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ETHNO MEDICINAL PLANTS OF RAVER TALUKA,(MAHARASHTRA-I) WITH REFERENCE TO MEDICINAL PROPERTY

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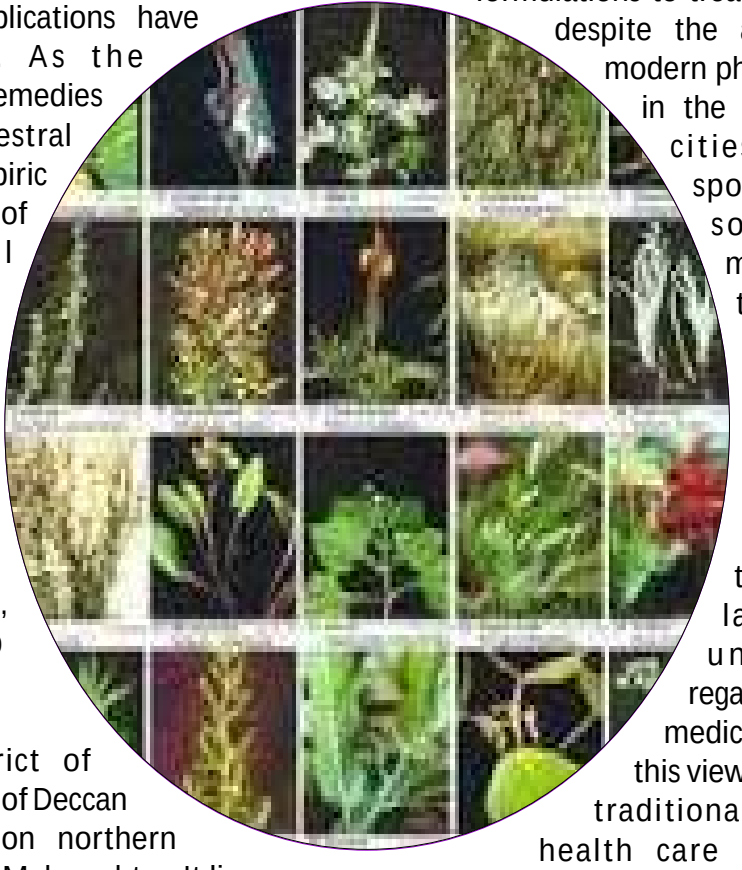
ABSTRACT:

Information on 08 plant species used especially for the treatment of respiratory diseases by rural and tribal communities of Raver Talukha, Maharashtra is presented. This paper reveals utilization of 08 species of flowering plants belonging to of 08 8 family is recorded. Brief information about the plant part/s used, botanical names, local names, families and the mode of preparation of drugs and method of applications have been presented. As the traditional herbal remedies are based on ancestral knowledge and empiric experiences, this type of ethno-medicinal survey appeared to be useful for the research on medicinal plants for the betterment of mankind.

Key words: Medicinal plants, Uses, Satpuda, Raver, Traditional herb



INTRODUCTION :

Jalgaon district of Raver Taluka, as a part of Deccan plateau is located on northern border of the state of Maharashtra. It lies between 20° and 21° north latitudes, and 74°55' and 76°28' east longitudes. The Satpuda ranges extend to northern region of the district, whereas the part of western ghat extends to other areas. The forests in the district are typically dry deciduous type. The major part of the district is predominately inhabited by rural population. However, in the Raver and Chopda tahsils there are few tribal pockets scattered in this region. The tribal inhabitants like Bhils, Pardhis, Pawaras, Tadavis, Wanjaris, etc. form small pockets in this district. Tribals of the region use traditional herbal formulations to treat common ailments despite the availability of the modern pharmaceutical drugs in the nearby towns and cities. Except some sporadic reports on some edible and medicinal plants and their uses in floristic studies (Shisode and Patil1, 1993; Kshirsagar and Patil2, 1998 and Subhangi Pawar and Patil3, 2000), the district has largely remained unexplored with regards to its studies on medicinal plants. Keeping this view in mind, studies on traditional medicines and health care system in tribal communities and experienced elderly village people in the Jalgaon district have been undertaken. The present study deals with 56 plant species used by natives of parts of Jalgaon

district to treat problem related to respiratory system and most of the plant derivatives have been found to be very effective.

Materials and Methods

The survey of all 13 tahsils of Jalgaon district was conducted during 2000-2007. The desired information regarding plant /plant part used medicinally was collected during field trips on the basis of interview with the tribals and local people. By repeated enquiries, changing the pattern of questioning like showing the plant collected from one tribal healer/ rural people to another of a distinct locality and asking them for its use as medicine and vice-versa. The mode of making the preparation and their application in each case was minutely recorded. Voucher specimen were collected, processed as per routine herbarium methods, identification of collected plant material were made either in the field itself or in laboratory following the district and state floras (Cook4, 1903; Bentham and Hooker5, 1862-1883; Hooker, J.D6. 1872-1897; Naik, V.N7.1980, etc.), given accession numbers and deposited in the department of Botany, Pratap College, Amalner-425401, (M.S.), India.

Under the enumeration the plant species are arranged in alphabetical order, which include family, local names, place of collection, voucher number and their ethnobotanical information.

Enumeration

Boerhaavia diffusa L. (Nyctaginaceae, Dagad-phodhya, Punarnava), Raver, VRP - 01
The decoction (15-20ml, twice daily) of whole plant is given internally, which is very effective in asthma and bronchitis.
Capparis decidua (Forsk) Edgrew. (Capparidaceae, Ker, Nepti), Raver, VRP – 02
The decoction (10-15ml, twice daily) of stem bark is administered internally in asthma and respiratory disorders.
Gloriosa superba L. (Liliaceae, Kal-lavi), Pal-VRP-004
The decoction (5-10ml, twice daily) of tuber is given internally in asthma. Paste of tuber heated and applied on forehead and nose to relieve from sinusitis.
Heteropogon contortus (L.) P. Beauv. ex Roem & Schult. (Poaceae, Kusali gawat), Pal, VRP-03.
The decoction (5-10ml, thrice daily) of inflorescence is given in asthma as bronchodilater.
Semicarpous anacardium L. f. (Anacardaceae, Bibba, Bhilav), Pal VRP-05.
Nut is steeped in buttermilk, used internally in Asthma.
Solanum xanthocarpum Schrad. & Wendl. (Solanaceae, Bhuiringani), Pal VRP-06..
Inhaling smoke of dried fruit in Asthma and bronchitis gives relief.
Tribulus terrestris L. (Zygophyllaceae, Sarata, Gokharu), Pal VRP-07..
The decoction (5-10ml, twice daily) of fruit is given in asthma and other respiratory diseases.
Withania somnifera (L.) Dunal (Solanaceae, Askand, Ashwagandha), Pal VRP-08..
Decoction of the root (5-10ml, twice daily) is used internally to treat asthma and bronchitis.

Discussion

The detailed information regarding the therapeutic application of different plants/plant parts of 56 plant species were obtained and their role in curing various diseases of respiratory system like common cold, rhinitis, chronic bronchitis, allergic bronchitis, sinusitis, asthma etc. and mode of administration is given in the enumeration. The data obtained by interviewing these tribal healers, faith healers, priests and ordinary villagers who have knowledge of the curative properties of plants. Data compared with available literature in different regions of India on medicinal plants [Chopra et al.8,

1956; Kirtikar and Basu9, 1933; Jain10, 1981; Ambasta11, 1986; Agrawal12, 1986; Sivrajan and Indira Balachandran13, 1994 and Wealth of India14 (1948-1976)]. It was found that many of the uses listed are not recorded earlier. It provides deeper insight into the indigenous method of application and effectiveness of the plant derivatives in treating different ailments of the respiratory system. Authors hoped that these botanicals might provide a rich potential for future phytotherapy.

During the present study it has been observed that most of the plants are common except few vulnerable species like, Pterocarpus marsupium, Clerodendrum serratum, Fagonia cretica, Gloriosa superba, Mimusops elengi, Vernonia anthelmintica etc. within the study area.

Although root, bark, stem, leaves and whole plant is used but leaf is the commonest part used in the treatment. Majority of the preparations are used internally in the form of infusion, decoction. Investigations on ethnomedicinal plants bring out clues for the phytochemical research people to better evaluate the efficiency of medicines of plant origin.

This paper provides a report on ethnomedicinal uses of some important plants locally available for curing different ailments of the respiratory system. A thorough investigation may provide remedies for ailments related to respiratory system and also raw material for undertaking further scientific research to confirm the findings.

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