

Some Less Known Medicinal Plants Traditionally Used In Dharmapuri District – Tamilnadu

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Received : 12-1-2005

Accepted : 23-3-2005

ABSTRACT :

A medicinal plants survey was done in various parts of Dharmapuri district, about 260 medicinal plants were identified and collected. Amongst them, few of the plants were less known but had remarkable medicinal properties, they were grouped together and are enumerated by the botanical name, family name, local name, locality and ethnomedical properties.

INTRODUCTION

Dharmapuri district is present in the middle to northwest part of Tamilnadu, surrounded by western Ghats and dense forests. The altitude ranges from 250 m to 300m in the city and 500 m to 900 m in the hills. The main water source of this district is Cauvery river. The types of soils are black soil, slightly loamy soil, and also clay soil is present in the lower altitudes. Medicinal plants survey were taken in various places of the district for one month, nearly 260 plants were collected, identified botanically and the traditional uses were recorded. Some of these plants have remarkable medicinal properties known only by the local people.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

The plants were collected from near by hills, lakes, ponds, river banks and waste lands of various places such as Harur, Hosur, Thali, Thenkanikottai, Papparapatti, Perumapalayam, Bommidi, Uthankarai, Kaveripattinam, Palakodu, Kadathur, Pennagaram, Hognekal, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri. The collected plants were

correctly identified with the help of various floras and illustrations. For every plant, a specimen herbarium was prepared and kept for future reference. All those plants were grouped together according to the alphabetical order in three categories such as botanical name, family and medicinal uses. The local name, medicinal importance and locality of the plant were identified and recorded with the help of village peoples. Out of these 260 plants, nearly 200 plants are common, available in various places of Tamilnadu and also commercially available. Only few of these plants are uncommon, which are not much known, but traditionally used by the local people for various ailments. These plants were enumerated alphabetically with botanical name followed by Family (F), Local name (L), Locality (P), habitation and ethnomedical property (Use).

1. Actinopeteris dichotoma Bedd.

F-Polypodiaceae

L-Mayiladum sikai

P-small hills near Hognekal.

Herbaceous palm like fern, grows up to 20 cm in height, commonly found in lower altitude hills.

Use: The entire plant used as haemostatic, 81 litleprotie?? And the leaf is used for diabetes.

2. *Ageratum conyzoides* Linn.

F- Asteraceae

L-Poompillu, Vadaichedi

P – Waste lands in Periyanaahalli.

Soft hairy annual weed, grows up to 90cm in height, leaves are oppositely arranged.

Use: Roots are used for the treatment of renal calculi. The tribal use the leaf juice for cuts and wounds and also for eye infections.

3. *Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.F) Wallich

F-Acanthaceae

L-Nelavempu

P – Rice lands after harvesting.

An erect, branched annual herb, with quadrangular branches.

Use: The entire plant is antipyretic and antiulcerant. The leaf juice is given orally for snakebites.

4. *Anisomeles malabarica* (L) R.Br.

F-Lamiceae

L-Peyimeeratti, Aruvasadachi.

P-Waste lands in Karimagalam.

Shrub growing up to 1.5 m in height having tetragonous stems and branches, leaves are very thick, aromatic and oppositely arranged.

Use: The entire plant is used for the treatment of epilepsy and schizophrenia. The decoctions of the leaves are antipyretic.

Also used for rheumatic arthritis and snakebites.

5. *Aristolochia indica* Linn.

F-Aristolochiaceae

L-Karudakodi, Eswaramooli.

P-Near kaveripattinam and Krishnagiri dam. Perennial, glabrous twiner with long woody root.

Use: The roots are cardiotoxic, diuretic and also used for menstrual disorder.

6. *Baliospermum montanum* (Willd.) Muell – Arg.

F-Euphorbiaceae

L-Nagadanti

P-Hognekal forest.

A stout shrub with herbaceous branches from the roots.

Use: Leaves are used in asthma, seeds are purgative and roots are used in the treatment of jaundice.

7. *Cardiospermum halicacabum* Linn.

F-Sapindaceae

L-Mndakkattan

P-Agricultural lands in Harur, uthunkarai, Nallampalli.

Annual climber, leaves are bicompond, flowers are white and small.

Use: Roots are diuretic, antipyretic and also used for menstrual disorder and arthritis. Leaves have sedative action and used for rheumatism and piles.

8. *Caralluma attenuate* Wight

F-Asclepiadaceae

L-Kallimulaiyan

P-Waste dry lands in Dharmapuri, Kariaamangalam and Harur.

Branched small shrub, present in thorny forest. Branches re ended with racemes.

Use: Whole plant is used to cure diabetes.

9. *Citrullus colocynthis* (L) Schrad.

F-Cucurbitaceae

L-Paitummati

P-Waste lands in rainy season and also weeds along with Cucumber, in Kaveripattinam and Morappur.

Trailing annual herbs, spreads with the soil, having angular branching stems and woody tender shoots.

Use: Roots are purgative. Fruits are antipyretic, and abortifacient. The entire plant used in the treatment of jaundice and elephantiasis.

10. *Cleome viscosa* Linn.

F-Capparaceae

L-Naivelai, Naikkadukku

P- Dry waste lands in various places of Dharmapuri.

Annual sticky herb with strong penetrating odour.

Use: The entire plant is anti-helminthic. The leaf juice is used as antipyretic. The seeds have cardiac stimulant property.

11. *Coldenia procumbens* Linn.

F- Boraginaceae

L-Seruppadai

P-Water sewage, dry lakes and slums in Periyannahalli, Palakodu and Bomidi. Spread along with soil, only present in summer season. Leaves contain numerous epidermal hairs.

Use: Leaves are anti-inflammatory and leaf juices are applied externally in rheumatic swellings.

12. *Desmodium gangeticum*

F-Fabaceae

L-Orilla

P-Dense forest of Hognekal

Erect, branches contain soft grey hairs.

Use: Roots are aphrodisiac, diuretic, cardiotoxic and also used in the treatment of asthma.

13. *Heliotropium indicum* Linn.

F-Boraginaceae

L-Telkodukku poondu.

P-Forest near Thoppur hills.

Annual herb, 75 cm in height and densely branched, grows well in riverbeds and lower altitudes of the hills.

Use: The entire plant is used for the treatment of ulcer, roots are aphrodisiac and the flowers are used as abortifacient.

14. *Hyptis suaveolens*

F- Lamiaceae

L-Poothachedaiyan, Natapoochedi

P-Interior villages of Harur, river beds in Kaveripattinam, near ponds in Dharmapuri
Aromatic herb, grows up to 1 m in height and found densely in rainy season.

Use: The leaves are used as mosquito repellent.

15. *Lantana camara* Linn.

F-Verbenaceae

L-Unnichedi

P-Present in the entire way of Dharmapuri to Hosur in summer season. Large evergreen

shrub with spines, leaves are opposite, with strong aromatic smell and flowers are yellow and red.

Use: The entire plant is used for malaria, and epilepsy. Powdered leaves are used to cure cuts and wounds.

16. Naravelia zeylanica Linn.

F-Ranunculaceae

L-Vatamkolli

P-Hosur and Krishnagiri.

Climbing Shrub and the flowers are yellow in colour.

Use: The entire plant is used for leprosy and rheumatic pain.

17. Pistia stratiotes Lin.

F- Araceae

L-Akasatharamai

P-Present in the stagnant water surface near Krishnagiri dam. Aquatic plant without stem, growing on the surface of stagnant water and water tank

18. Sphaer anthus indicus Linn.

F-Compositae

L-Vishnukarandai

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P-Mainly present under coconut tree in Kadathur.

Small herb, yields deep red coloured essential oil.

Use: Leaves are used as blood purifier. The flowers and the leaves are used in the treatment of various tumors.

19. Trianthea portulacastrum Linn.

F-Aizoaceae

L-Saranai, Saruvalai

P-Weed present along with paddy and tumeric in Thali.

Spreads along with soil, present mainly in rainy season.

Use: Roots are used to cure eye infections and night blindness.

20. Vitex trifolia

F- Verbenaceae

L-Sirunocchi

P-Perumapalayam.

Aromatic shrub, with trifoliate leaves and flowers are purple in colour.

Use: Roots are anti-inflammatory and anti-leprotic. Leaves are used in the treatment of loss of memory and hair loss.