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MEDICINAL PLANT WEALTH OF KRISHNA DISTRICT (ANDHRA PRADESH) – A PRELIMINARY SURVEY

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ABSTRACT*: A preliminary survey of medicinal plants conducted in the surrounding forest region of the Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh is reported in this paper.*

INTRODUCTION

The Krishna district ($15^0$43' – $17^0$10'N and 80^0 – $81^0$35' E) of Ahdhra Pradesh, India is moderately rich in medicinal plants in and around the forests of Kondapalle reserve. There is an ample scope for introduction and systematic cultivation of medicinal plants, which are required by Pharmaceutical companies and other plant based industries. According to geological data the rocks of this district belongs to Archean and Gondwana ages with Gneises and Quartz. The soils are mostly deltaic alluvial, followed by Red and Coastal sandy types. The average rain fall is nearly 980 mm. The temperature ranging between 37^0 – 27^0 C. The district comprises 5 main Vegetational types, the upper part of the hilly tracts with dry mixed deciduous forests, the lower hilly tracts covered with thorny-scrub, the river mouth of Krishna with mangroves, the Kolleru lake with aquatics and the plains and cultivated fields met with lot of weeds.

Previously there is no specific data on the medicinal flora of Krishna district (1983 – 86), the author could collect a good number of medicinal plants. This is the first time information, reporting very valuable date on 38 species belongs to 38 genera of 23 families, has been gathered from the herbal doctors, Chenchues and Yerukals, who inhabiting in and around the forest areas. All the collected specimens are deposited one set at Central National Harbarium (*CAL),* Calcutta; One set at Madras Herbarium (*MH),* Coimbatore and another set at Andhra University Herbarium (*AUH)* (yet to be placed at *Index Herbariorum).* Waltair.

Enumeration

In the following enumeration the species are arranged alphabetically followed by family name, local name, locality, collectors name, field name, habitat and atlast a brief notation of uses.

Abrus Precatorius L. Fabaceae. Gurivinda. Donga marla bhavi, *Venkanna* 5749. Very common along hedges. Seeds are used as Purgative, emetic, for nervous disorders, also employed in crude abortions.

Achyranthes aspera L. Amaranthaceae. Uttareni. Dalgattu, *Venkanna* 5486. Common along hedges. Whole plant used in jaundice, headache and rheumatism.

Adhatoda zeylanica Medic. Acanthaceae. Adds saramu. Nuzvid, *Venkanna* 5493. Often planted along fences in plains. Leaves are used to relieve cough and most effective in asthma.

Aerva lanata (L). Juss. Amaranthaceae. Pindi kura. Davoji palem, *Venkanna* 5409. Frequent along waste lands. The plant is anthelmintic and diuretic; the roots are useful in the treatment of headache.

Andrographis paniculata (Burnm. f.) Wall. Ex Nees Acanthaceae. Nela vemu. Agiripalle, *Venkanna* 5467. Common weed in waste lands. The plant is anthelmintic and also as snake – repellent.

Argemone mexicana L. Papaveraceae. Balu rakkisa. Peyyeru, *Venkanna* 5861. Growing abundantly in open waste lands. Leaf juice is used for curing skin disease.

Asperaqus racemosus Willd. Liliaceae. Pilli theegalu. Gedda manugu Konduru, *Venkanna* 6099. A frequent herb in the forest under growth and in foot-hills. Root antidysenteric, aphrodisiac.

Asystasia gangetica (L.) T. And. Acanthaceae. Gollapudi, *Venkanna* 5281. Straggling mostly amongst bushes, particularly in coastal plains. Juice of the plant is anthelmintic, given in rheumatism and swellings.

Azadirachta indica A. Juss. Meliaceae. Vepa. Kondapalle. *Venkanna* 5050. More common in dry areas, both hilly and plains. The bark, leaves and fruits are used for various skin diseases and as insecticide; seed oil used in medicated soaps; tender branches are used as country brushes to strengthen the gums.

Boerhavia diffusa L. Nyctaginaceae. Punarnava. Nidumolu, *Venkanna* 5385. Very common in plains from sea coast to interiors. The root is diuretic, laxative and useful in jaundice.

Calotropis gigantean (L.) R. Br. Asclepiadaceae. Jilledu. Kondapalle Village, *Venkamma* 5595. Common in drier areas. The milky latex is applied to cure toothache; leaves are used for treating eye troubles; root bark is used in dysentery and also for elephantiasis.

Cardiospermum helicacabum L. Sap indaceae. Budda busara. Sulta nagaram gollapalem, *Venkanna* 5087. Common amongst bushes. Juice of the plant is applied to check the earache; root is for fever and the leaves in pulmonary complaints.

Cassia occidentalis L. Caesalpinaceae. Kasinda. Vinnakota, *Venkanna* 5450. Common weed along road sides. The seeds are used in convulsions in children; the leaves are used in skin diseases.

Catharanthus roseus (L). G. Don Apocynaceae. Bill ganneru. Agiripalle, *Venkanna* 5234. Widely seen in waste lands of hard soils. Roots are used to cure luckemia and high-blood pressure.

Cleome gynandra L. Cleomaceae. Vaminata. Gudur, *Venkanna* 5410. Frequently as a weed in fields and in open waste lands of hard soils. Roots are used to cure fevers.

Cocculus hirsutus (L.) Diels Menispermaceae. Dusara theega. Loya, *Venkanna* 6070. Common climber in plains. Roots and leaves are used for eczema and venereal diseases.

Eclipta prostrate (L.) A. Asteraceae. Gunta kalagara. Gollapudi, *Venkanna* 5274. Frequent in open waste lands. The plant is useful in enlargement of the spleen in jaundice; the leave juice is useful for fever in children; the root in emetic and purgative and also used against ulcers and wounds in cattle.

Euphorbia hirta L. Euphorbiacea. Nanu balu. Nuzvid, *Venkanna* 5213. Common weed in waste lands. The plant is useful in bowel complaints, worms in children; the milky juice of the plant is used in dysentery; a decoction of the plant is used in asthma.

Gloriosa superba L. Liliaceae. Nabhi Leela nagar, *Venkanna* 5172. Frequent along forest outskirts. Tubers are used in abortions.

Helicteres isora L. Sterculiaceae. Nuli thada. Dalgattu, *VenkannaI* 5174. Common in dry forests. Seeds are used to reduce blood motions.

Hemidesmus indicus (L.) R. Br. Periplocaceae. Sugandi pala theega. Musnuru, *Venkanna* 5721. Common amongst bushes. Roots are used to cure high fever and skin diseases.

Holarrhena pubesoers (Such – Ham.) Wall. Ex G. Don Apocynaceae. Tedla pala. Gedda manugu Konduru, *Venkanna* 6100. Very common in the forest outskirts. The bark and the seeds are an excellent cure for dysentery.

Ichnocarpus frutescens (L.) R. Br. Apocynaceae. Pala theega. Common in the forest outskirts. The root is useful in blood purification.

Iqomoea acquatica Forssk. Convolvulaceae. Metha thuti kada. Sulta nagaram gollapalem, *Venkanna* 5553. Common in tanks and ponds, mostly seen in Kolleru lake. The plant as a whole used in nervous and general debility of female.

Jatropha gossypifolia L. Euphorbiaceae. Seema nepalam. Peyyeru, *Venkanna* 5840. Commonly found along road sides. The leaves are applied to cure boils and itches.

Leptadenia reticulate (Retz.) Wt. & Arn. Asclepiadeaceae. Meka maeani aku. Hanuman Junction, *Venkanna* 5255. Occasional one hedges. The plant is stimulant and as a tonic.

Martynia annua L. Martyniaceae. Thelu kondi chettu. Gollapudi, *Venkanna* 5277. Common weed in open places. The leaves are given in epilepsy and applied to tuberculosis glands of the neck; The juice is used as a gargle for sore throats; the fruit is useful in inflammations.

Ocimum tenuiflorum L. Lamiaceae. Manchi thulasi. Donga marla bhavi, *Venkanna* 5023. Frequently seen in Village house yards, often in forests. The juice of the leaves is useful in bronchital ailments.

Pergularia daemia (Forssk.) Chiov. Asclepiadaceae. Dhstapu theega. Sitaramapuram, *Venkanna* 5558. Most common along hedges. The leaves are used in diarrhoea, rheumatic swellings, asthma etc; The plant as a whole is emetic.

Phyla nodiflora (L.) Greene Verbenaceae. Bookena aku. Kolleti kota, *Venkanna* 5118. Most common in the moist localities. The infusion of the leaves is given to children in indigestion.

Ricinus communis L. Euphorbiaceae. Amudamu. Cultivated mostly around Kondapalle. The oil from the seeds is used

as purgative and the leaves are used for headache.

Solanu surrattense Burm. f. Solanaceae. Vakudu mulama. Bandar fort reserve forest, *Venkanna* 5065. Occasional in waste places near sea coat. The fruit mixed with sesamum oil is used for paralysis; the whole plant is useful in fevers, cough, asthma, dropsy and gonorrhoea; the seeds are used against toothache.

Strychnos nux-vomica L. Loganiaceae. Mushini. Thukkuluru, *Venkanna* 5503. Most common in thorny scrub-jungles. The seeds are highly poisonous; the root bark with lime is useful in cholera; the wood bark is used for dysentery, fevers and dyspepsia.

Tinospora cordifolia (Willd.) Miers ex Hk. f. & T. Menispermaceae. Tippa theega. Sulta nagaram golla palem, *Venkanna* 5361. Occasional along plains. The roots are used in cough, chronic diarrhoea and dysentery; the fruit juice is used for curing gonorrhoea; the oil from seeds is used in tuberculosis of the lungs.

Tridax procumbens L. Asterceae. Bellam kada. Gollapudi, *Venkanna* 5283. Common weed in waste lands. Fresh leaves are chewed to relieve toothache; the juice of the fresh leaves is used as a stypic.

Tylophova indica (Burm. f.) Marr. Asclepiadaceae. Kaka palla. Hanuman junction, *Venkanna* 5251. Common amongst bushes. The leaves are used to cure asthma.

Vitex negundo L. Verbenaceae. Vavili. Frequently seen in Sulta nagaram golla palem and other parts in black cotton soils. The leaf juice is useful in earache; the leaves are also used as vermifuge and smoked to relieve headache.

Withania somnifera (L.) Dunal Solanaceae. Penneru gedda. Kolleti kota, *Venkanna* 5829. Rarely found around Kolleru lake. The bark is used to cure asthma; leaves are useful in fever, boils and piles.

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