

Medicinal Plant-Lore of Sugali Tribe of Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh

by

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***ABSTRACT:** The preliminary investigations of crude during resources of sugali tribes of Anantapur district, Andhra Pradesh with their recipes, preparation of drugs, administration, usage form several centuries. Fifty plant crude drugs (species) belong to twenty nine families were collected based on folk-lore knowledge. Botanical name, family name, part used, mode of preparation and administration and purpose, for which it as been used were enumerated.*

INTRODUCTION

Anantapur district situated in the south western part of Andhra Pradesh, covers an area of 19,130 sq.km. The soils are predominantly red and black cotton types, devoid of humus except in a few sheltered valleys. The climate can be described as tropical semiarid with a large number of sunny days. The mean maximum and minimum temperatures are 38.5°C and 16.8°C respectively. The average rainfall is only 53.8cm subject the direct to drought and famine, leading to changes in the occupation and food habits of the people. The forests are dry tropical south Indian mixed deciduous and southern catch thorn types, covering 10% of the district area.

The flora of the district as been described in part by Hooker (1997), Gamble (1935) and Pullaiah and Yasodamma (1989). Medicinal plants of the region was sporadically surveyed by Reddy et al (1097). Intensive explorations were conducted in the sugali thandas during 1990-94 yielded fifty important crude drugs used for different diseases/ailments. Present paper mainly exposes the unrealised and unexplored

possibilities about the hidden properties of medicinal plants and secret knowledge of the folklorists living in anantapur district. It is fact that despite many discoveries, the accumulated knowledge of the sugali tribes is extended a little to the benefit and longevity of the poor. The sugali tribes is extended a little to the benefit and longevity of the poor. The sugali tribes living in anantapur district prefer less costing holistic medical care form indigenous natural drugs for treating most of their diseases.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Folklore information as collected from herbalists in sugali thandas (Villages) and interior rural villages in and around the forests on the usage of plant crude drugs for various diseases. The mode of administration purpose and part of the plant used and carefully recorded in audiotape recorded as well as field note booked. Based on the information , plants were collected, their herbaria were prepared and identified with the help of local floras and confirmed by comparing with authenticated specimens

in SKU Herbarium, Anantapur, Madras Herbarium (MH), Coimbatore and central National herbarium (CAL), Calcutta. The crude drugs were screened phytochemically, using standard procedures (Amarasingham et al 1964; Weiffering 1966; Das & Bhattacharjee 1970; Chhabra et al, 1984; Gibbs 1974; Santaram 1983 and Harborne 1984).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The information of crude drugs like Botanical name, family, part used, mode of administration and purpose of usage are represented on Table-1. The distribution of chemical compounds in different extracts of selected crude drugs used for various diseases, supporting pharmacological properties given by Chhabra et al 1984. The terminology of diseases, ailments proclaimed by tribal medicine men was collected on the field with symptoms as well. As the tribals are illiterate and with no specific knowledge on the ailments, found using same term for more than one related diseases. Hence an attempt has been made to arrive at the possible correct terminology of diseases based on the symptoms noticed in consultation with allopathic doctors and physicians. The tribals were found using the crude drugs, mainly in general ailments namely menorrhoea, leucorrhoea, jaundice, antidotes in poisonous bites, different types of fevers, cough asthma, arthritis, body aches,

dental diseases, oedema, tumour, cuts and wounds, with low, skin diseases, stomach troubles and psychosis etc. Plant drugs also rarely used in abortion, anti fertility, antidiabetes, anaemia and lactation etc. The belief of tribals in crude medicine is combined with superstition of their own.

The qualitative distribution of the chemical compounds like saponins, volatile oils, carotenoids, anthocyanidin glycosides, alkaloid bases, steroids/triterpenoids, anthracene glycosides, fatty acids, catechols/gallic tannins, polyuronoids, coumarins, reducing compounds, emodins, anthranins, iridoids and flavone aglycones were observed, most of the members are used for more than one diseases or purpose, primary phytochemical evidence shows each species have specific chemical constituents. The sugali tribes possessing rich folklore information forms the prime source and exists scope to extend scientific research in further isolation and characterization of active principle involved in the pharmacological utility. The folklore claims were corroborated with phytochemical evidences of the respective crude drugs. Keeping in view of the fact potential source of medicinal plants of folklore origin need to be preserved and conserved. Attempts are being made to carry out isolation, characterization of secondary metabolic compounds and evaluation of biological activity.

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Table -1- Systematic Analysis of plant crude Drugs

S.No.	Botanical name	Family	Part used	Preparation/Administration	Medicinal use
1	Abrus precatorius L.	Fabaceae	L R	Macerated with water/drunk Root juice/oral 3 times a day 0 Sd Cotyledons powdered/oral.	Menorrhoea Snake bite antidote Aphrodistica
2	Abutilon indicum(L) Sweet	Malvaceae	L	With garlic juice extract /oral	Malarial fevers
3	Acacia nilotica (L) Wild	Mimosaceae	Sb	Heated and placed on the spot for 3 days.	Furuncles, Oedema
4	Acalpha indica L.	Euphorbiacea	L	Mixed with pepper, garlic extract/oral for 3-6 times.	Post natal body pains, spondylitis headache, giddiness and nausea.
5	Achyranthes aspera L.	Amaranthaceae	R	Root decoction/oral	Snake and scorpion bite antidote
6	Agave Americana L.	Agavaceae	L	Dried pulp/roal for week days	Abortifacient
7	Albizia lebbeck (L) Wild	Mimosaceae	Sb	Juice (50ml) /oral for 3 times	Snake and scorpion bite antidote
8	Ammania BacciferaL.	Lythraceae	L	Pulp applied on the area for 3 days Juice with dry chilies /oral for3 days	Oedema and skin disease Ascariasis and stomach ache.
9	Anisomeles malabarica(L) R.Br ex sims	Lamiaceae	Wp	Burnt and vapors/inhaled decoction/oral. Leaves placed on fore head for overnight	Psychosis,Unconsciousness Vitality Headache
10	Aristolochia bracteolate Lam.	Aristolochiaceae	Wp	Applied paste on bitten area leaves with pepper, juice/oral for tree ties	Snake bite antidote Ascariasis, stomach ace anti-diarrhoea
11	Caesalpinia bonduc (L) Roxb.	Caesakoubuacea e	L Sd	Leaf decoction/ oral for 3 times. Powder missed with jaggery/oral	Prolonged fevers, Menorrhoea promotion of sterility
12	Calotropis gigantean (L) R.Br.	Asclepiadaceae	L	Juice/oral for vomiting	Antitoxicosis
13			Lx	Latex applied on bitten area for 30 days	Dog bite antidote

				Heated leaves placed on the affected part Leaf juice dropped in ears. Heated leaves placed on Swelling outside the jaw	Oedema, Arthritis, Paralysis Otalgia Dentalgia, Anti-inflammatory
14	Cardiospermum halicacabum L.	Sapindaceae	L	Paste applied on the part	Oedema
15	Cassia uriculata L.	Caesalpiniaceae	F L	Decoction/oral for 3 days Young leaves chewed repeatedly	Leucorrhoea Snake bite
16	Cassia italica Lam x Andr.	Caesalpinaceae	L	Decoction/ oral for 3 days Dry powder /oral with goat milk	Constipation/purgative Health tonic for 15 days
17	Celosia argentea L.	Amaranthaceae	R	Extract/oral for 3 days	Typhoid fevers
18	Citrullus colosynthis (L)	Cucurbitaceae	F	Pulp macerated with garlic, extract/oral for week days fruit pulp squeezed /oral	Psychosis and anxiety Constipation
19	Cleome gynandra L	Cleomaceae	L	Heated fruit placed on ankle	Calcarious spur
20	Clerodendrum phlomides L.f.	Verbenaceae	L	Boiled in water and vapours/inhaled Extract with pepper/oral, 3 times. Leaf extract/oral	Severe and prolonged body ache Constipation and dropsy Debility
21	Coccinia grandis (L)	Cucurbitaceae	L	Juice applied on affected part of head Juice /oral and applied on the bitten area Juice 5 or 6 drops drops in the ear	Tenia capitis Scorpion bite antidote Otalgia
22	Corallocarpus epigaeus (Rottl et willd.) Clarke	Cucurbitaceae	Rt	About 200 ml Juice /oral for vomiting Juice dropped in the ears twice a day for tree days	Snake bite antidote Otalgia
23	Corbichonia	Aizoaceae	R	Past with cow urine/oral for week days	Yellow and white jaundice

	decumbens (Forssk.) Excell				
24	Cyperus stolonifrous Retz	Cyperaceae	R	Powder with Jaggery/oral for 40 days Powder with hibiscus Rosa-sinensis leaves/applied wit coconut oil.	Leucoderma, blood Purification Dandruff
25	Enicostemma axillare (Lam.) A. Roynal	Gentianaceae	Wp	Mixed with pepper maceratd and placed around finger and dressing for 3 days	Whitlow
26	Euphorbia heterophylla L.	Euphorbiaceae	Wp L	Extract/oral 3-8 times after deliver Heated leaved applied on the part Latex applied directly on the parts	Lactation Skin abscess Siphilis
27	Euphorbia heyneana spreng	Euphorbiaceae	Wp	With garlic, pepper maceratd/oral for 3 days	Dry cough in children, influenza, prolonged fevers
28	Grewia tenax (forssk.) Fiori	Tiliaceae	R	About 10 gm/chewed for one time	Snake bite antidote
29	Heliotropium indicum	Boraginaceae	L	Extract with jaggery/oral for one time	Snake and scorpion bite antidote
30	Hibiscus ovalifolius (Forssk) Vahl	Malvaceae	L	With egg, lime, turmeric and pulp mixed dressing in made daily for 5 days. Extract rubbed on the part for 3 days	Bone fractures Sprains, Oedema, arthritis
31	Impomaea Obscura (L)	Convolvulaceae	Wp	Heated, placed on the spot Ker-Gahll	Furuncles, Oedema for 3 days
32	Jasminum azoricum L.	Oleacea	L	Juice applied on the spot and dressed Juice 20ml/orl	Wounds, burns, boils skin abscess Giddiness and nausea
33	Jatropha gossypifolia L.	Euphorbiaceae	L	Macerated with jowar seeds applied for week days	Furuncles, Haematoma
34	Lepidagathis cristata Wild	Acanthaceae	I	Ash with coconut oil, made to paste, applied on the affected part for week	Anti –inflammatory, skin abscess, tumours

				days	
35	Leucas aspera (Willd) Link	Lamiaceae	L	Extract wit pepper, garlic/ Oral Extract dropped in the opposite ear of the painside.	Malaria, intermittent fevers encephalitis migraine
36	Luffa tuberosa Roxb	Cucurbitacea	Rt	Juice extracted with 5 gm musambaram/oral 3 times a day for 3 days	Abaortifacient
37	Parkinsonia aculeate L.	Caesapiniaceae	L	Extract/oral for 3 days	Anaemia, Fatigue
38	Pedaliium murex L.	Pedaaliaceae	Wp	Mouth gargling with decoction.	Dental caries
39	Pergularia daemia (forssk.) Chior	Asclepiadaceae	L	5,6 drops of extract dropped in the opposite ear to the bitten area for one time. Wit pepper macerated applied to knee for week days	Scorpion bite antidote Oedema
40	Peristrophe paniculata (forssk.) Brum.	Acanthaceae	Wp	Mixed with egg white and lime applied on the fracture and made bandage	Bone fractures
41	Phyllanthus amarus schum & Thonn	Euphoarbiacea	Wp	With clover dry ginger extract/oral for three weeks	Yellow and white jaundice
42	Pithecellobium dulce (Roxb) Benth	Mimosaceae	Sb	Extract with jaggery of Borasus/oral very often	Thirst
43	Pongamia pinnata (L)Pierre	Fabaceae	Sb	20ml extract/oral for week days	Dog bite antidote
			F	Powder with pepper /oral with ilk for 3 days	Whooping cough
			Rb	Extract/oral for there days	Gonorrhoea
44	Solanum surattense Burn.F.	Solanaceae	F	Juice mixed with turmeric powder applied inside the eye lid. Macerated, applied and exposed to	Yellow jaundice

				sunlight	Scabies
45	Syzygium cumini (L.) Skeels	Myrtaceae	Sb	Decoction with lemon juice in honey/oral twice a day for two days	Anti diabetic
46	Tamarindus India L.	Caesalpiniaceae	S	Macerated with water applied on bitten area Extraction/oral for 3 days	Scorpion bite antidote Menorrhoea
47	Tephrobia purpuria (L) Pers.	Fabaceae	R	Decoction with garlic dropped (2-3drops) in ears for 3 days Brushing daily	Otalgia Pyorrhoea
48	Tridax procumbensL.	Asteraceae	L	Juice applied on the spot	Cut and wounds
49	Vitex negundo L.	Verbenacea	L	Warmed leaves applied on the part. Fresh leaves dressed on to forehead during sleep Decoction with capsicum/oral for 3 days.	Rheumatic pains Headache, giddiness Postnatal debility
50	Wrightia tinctoria (Roxb) R.Br	Apocynaceae	L	Macrated pulp with butter placed around the finger and dressed for 3 days.	Whitlow, Rheumatoid arthritis
51	Zizipus mauritiana Lam	Rhamnaceae	Sb	Prepared paste with asafetida/oral for 3 days	Constipation in children