall.	Euphorbiaceae	Patjhi	Fruit	Dried fruit beaded in a garland is put on the neck to cure skin allergy.
23.	<i>Terminalia bellerica</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb.	Combretaceae	Bahera	Seed	Paste prepared from seeds pounded with the seeds of <i>Terminalia chebula</i> and <i>Quercus infectoria</i> are mixed with coconut oil is applied twice a day against rashes.

standard protocol as described by Varghese, (1996) ; Dwivedi and Pandey, (1992).

The collected plants thus pressed, mounted and properly numbered, were identified with the help of local floras and other useful works in Hooker, (1872-1897); Haines, (1921-1924).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the present investigation, 23 plant species belonging to 17 families are used as herbal medicine for the treatment of skin diseases. Euphorbiaceae with 3 species, was the dominant family followed by Fabaceae, Asteraceae, Acanthaceae, etc. *Abrus precatorius*, *Acacia catechu*, *Acanthospermum hispidum*, *Asparagus racemosus*, *Hygrophila auriculata*, *Madhuca longifolia* and *Mallotus philippensis* are used to cure various kinds of skin diseases. *Aegle marmelos* and *Clitoria ternatea* species are used to cure scabies. *Andrographis paniculata* are used for the treatment of tinea cruris and *Ocimum tenuiflorum* for the treatment of tinea versicularis (Tabel, 1)

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