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ETHNOBOTANICAL AND ETHNOMEDICINAL OBSERVATIONS IN MAHUR FOREST OF NANDED DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA.

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ABSTRACT

An ethnomedicinal survey of plants in Mahur range forest revealed that some less known medicinal plants have been used by the tribes. The valid scientific name, family, local name(s), habit, dosages and traditional formulation of 25 species belonging to 20 genera and 15 families are enumerated in the paper.

Key Words: Medicinal plants, Mahur forest, Tribes.

Introduction

Ethnobotany deals with the nature and application of plants used in traditional medical system (Mohanta, *et al.*, 2006). The use of plant as medicine is widespread throughout the world. Nearly 8000 species of plants have been recognized as of ethnobotanical importance (Anonymous, 1994).

The Mahur forest of Nanded district of Maharashtra is rich in medicinal plants. The tribal people fulfill their needs through plant medicines for curing different ailments. It is essential to make documentation of medicinal information. Present investigation was therefore undertaken to collect the information regarding ethnomedicinal values of the plants from the tribals of Mahur Taluka of Nanded District, Maharashtra.

Materials and Methods

Ethnobotanical data were collected during the years 2008-2011. The information was gathered through semi structured interviews and discussions held in Mahur Taluka. In this study 13 knowledgeable elders (between the ages of 45 to 65) were selected.

During the course of the study each informant was visited three times in order to verify the reliability of the obtained data. Repeated visits also helped to get some additional information. The collected plants were identified following floras (Naik, 1979, 1998, Yadav and Sirdesai (2002). The plants were enumerated alphabetically along with botanical name, family and vernacular name.

Results and Discussion

Enumeration

1. *Ageratum conyzoides* L.

Family: Asteraceae. **Local Name:** Osadi.

Part(s) used: Leaves. (PRK39).

About spoonful leaf extract is taken twice a day for five days to control cough

2. *Amaranthus viridis* L.

Family: Amaranthaceae. **Local Name:**

Pandra math. **Part(s) used:** Leaves. (PRK 45). About a cup leaf extract two times has

been advised to cure epilepsy.

A spoonful leaf extract is taken early morning for three days to cure abdominal

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3. *Amorphophallus sylvaticus* (Roxb.) Kunth
 Family: Araceae. Local Name: Jangli suran, or gadda. Part(s) used: Corm. (PRK 86). About 25 g of fresh fried corm is advised twice a day for six days as a tonic or energetic.
4. *Barberia prionitis* L.
 Family: Acanthaceae. Local Name: Pivli kate koranti. Part(s) used: Leaves. (PRK 133). Few drops of mixture of leaf extract and kapur is dropped in ear for earache and tympanitis
5. *Bidens biternata* (Lour.) Merr. & Sherff.
 Family: Asteraceae. Local Name: Bauchl. Part(s) used: Leaves and Root. (PRK 42). Two spoonful leaf extract is given twice a day for three days to control cough. A spoonful extract of root is given two times in a day for three days to control abdominal pain by expelling intestinal worms.
6. *Barberia cristata* L.
 Family: Acanthaceae. Local Name: Niikoranti. Part(s) used: Leaves. (PRK 64). A spoonful leaf extract is mixed in spoonful honey and taken twice a day for three days to control cough. A spoonful leaf extract is given twice a day for seven days to cure fever.
7. *Biophytum sensitivum* (L.) DC.
 Family: Oxalidaceae. Local Name: Lajani. Part(s) used: Entire plant. (PRK 136). Spoonful plant extract is taken orally twice a day for two days to stop dysentery. Spoonful decoction of root is given two times in a day for seven days against kidney stone.
8. *Blumea oxyodon* DC.
 Family: Asteraceae. Local Name: Pandhari laniani. Part(s) used: Leaves. (PRK 9). Leaf paste is applied over wound two times in a day for three days for quick healing.
9. *Carthamus tinctorius* L.
10. *Cleome gynandra* L.
 Family: Cleomaceae. Local Name: Pandhari tilwan. Part(s) used: Seeds. (PRK 131). A half spoonful mixture of seed powder and honey is taken orally to stop vomiting.
11. *Cleome viscosa* L.
 Family: Cleomaceae. Part(s) used: Leaves. Local Name: Pivali tilwan. (PRK 174). About half spoonful leaf juice is taken along with a spoonful honey twice a day for three days to treat diarrhea.
12. *Cymbopogon martinii* (Roxb.) Wats.
 Family: Poaceae. Local name: Tikhadhi gawat. Part(s) used: Rhizome. (PRK 1). A spoonful extract of rhizome and root is given early morning for three days to control asthma.
13. *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.
 Family: Poaceae. Local Name: Harali. Part(s) used: Entire plant. (PRK 187). About half cup extract of plant is given twice a day for three days to treat bleeding nose. About a cup plant extract with sugar is advised twice a day for two days to treat fever. Plant paste is applied on swelled part to reduce swelling.
14. *Cyperus alopecuroides* Rottb.
 Family: Cyperaceae. Local Name: Songavat. Part(s) used: Rhizome. (PRK 17). Paste of rhizome is applied over inflammatory area to cure inflammation, and on wound for quick healing
15. *Cyperus alulatus* Kern
 Family: Cyperaceae. Local Name: Bondgavat. Part(s) used: Rhizome. (PRK 73). Powder of rhizome is mixed with water and

is applied on scalp to remove dandruff.

16. *Desmodium velutinum* (Willd.) DC.

Family: Fabaceae. **Local Name:** Chirmi.

Part(s) used: Leaves (PRK 79).

Juice of fresh leaves is applied on feet at night for eight days to cure burning sensation of feet.

17. *Drimys indica* (Roxb.) Jessop

Family: Liliaceae. **Local Name:** Jangli kanda or Ran kanda. **Part(s) used:** Root tuber. (PRK 176).

Piece of bulb is given along with betel leaf four times in a day as an antidote on snake bite. Paste of bulb is applied on stung area as an antidote on scorpion sting. Piece of bulb is administrated twice a day to control abdominal pain.

18. *Iphigenia indica* (L.) A. Gray

Family: Liliaceae. **Local Name:** Jangli lasan or pakli lasan. **Part(s) used:** Seeds. (PRK 66).

About spoonful seed powder is mixed in 25 g jaggery and is given twice a day for three days to increase the lactation of mother.

19. *Ixora chinensis* Lamk.

Family: Rubiaceae. **Local Name:** Kalamahu.

Part(s) used: Leaves and stem bark. (PRK 121).

About half cup leaf extract is taken twice a day for two days to cure abdominal pain.

About a cup extract of bark is taken orally as antidote on snake poison.

20. *Sapindus emarginatus* Vahl.

Family: Sapindaceae. **Local Name:** Ritha.

Part(s) used: Seeds. (PRK 143).

Few drops of seed extract are dropped in nose to cure headache. Seeds extract is used as emetic for poison neutralization.

21. *Spermacoce articularis* L. f.

Family: Rubiaceae. **Local Name:** Madan ghanti. **Part(s) used:** Leaves. (PRK 57).

Paste of leaves is applied over inflammatory area to cure inflammation.

22. *Sesamum laciniatum* Klein ex Willd.

Family: Pedaliaceae. **Local Name:** Ranteel.

Part(s) used: Seeds. (PRK 72).

Paste of seeds is applied on wound for quick healing. About spoonful seeds are taken regularly with warm water at night for digestion.

23. *Solanum anguivi* Lamk

Family: Solanaceae. **Local Name:** Ranwangi or dorli. **Part(s) used:** Fruit. (PRK 29).

About spoonful fruit juice is taken thrice in a day for eight days against weakness. Warm young fruit is advised against digestive problem. A paste of warm fruit is applied on piles regularly until cure. Warm fruit or fried fruit is eaten at night as a carminative. Young fruit is warmed on hot coal and eaten two times a day for eight days to cure cough.

24. *Solanum virginianum* L.

Family: Solanaceae. **Local Name:** Bhuringani. **Part(s) used:** Entire plant. (PRK 165).

A Spoonful extract of root is taken twice a day for two days to cure dysentery. A spoonful leaf extract is given along with spoonful cow milk twice a day to treat rickets. A Spoonful plant extract is given orally twice a day for 15 days to treat concussion of brain. Powder of seed is rubbed on teeth to treat teeth diseases. Decoction of plant is given twice a day for three days to treat cough and asthma.

25. *Ipomoea pes-tigridis* L.

Family: Convolvulaceae. **Local Name:** Beshramwel. **Part(s) used:** Leaves. (PRK31).

Paste of leaves is applied over swelled area to reduce swelling, and on joints to treat joint pain (Perchake).

The study thus revealed that the tribal and local people had vast knowledge about ethnomedicinal uses of plants growing in this area. Total 25 species belonging to 20 genera and 15 families were identified during ethnobotanical survey these medicinal plants

used against various diseases by local people and tribal of Mahur range forest of Nanded district. The noteworthy plant medicines were leaf juice of *Biophytum sensitivum*, *Carthamus tinctorius* seed powder, leaf juice of *Cleome viscosa*, bulb paste of *Drimia indica*, bark extract of *Ixora chinensis* and *Solanum anguivi* fruit. However, their biochemical, clinical and pharmacological studies are required for verification of folkloric claims and bring out newer and potent sources for human welfare.


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