

Plants Used In Reproductive Ailments By Tribals of Nasik District (Maharashtra)

M.V. Patil, Department of Botany, Gangamai Education Trust's College of Arts
And Science, Nagaon – 424 004 District Dhule (M.S.)

*D.A. Patil, S.S.V. Sanstha's L.K. Dr. P.R. Ghogrey Science College,
Dhule – 424 005. (M.S.)

Received: 02.11.2003

Accepted: 02.01.2004

ABSTRACT: The study concerns the first-hand information gathered during ethnomedicinal surveys in Nasik district, Maharashtra, of plants traditionally used by aborigines and rural folks for the treatment of gynecological, genital and other related aspects. Uses of 25 angiospermic species belonging to 22 population. The paper gives botanical identity, family, local name, collection number and mode of administration.

KEY WORDS: Ethnomedicine, Nasik District, Maharashtra.

INTRODUCTION

Nasik is north-western district of state of Maharashtra which lies between latitudes 19°50' and longitudes 73°30' and 70°55'. It consist of 13 talukas of which Surgana, Pient, Kalwan, Dindori, Igatpuri, Nasik, Sinnar, Deola, Trimbakeswar are inhabited by ethnic tribes such as Bhils, Kokana, Kokana Kunbi, Katkaris, Mahadeo Koil, Thakur and Warli.

According to (2001 census) Population is 49, 87,923 of which 9.31 lakh are tribal. They have their own socio- cultural traditions and way of life.

Literature resume indicated that the district is still underexplored ethnobotanically. Sharma and Lakshminarasimhan 1986 studied the district. However, their attempts were mainly concerned with floristic survey and could pay attention cursory on utility point of view only. The present authors surveyed Nasik district ethnobotanically as an exclusive topic of research.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The ethnobotanical surveys are carried out since June 1997. The information is gathered form the tribal and rural medicinemen, headmen, witch-doctors, elder men and women. Repeated enquires were made in different pockets of the district in different seasons. Plant specimens have been collected, preserved and housed in the herbarium of botany of G.E. Trust's Arts, Science and Commerce College, Nagaon, District Dhule (Maharashtra). Plants are arranged alphabetically family, local name, collection number and mode of administration.

DISCUSSION

Lack of sufficient number of health-care centers, communication especially in inaccessible areas and financial condition of these groups obviously leads to afford for ethnomedicines. The information received from tribal people witchdoctors, elder men

and women of these areas are communicated. All these plants are locally available and are used by the people as home remedies.

Twenty five plants are identified, and local names are also verified. Plant extract, decoction, infusion or powder obtained from plant parts like root, stem bark, flower, fruits and seeds are used for various reproductive ailments or diseases. Nineteen plant species are used as sole drug and six species as principal drugs Combined with 2-3 aids. Reproductive ailments or diseases like problems of menstruation, white discharge, leucorrhoea, gonorrhoea, spermatorrhoea, impotency, abortion and obstructions in delivery etc. are being treated by aborigines of Nasik District.

The active principles will divulge significant leads for synthesizing new drug in future. Instead of sole drug 2-3 drug in combination are administrated. In such cases it is difficult to decipher the actually more effective plant or drug for a particular ailment. It is only clinical studies that can ear mark accurately.

The data accrued has compared with classical literature (Anonymous, 1948-76; Ambasta, 1986; Jain, 1991; Watt, 1889-1893). Ethnomedicinal uses of 22 species are being reported for the first time. The uses of other three species viz. *Abrus precatorius*, *Hemidesmus indicus* and *Rungia repens* are found reported from other parts of our country. The rural and tribal people of the district still continue their tradition's therapy. It therefore, appear worthwhile to extend investigations of these crude drugs on pharmacological and clinical lines.

RESULTS

1. *Abelmoschus tetraphyllus* (Roxb.ex Horn) Bross. (Malvaceae), Garabhendi: 307

Stem bark of this plant and stem bark of *Oroxylum indicum* (L) Vent. Are crushed and extract about 10-15 ml is given early in morning for a week to treat leucorrhoea. Consumption of food is avoided for 5-6 hours after administration of dose.

2. *Abrus precatorius* L. (Papilionaceae) Gunj: 310

Infusion of roots about 15-20ml, thrice a day for two days is orally given to women for leucorrhoea.

3. *Ampelocissus latifolia* planch. (Vitaceae) Bendore: 216

Roots are chewed or one tea spoon juice of root is given orally for easy delivery .

4. *Borassus flabelliformis* Linn. (Palmae, Aracaceae) Tad.: 346

Fruits of this plant and root of *Solanum virginianum* L. are crushed together. Extract is given twice a day for nine days to arouse sex in both males and females and also used as a remedy for impotency.

5. *Butea monsperma* (Lam.) kuntze. (Papilioaceae) Palas: 67

Extract of heated roots two-three spoons is given at night as a remedy for impotency. It is advised for one month.

6. *Cassia occidentalis* L. (Caesalpiaceae) Rantarota: 78

Roots of this species alongwith roots of *Caesalpinia speria* Roxb. And *Azadirachta indica* A. Juss. are kept in water. This infusion, about 20ml, administered daily at night, as a remedy for leucorrhoea. Treatment is given till cure.

**7. *Celosia argentea* L. (Amaranthaceae)
Kirdu: 169**

Root extract, about 10-20 ml daily or night, for 7-8 days is given to control excessive menstruation.

**8. *Cissampelos pareira* L.
(Menispermaceae) Tannivel: 207**

Roots are boiled and half cup of decoction is given for 8-10 days to control leucorrhoea.

9. *Cordia gharaf* (Forssk), Ehrenb. & Asch. (Cordiaceae) Gondhani: 328.

Fruit juice about half a cup daily for one month is given as a remedy for spermatorrhoea.

10. *Dendrophthoe falcate* (L.f.) (Ettingshausen, Loranthaceae) Bandgul: 44

Stem pieces of plant growing on *Tamarindus indicus* L. are selected and red lead is sprinkled on them. Stem pieces along with black thread are tied on loin of pregnant women to prevent abortion.

11. *Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb. (Ebenaceae) Temburni: 88

Stem pieces are burnt in hearth and this smoke is passed over body of pregnant women for easy delivery and good health after delivery.

12. *Diplocyclos palmatus* (L) Jeffery (Cucurbitaceae) Shivlingi: 70

Seeds of this plant are crushed in one Spoon lemon juice and cow-ghee and given to female for conception. It is administered twice a day after bath or tablets of this mixture are prepared adding jaggery and one tablet twice a day is advised for 15-20 days.

13. *Eulophia herbacea* Lindl. (Orchidaceae) Unmarkand: 344

Decoction of tuber is useful in spermatorrhoea and menstruation. Doses vary from two to four spoons, generally advised at night after meals.

14. *Geodorum densiflorum* (Lam.) Schlect. (Orchidaceae), HaryaKand: 228

Rhizomes are consumed along with honey with for two to three months as a treatment for impotency.

15. *Hemidesmus indicus* R.Br. (Asclepiadaceae) Anantmul, Uprsal: 38

One first of roots are crushed and kept in water for 30-40 minutes half cup of infusion is given for seven days to treat gonorrhoea.

16. *Ipomea pes - tigridis* L. (Convolvulaceae) Bervel: 36

Decoction of flowers and roots are used as a treatment for leucorrhoea.

17. *Milium tomentosum* (Roxb.) Sinclair (Anonaceae) humb.: 126

Unripe fruits are burnt and smoke is passed over the body of mother after delivery as remedy for body swellings.

18. *Moringa cocanensis* Nimmo ex Dalz. & Gibbs. (Moringaceae) Ran Shegu: 195

Stem bark is heated and kept on stomach of pregnant woman for abortion

19. *Opuntia dillenii* Haw. (Cactaceae) Phalisabar:

Phylloclade of same plant and stem bark of *Cordia dichotoma* Forst f. and *Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb. Are crushed and about 20ml of extract is given once a day till cure, as a treatment for mens trual complaints.

20. *Oroxylum indicum* (L) Vent., (Bignoniaceae) Tetu: 160.

Decoction of stem bark about 20ml per day at night is useful remedy to regulate menstruation.

21. *Plumeria rubra* L. Forma acuminate (Ait.) Santapan and Irani ex Shah (Apocynaceae) Phandhara Chafa : 144.

Stem bark is heated and kept on abdomen of a woman unwilling to conceive. A treatment for 8-10 days causes permanent sterility.

22. *Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb. (Papilionaceae) Biwala:

Stem bark is boiled and decoction, about 20ml is given orally for a week to control excessive menstruation.

23. *Rungia repens* (L.) Nees (Acanthaceae): 23

Leaves of this plants and Mallotus Philippiensis (Lam). Muell-Arg. And Fruits of Piper longum Linn. are crushed together. Half cup of juice is given for 4-5 days to regularize unperiodic menstruation.

24. *Securienega virosa* (Roxb ex Willd.) Pax and Hoffm. (Euphorbiaceae) Picrundi, Pichruna:269.

About two spoon of leaf powder or one spoon of infusion of leaves is taken orally at night for three days to treat spermatorrhoea.

25. *Woodfordia fruticosa*: Kurz (Lythraceae) Dhaiti:170

Stem bark is crushed in water and this extract, about 25ml is given to ladies for 6-7 days in case of excessive bleeding after delivery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The junior author (MVP) is thankful to Principal of Gangamai Education Trust's Arts, Commerce and Science College, Dhule for necessary facilities and encouragements during the course of investigation.

REFERENCES

1. Ambasta (1986). The useful plants of Indian Directorate, CSIR, New Delhi, India.
2. Anonymous (1948 – 1976). The Wealth of India. A Dictionary of Indian Raw materials and Industrial Products. Vo. I-11, Directorate, CSIR, New Delhi.
3. Anonymous (2001). Population: District statistical Department, Nasik, (M.S), India.
4. Jain S.K. (1991). Dictionary of Indian Folk Medicine and Ethnobotany. Deep Publication, New Delhi, India.
5. Sharma B.D. and Lakshminarasimhan (1986). Ethnobotanical studies on tribals on Nasik District (M.S.) Econ. Tax Bot. 8, 439-454.
6. Watt George (1889-1893). A Dictionary of Economic Products of Indian Vol. 1-6 Periodical Expert Shahadara, New Delhi, India.