

CONTENTS

	Page No.
Editorial	01
 Review Articles	
1. Ethno-Pharmacognostical studies of medicinal plants of Jashpur district, Chhattisgarh Neeli Rose Ekka and Vinod Kumar Dixit	02
2. Alginate: A natural polymer in wound management Bhupendra G. Prajapati	05
3. Good agriculture practices for medicinal plants Saini V., Goel R. K., Bhatt J. K. and Rangdale R.	07
4. Wild flowers as medicines Pramod Agrawal, Deshmukh S., Asif Ali, Patil S., Magdum C. S., Mohite S.K. and Nandgude T.D.	12
5. Pharmaceuticals quality assurance Goel R. K., Bhatt J. K., Saini V., T. Mehandiratha	14
6. Traditional herbal remedies from Madhya Pradesh used as oral contraceptives - A field survey Shrivastava S., Dwivedi S., Dubey D. and Kapoor S.	18
 Original Articles	
1. Efficacy of <i>Proimmu</i> on oestrogen induced uterine damage in rat Madhuri Sharma and Govind P. Pandey	23
2. Anti-hyperglycemic and antioxidant activities of the ayurvedic drug Premahaoushadhi choornam in alloxan induced diabetic rats Ch. Jithendra, P. Muralidharan, S. Venkataraman	26
3. Safety evaluation of <i>Gymnema sylvestre</i> and <i>Terminalia bellerica</i> H. S. Chahal and S. S. Agrawal	30
4. Studies on development of oral colon targeted drug delivery system of <i>Locust bean</i> and <i>Xanthan gums</i> Kinage Krishna, Nandgude Tanaji, Bhise Kiran and Deshmukh Pradeep	33
5. Analgesic activity of various extracts of leaves of <i>Azima tetraacantha</i> lam T. D. Nandgude, A. P. Bhojwani*, Krishna Kinage	37
6. Investigation of analgesic activity of leaves part of the <i>Trianthema portulacastrum</i> (l) in standard experimental animal models Shanmugam Suresh Kumar, Sundaram Bama, Natarajan Kiruthiga, Ramanathan Sampath kumar, Thangavel Sivakumar and Palanisamy Dhanabal	39
7. A study of non-hormonal ayurvedic formulation for improvement in reproductive functions Sanghi D. K., Joshi S. B., Shamsudin J., Asghar S., Bhatt J. K., Saini V. and T. Mehandiratha	42

ETHNO-PHARMACOGNOSTICAL STUDIES OF MEDICINAL PLANTS OF JASHPUR DISTRICT (CHHATTISGARH)

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Abstract

Herbs are mines of useful drugs. Plants play a dynamic role in human life. Health care, which was a part of the traditional culture of the people, has become a profession in the modern industrial world. Synthetic drugs have given rise to side effects, which in some cases are more dangerous than the disease. Therefore world's attention has again turned to traditional medicinal system. This paper deals with the survey of medicinal plants of Jashpur district - a dense forest area. The native tribal for treating various ailments is already using these plants. The plants collected during the survey were enumerated alphabetically with correct botanical name, family, local name and uses.

Key words: ethno medicine, traditional medicine, herb healers, Jashpur district.

INTRODUCTION

Jashpur is one of the 16 districts of Chhattisgarh. It covers an area of 1,96,338 miles. Tribal population in Jashpur district amounts to approximately 55-60%. 80% tribals are concentrated in rural area Oraon, Kwar, Gond, Virhore, Ahir and Korwa are the main tribal communities of this area. They depend upon traditional agricultural activities and cattle rearing. The remarkable thing about these communities living in hilly and plain regions is that for their healthcare they use only herbal based medicines. Korwa and Virhore tribes are more backward than others. As they are not so civilized because of living away from educational field, allopathic medicines are unknown to them. That is the reason for their using herbal medicines alone. (Kerketta, 2001).

Ethno pharmaceuticals survey brings out suggestions as to which raw plant material may be tapped and for this they get clues from rural or tribal men. The subject has been receiving considerable attention in India as well as abroad (Schultes, 1960, Jain and Tarafder, 1970, Siddiqui and Husain, 1990, Siddiqui and Husain, 1994).

The purpose of the study is to point out the potentials of medicinal plants and improving new uses of plants of the area. It is worthwhile to tap traditional knowledge while the local vaidyas, who are familiar with curative value of plants, are still alive and before the additional medicine societies become extinct.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The survey was conducted in 2-3 villages of each block of Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh. Where prominent and well-experienced 20 local vaidyas (tribal medicine men without any formal training

in any system of medicine) statements were recorded by filling the questionnaire. For each remedy the following information was requested.

1. Local name of plant and habitat
2. Tribal medicinal use
3. Preparation
4. Dosage
5. Administration
6. Precaution

Collection was made of plants, identity conformed by vaidyas and preserved, authentically identified by various flora. Herbarium of these plants was deposited in the department of Pharmaceutical sciences, Dr. H. S. Gour University, Sagar, M. P.

RESULTS

The medicinal uses of 30 plants belonging to 22 families have been documented for their curative properties. The analysis of the data reveals use of herbs for various ailments from this area. Plants are used to treat common illness like paralysis, epilepsy, tuberculosis, tetanus, snake bite, cancer, arthritis etc. The local vaidyas uses a considerable number of wild plants for conditions not reported in previous works (Alam *et al*, 1990, Manander, 1990, Singh and Maheshwari, 1992). Perusal of data in Table 1 indicates that plants are enumerated alphabetically with correct botanical name & family, local name, plant part, uses of plants, administration and frequency distribution. Some uses of known plants were found to be new. This study brings forth the variety of uses for which these drugs are employed.

TABLE 1: THE CATALOGUE THAT EMBODIES THE INFORMATION, ARRANGED IN RESPECTIVE COLUMNS

Voucher No	Bot. Name & family	Local name	Plant part	Name of ailment	Administration	No used by local vaidya	%
01/1	<i>Acacia leucophloea</i> (Leguminosae)	Bambary	Bark	Diabetes	Extract with sugar is taken orally.	01	05
01/2	<i>Acorus calamus</i> (Araceae)	Ghod bach	Tuber	Phallic agent	Pills prepared with <i>Sida acuta</i> , <i>Ocimum</i> , <i>Sanctum</i> is taken orally	15	75
01/3	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i> (Acanthaceae)	Adusa	Leaf	Asthma* Tuberculosis*	Juice with jaggery is given orally. Juice given.	02 02	10 10
01/4	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (Rutaceae)	Khotta,	Leaf	Jaundice	Juice is given Orally.	03	15
01/5	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> (Compositae)	Chawlattee	Leaf	Cuts & wound*	Juice is applied	20	100
01/6	<i>Aloe barbadensis</i> Linn (Liliaceae)	Ghikuwire	Leaf	Head ache Jaundice Neck cancer	Latex applied. Juice is taken orally. Paste is applied topically	05 02 04	25 10 20
01/7	<i>Andrographis Paniculata</i> (Acanthaceae)	Bhuai neem	Whole plant	Malaria*	Pill is taken orally on empty stomach.	08	40
01/8	<i>Argemone mexicana</i> (Papaveraceae)	Raangainee	Root	Tooth ache Gastric problem	Extract is applied into the tooth cavity. Extraction of root with uncooked rice water and black pepper is Taken orally.	20 10	100 50
01/9	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> (Liliaceae)	Satawari	Root	Dysentery Lactagogue*	Juice is taken internally. Decoction is taken orally.	13 20	85 100
01/10	<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> (Leguminosae)	Koynar	Bark	Body pain	Bark cooked with <i>Centella Asiatica</i> , <i>Capsicum annum</i> , <i>Carica papaya</i> & <i>Vitex negundo</i> in mustard oil is applied topically.	10	50
01/11	<i>Boerhaavia diffusa</i> Linn (Nyctaginaceae)	Khapra sag	Root	Dysentery* Typhoid Tetanus	Juice with rock sugar is taken orally. Juice with rock sugar is taken orally. Root extract with Madhuca indica liquor is taken orally.	15 05 08	75 25 40
01/12	<i>Buchanania Lanzan</i> (Anacardiaceae)	Kitti	Root	Asthma	Extract with sugar is taken orally.	05	25
01/13	<i>Capsicum annum</i> (Solanaceae)	Mirch	Fruit	Para lysis	Apply topically.	05	25
01/14	<i>Carica papaya</i> (Caricaceae)	Pavitar	Root	Tetanus	Sap is taken orally.	15	60
01/15	<i>Carissa spinarum</i> (Apocynaceae)	Karonda	Root	Abdominal pain Syphilis	Extract is taken orally with fermented rice water. Paste is applied.	18 10	90 50
01/16	<i>Cassia fistula</i> (Leguminosae)	Sonarkhi	Bark	Hydrocele	Extract with Madhuca indica is taken orally.	05	25
01/17	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> (Apocynaceae)	Sadabahar	Leaf	Dysentery Wound	Decoction is taken orally. Paste is applied.	03 03	15 15
01/18	<i>Centella asiatica</i> (Umbelliferae)	Mukha adkha	Whole plant	Epilepsy*	Juice is given.	15	75
01/19	<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (Menispermaceae)	Nappa kand	Tuber	Stomach ache & abdominal pain	Extract with fermented rice water is taken orally.	19	95
01/20	<i>Coleus aromaticus benth</i> (Labiatae)	Pathorcur	Leaf	Cough cold	Decoction is taken orally.	02	10
01/21	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> (Cyperaceae)	Kissi lattee	Tuber	Stomach ache & abdominal pain	Pill is taken orally, prepared by root of <i>Solanum xanthocarpum</i> , <i>Argemone mexicana</i> & Jaggery.	15	60
01/22	<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i> (Leguminosae)	Seesum	Leaf	Spermatorrhoea	Extract is taken orally.	05	25

01/23	<i>Dentrocalamus strictus</i> (Gramineae)	Parta bans	Stem	Eczema	Processed black sticky substance is applied.	01	05
01/24	<i>Diospyrus Melanoxylon</i> (Ebenaceae)	Tela	Root	Blood clotting Asthma	Extract is taken internally with Country liquor. Extract with sugar is taken orally.	09 06	45 30
01/25	<i>Elephantopus scaber</i> (compositae)	Meejur chundi	Tuber	Abdominal pain*	Extract with fermented rice water is taken orally.	05	25
01/26	<i>Embllica officinalis</i> (Euphorbia ceae)	Amia	Fruit	Tuberculosis*	Powder is taken orally.	09	45
01/27	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> (Euphorbia ceae)	Dudhia grass	Whole Plant	Snake bite Dysentary	Juice is taken orally. Latex is applied on the novel.	20 10	100 50
01/28	<i>Ficus bengalensis</i> (Moraceae)	Bara	Latex Stilt root	Cataract Bone fracture	Latex with mustard oil dropped onto the eye. Paste prepared by stilt root and <i>Calotropis procera</i> is applied topically.	05 02	25 10
01/29	<i>Euphorbia prostata</i> (Euphorbia ceae)	Chotta dudhia grass	Whole plant	Lactagogue	Grounded plant cooked with bitter fish is taken orally.	02	10
01/30	<i>Gymnema sylvestre</i> (Asclepiada ceae)	gaychemak	Root	Vomitting Mouth ulcer Dysentery	Juice is taken orally. Paste is applied with mother milk. Juice is taken.	01 05 16	05 25 80

● **Uses reported in previous literature.**

DISCUSSION

An attempt has been made to focus new remedies of several existing diseases through herbal plants by collecting information gathered from Jashpur district. Large number of medicinal plants is used for the treatment of chronic as well as casual diseases all over the India. (Das *et al*, 1988, Hemadri *et al* 1984, Kurian, 2003)

In the present communication 30 known plants (*Acacia leucophloea*, *Aegle marmelos*, *Argemone mexicana*, *Buchanania lanzan*, *Capsicum annum*, *Carica papaya*, *Cassia fistula*, *Cocculus hirsutus*, *Dalbergia latifolia*, *Dentrocalamus strictus*, *Ipomea paniculata*, *Euphorbia prostata*, *Cyperus rotundus* and *Diospyros melanoxylon*) and their new uses have been presented Therapeutic uses of plants marked with an asterisk in Table 1 is mentioned in previous literature has been found. However, the medicinal uses attributed to the aforesaid plants are based on folklore information. The data provides sufficient clue for their phytochemical, pharmacological and clinical investigations. Scientific validation of these remedies may help in discovering new drugs from ethno-medicine.

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