
Observations on plantlore in Buldhana District of Maharashtra

Received : 20.05.2007

Accepted : 03.06.2007

**Patil P.S., Dushing Y.A.
and D.A.Patil**

P.G. Department of Botany
S.S.V.P. Sanstha's L.K.Dr.P.R. Ghogrey
Science College, Dhule-424005, M.S.

Abstract

Traditional medicinal uses for various human diseases of 54 angiospermic species from Shegaon, Sangrampur, Jalgaon (Jamod), Malkapur, Nandura, Motala and Khamgaon tehsils of Buldhana district (Maharashtra) are reported. Of these, applications of 36 species are unknown or little known. The folk medicines consist of a sole drug or a principal drug in combination with other drugs. The recent botanical name, local plant name, recipe, mode of administration, doses etc. are communicated as collected from the tribal and rural folks of the district. It is desirable to screen these species on modern scientific lines.

Key Words : *Ethnomedicine, Buldhana district, Maharashtra.*

Introduction

Folk herbal medicinal practices have attracted attention in recent times worldwide. WHO estimated about 80% of world population in developing nations depending upon traditional medicines for their primary healthcare. Traditional knowledge is vanishing rapidly due to the forces of acculturation, industrialization, modernization and fast depleting plant-wealth. It is, therefore, necessary to document ancient practices.

Buldhana district lies between, 19°51' and 21°17' north latitude and 75°57' and 56°59' east longitude. It is one of the district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. The ranges of Satpura and Ajanta mountains extend in the district. The forests belong mainly to the 'Southern tropical dry deciduous type.'

The district is inhabited by large section of rural and tribal population. The main occupation of the people is agriculture. They also depend largely on plant resources in their surroundings. Modern healthcare in the district is characterized by the deficient infrastructure and also beyond the reach of common people. The district has largely remained untapped for their indigenous plantlore. The present attempt, therefore, reports to fill in this lacuna.

Methodology

Remote villages and hamlets of Shegaon, Sangrampur, Jalgaon (Jamod), Malkapur, Nandura, Motala and Khamgaon tehsils of Buldhana district were surveyed. The native medicinal practices were gathered through interviewing local experienced

informants, medicine men and women, heads of aboriginal communities, farmers and labourers. Repeated inquiries (5 to 10 informants) were made and the information was verified in different parts and seasons in the district. Plants and their parts were collected. Voucher specimens are housed in the Herbarium, P.G. Department of Botany of L. K. Dr. P. R. Ghogrey Science College, Dhule. Plant species have been deciphered by using flora by Cooke (1958) and Patil (2003). The data was collected with reference to plant part/s or product used, local plant and disease name, recipe, doses, etc. It has been critically compared with the classical literature. Ambasta (1986), Anonymous (1948-1976), Jain (1991) and Watt (1889-1893) to point out little known or additional reports*. The plant species have been arranged alphabetically.

Enumeration

1. *Acacia nilotica* (L.) Del. subsp. *indica* (Bth.) Brenan (Mimosaceae) Babul:Stems are debarked first and then dipped in water overnight. This infusion is used to gargle in case of mouth-ulcer. It is followed till cure.
2. *Achyranthes aspera* L. (Amaranthaceae) Aghada, Khatara :Ash of entire plants is dissolved in water. It is boiled and salt is obtained. It is then applied on injuries in the region of anus caused due to piles and fissures etc.
3. *Aegle marmelos* (L.) Corr. (Rutaceae) Bel :Pulp of fruit is consumed to control dysentery.
- *4. *Ailanthus excelsa* Roxb. (Simaroubaceae) Maharupk :Leaf juice is applied on stomach to treat intestinal worms and also to control dysentery in children. It is practiced till cure.
- *5. *Aloe vera* L. (Liliaceae) Korphad :(i) Latex obtained from leaves is warmed and then dropped into the ears to prevent pus formation during ear-ache. (ii) It is also mixed with turmeric powder and applied on injuries till cure.

6. *Annona squamosa* L. (Annonaceae) Sitaphal : Crushed leaves are tied on injury. It acts as wormicide.
- *7. *Anogeissus latifolia* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. (Combretaceae) Dhavada :Stem bark is powdered. One spoonful powder alongwith single flower of *Catharanthus roseus* (L.) G.Don (Apocynaceae). It is consumed at morning and evening per day for few days against diabetes.
- *8. *Argemone mexicana* L. (Papaveraceae) Sathyanashi :(i) Oil is extracted from seeds. It is applied on injuries. (ii) Seeds are burnt and the fumes are passed on gums to kill worms.
- *9. *Balanites aegyptiaca* (L.) Del. (Balanitaceae) Hingane :Leaves are chewed and then the saliva is poured on eyes for eye injury.
- *10. *Barleria prionitis* L. (Acanthaceae) Katya-Karotyia : Leaves are first chewed, whey is then gargled. This is practiced for curing mouth ulcer.
- *11. *Blepharis repens* (Vahl) Roth (Acanthaceae) Hadsan : Leaves are consumed alongwith wheat 'Chapati' to cure the bone fracture. It is consumed for about a week.
12. *Butea monosperma* (Lamk.) Taub. (Fabaceae) Palas :Flowers are dipped in water contained in earthen pot. The flowers are then crushed and boiled in the same water. This decoction, one cup a day for a fortnight, is drunk to cure various urinary complaints.
- *13. *Caesalpinia bonduc* (L.) Roxb. (Caesalpiaceae) Sagargoti : (i) Decoction of leaves or its extract is drunk to treat rheumatism. A cup of it is administered for few days. (ii) Seeds are removal of seed wants are rubbed in water. Spoonful of this liquid is given orally to kill the intestinal worms. This is followed for few days.
- *14. *Calotropis gigantea* (L.) R.Br. (Asclepiadaceae) Pandhari Rui :Flower buds of this plant alongwith leaves of *Adhathoda zeylanica* Medic. (Acanthaceae), seeds of *Piper nigrum* L. (Piperaceae), Rhizome of *Zinziber officinale* Rosc. (Zingiberaceae) are crushed finely. Pellets are then prepared from it. One pellet per day is consumed for seven days after sunset by the patient suffering from knee-ache.
15. *Calotropis procera* (Ait.) R. Br. (Asclepiadaceae) Rui :Latex is applied on scorpionsting.
- *16. *Carica papaya* L. (Caricaceae) Papai :Latex obtained from fruits is consumed

for few days to regularize menstrual cycle.

- *17. *Celosia argentea* L. (Amaranthaceae) Shahumendha : (i) Roots are chewed to increase strength of gums. (ii) Root extract prepared in water, about 10 ml thrice a day, is taken orally to cure sun-stroke.
- *18. *Clerodendrum multiflorum* (Burm. f.) O.Ktze. (Verbenaceae) Arni :Extract of leaves, about one spoonful, is administered to children suffering from intestinal worms.
- 19. *Cocculus hirsutus* (L.) Diels. (Menispermaceae) Wasan : Leaf paste is applied on injury.
- *20. *Corchorus depressus* L. (Tiliaceae) Harankhuri : Entire plants are crushed and powdered. It is mixed in curd or whey. It is then consumed to reduce body heat and to cure spermatorrhoea.
- *21. *Diplocyclos palmatus* (L.) Jeffery (Cucurbitaceae) Shivlingi : Seed extract is prepared in mother's milk. It is given orally 2-3 times a day to cure flatulence in children. Each dose should contain one spoonful extract.
- 22. *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L. (Asteraceae) Maka :Leaf paste is applied on scabies till cure.
- *23. *Embllica officinalis* Gaertn. (Euphorbiaceae) Awala :Leaves are burnt and the ash obtained is homogenized in coconut oil. It is applied on injuries caused due to burns. It is practiced till cure.
- *24. *Ficus bengalensis* L. (Moraceae) Wad :The newly formed aerial roots, about 50 gm, are rubbed in cow's milk. This is drunk in three dosage to treat jaundice.
- *25. *Ficus racemosa* L. (Moraceae) Umbar :(i) Unripe receptacles are dried, powdered and mixed in milk. One or two spoonful of it is consumed per day for a fortnight to cure impotency. (ii) Latex taped at early moving is applied on gums to treat tooth-ache.
- *26. *Ficus religiosa* L. (Moraceae) Pimpal :One spoonful of root extract is drunk before meal to increase blood.It is followed for 2 to 3 weeks.
- 27. *Helicteres isora* L. (Sterculiaceae) Mural-sheng :Fruits are rubbed in water. This paste about one spoonful in administrated to children for stomach-ache.
- *28. *Limonia acidissima* L. (Rutaceae) Kauth :Leaves are chewed to cure mouth ulcer.

- *29. *Madhuca longifolia* (Koen.) Macbr. var. *latifolia* (Roxb.) Chevalier (Soapotaceae) Mahu :Seeds are wrapped in betel leaves (*Piper betel* L.) and then consumed to treat tonsils or throat swelling.
- *30. *Mangifera indica* L. (Anacardiaceae) Amba :Kernels are baked and then consumed to control dysentery.
- *31. *Maytenus emarginata* (Willd.) Ding Hou (Celastraceae) Henkal :Young leaves are chewed to cure mouth ulcer.
32. *Mentha spicata* L. (Lamiaceae) Pudina :Leaf juice is mixed with the juice of *Zingiber officinalis* Rosc. (Zingiberaceae). One spoonful of it is taken orally for few days to cure cough.
- *33. *Mirabilis jalapa* L. (Nyctaginaceae) Gulbas :Tuberous roots are powdered. About ten gm of powder is mixed in milk. It is drunk per day for few days to cure leucorrhoea.
- *34. *Momordica charantia* L. (Cucurbitaceae) Karle : Leaf juice is mixed with curd. It is consumed to cure yellow urination.
- *35. *Morinda pubescens* J.E .Sm. (Rubiaceae) Aal :Decoction of leaves, about a cup per day, is drunk for 14 days to treat knee-ache.
- *36. *Moringa oleifera* Lamk. (Moringaceae) Shewga :A cup of leaf extract is taken orally at morning for few days to control diabetes.
37. *Opuntia dillenii* Haw. (Cactaceae) Phanta :Ripe fruits are baked and then consumed to cure cough.
- *38. *Pithecoelobium dulce* (Roxb.) Benth. (Mimosaceae) Aml-chinch : Seeds paste is applied onto the joints for joint-ache. It is followed till cure.
39. *Psidium guajava* L. (Myrtaceae) Peru, Jam :Decoction of leaves is used to gargle in case of tooth-ache.
- *40. *Punica granatum* L. (Punicaceae) Dalimb :Decoction of leaves is gargled for curing mouth ulcer.
- *41. *Ricinus communis* L. (Euphorbiaceae) Erandi :(i) Seed oil about 15-20 ml twice a day till cure is administered to treat amoebic dysentery. (ii) Root extract is mixed with whey. A cup of it is administered per day to a patient suffering from urinary stone. It is followed for a week.
- *42. *Salvadora persica* L. (Salvadoraceae) Pilu-kathar:Leaves are extracted in lemon juice to treat intestinal worms and also to control dysentery in children. Two to three spoonful of extract is advised per day. It is practiced till cure.

- *43. *Sapindus laurifolius* Vahl (Sapindaceae) Ritha :Fruits are burnt and their epicarps are consumed alongwith jaggery. It is consumed for three days to cure piles.
- *44. *Semecarpus anacardium* L. f. (Anacardiaceae) Bhilava :Seeds are boiled in milk. This milk, about a cup, is drunk as a remedy against cough. It is followed for 3-4 days.
- *45. *Sesamum orientale* L. (Pedaliaceae) Til :Stem powder is spread on injury caused due to axe.
46. *Solanum virginianum* L. (Solanaceae) Ringni :Roots are extracted in whey. It is drunk three times as antidote for bite of snake (Ghonas).
47. *Spilanthes calva* DC. (Asteraceae) Akkalkara :Consumption or chewing of flowering heads is a remedy for stammering children.
- *48. *Tamarindus indica* L. (Caesalpiniaceae) Chinch :Seed paste is applied on head to reduce redness of eyes. It is practiced till cure.
49. *Terminalia arjuna* (Roxb.) Wight and Arn. (Combretaceae) Arjun :Stem bark is powdered finely. It is mixed in coconut oil. This paste is applied onto injuries.
50. *Terminalia bellirica* (Gaertn.) Roxb. (Combretaceae) Behada :Epicarp of fruit is powdered and mixed with urine of she-goat. Pellets are prepared and one pellet is consumed at morning and also at evening to control asthma. This is following till cure.
- *51. *Tinospora cordifolia* (Willd.) Miers. (Menispermaceae) Gulwel :Stems are dried, powdered and homogenized with honey. One spoonful of it is consumed per day to reduce acidity. It is following till cure.
- *52. *Vigna mungo* (L.) Hepper (Fabaceae) Udid :Leaf paste is applied on injuries caused due to thorns and sickle.
53. *Vitex negundo* L. (Verbenaceae) Nirgudi :Bricks are first heated. Leaves are placed on them. The fumes evolved are then passed on joints to treat joint-ache.
54. *Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal (Solanaceae) Ashwagandha :Roots are dried and powdered. One spoonful of it is homogenized in honey or milk. It is taken orally to remove impotency or as aphrodisiac.

Discussion

The present paper includes information on 54 plant species used as remedies for various human ailments such as mouth ulcer, piles, fissures, injuries, tooth-ache, eye-injuries, bone fracture, leucorrhoea, urinary complaints, joint-ache, knee-ache, stomach-ache, tonsils, dysentery, cough, asthma, stammering in children, scabies, burns, flatulence, spermatorrhoea, diabetes, menstrual complaints, yellow urination and acidity. The common recipes include paste, oil, decoction, infusion, juice, fumes, powder and pellets. Generally sole drug is employed, except few cases wherein it is supplemented by other plant species e.g. *Adhatoda zeylanica* Medic., *Piper nigrum* L., *P.betel* L. and *Zingiber officinalis* Rosc., *Cathranthus roseus* (L.) G.Don. While preparing recipes, some additional plant products

e.g. coconut oil; animal product e.g. animal milk or mother's milk, she-goat urine, curd and whey are used. The various plant parts like roots, leaves, stem, flowers, fruits and seeds are usually used, apart from the entire plants. The critical comparison of these uses with the classical literature indicated as many as 36 species/applications undocumented hitherto for the said diseases. However, the claimed therapeutic value of these reported plant species call for modern scientific studies to establish their safety, efficacy and to perpetuate the indigenous knowledge of the people of the district.

Acknowledgement

Authors are thankful to the authorities of the institution for laboratory and library facilities.

References

1. Ambasta, S.P. (1986) The Useful Plants of India. Publication and Information Directorate, CSIR, New Delhi, India.
2. Anonymous, (1948-1976) The Wealth of India : Raw Materials And Industrial Products. Vol.1 to 11. Publication and Information Directorate, CSIR, New Delhi, India.
3. Cooke, T. (1958) Flora of the Presidency of Bombay Vol.I-III B.S.I. (Repr.Ed.) Calcutta, India.
4. Jain, S.K. (1991) Dictionary of Indian Folk Medicine and Ethnobotany. Deep Publication, New Delhi, India.
5. Patil, D.A. (2003) Flora of Dhule and Nandurbar Districts (Maharashtra), Bishen Singh Mahendra Pal Singh, Dehra Dun.
6. Watt, George (1889-1893) A Dictionary of Economic Products of India. Vol. 1 to 6. Periodical Expert, Shahadara, Delhi, India.