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Medicinal Plant Diversity in Umerkhed Region, Dist. Yavatmal: An Ethnobotanical Approach

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ABSTRACT
The research paper deals the traditional medicinal knowledge of 25 plant species used by tribal communities in Umerkhed region of Yavatmal District, Maharashtra. Some villages' were surveyed and information was gathered through field studies involving direct interactions with traditional healers. These plants are used for treating various diseases by indigenous groups such as the Kolam, Banjara, Gond, Pradhan and Andh tribes. The study documented essential ethnobotanical data, including botanical name, local names, plant families, utilized plant parts and their methods of application.

Keywords: Medicinal Plant, Traditional Healers, Ethnobotanical Data, Umerkhed region, Yavatmal district.

I. INTRODUCTION

All traditional medicines have their roots in folk medicines and household remedies. WHO has listed 20,000 medicinal plants used in different parts of the world. Other estimates indicate the number to range between 35,000 and 70,000 worldwide (Lewington, 1993; Bhattarai and Karki, 2004). The medicinal plants have been in the focus as life saving drugs right from the beginning of the human civilization. The medicinal plants have been the object of research in both systematic and advanced areas of plant sciences. The tribal's have the knowledge of medicinal and another uses of plants growing in the forests. Tribal medicine men know the exact preparation of the medicine and diagnosis of the diseases (Harshberger, 1896). In India, it is reported that traditional healers use 2500 plant species and 100 species of plants serve as regular sources of medicine, Pei (2001). Plants are the basis of life on earth and are central to people's livelihoods. Tribal people are the ecosystem people who live in harmony with the nature and maintain a close link between man and environment. Indian subcontinent is being inhabited by over 53.8 million tribal people in 5000 forest dominated villages of tribal community and comprising 15% of the total geographical area of Indian landmasses, representing one of the greatest emporia of ethno-botanical wealth (Chowdhuri S. K., 2000).

The value of medicinal plants to the mankind is very well proven. It is estimated that 70 to 80% of the world population rely chiefly on traditional health care system and largely on herbal medicines (Shanley and Luz, 2003). Only 15% of pharmaceutical drugs are consumed in developing countries (Toledo, 1995). The affluent people have little alternative to herbal medicine, and they depend on traditional health care system (Marshall, 1998). Thirty plant species from Jalgaon district are useful for different human ailments (Pawar S. and D. A. Patil, 2004). The documented 39 plant species used in treatment of reproductive disorders while 20 monocotyledonous plant species are used in various diseases by the tribal of Umarkhed tehsil in Yavatmal district. They have further documented 36 ethnic formulations that are prepared using 50 plant species by locals of Umarkhed tehsil (Bhogaonkar and Kadam, 2005 and 2006). The 177 medicinal plants are used by Banjaras of Vidarbha on various ailments (Bhogaonkar and Chavhan, 2013).

In the present paper, folk medicinal preparations of 25 plant species used for different ailments has been enumerated.

Study Area

The district Yavatmal is situated in the eastern part of the Maharashtra between north latitudes 19^0 23` and $20^0$ 48` and longitudes 77^0 19` and $79^0$ 07. `It occupies an area of 13,582 Sq. Km. Umerkhed region is situated in eastern part of the Maharashtra between north latitudes 19.6074^{o}N and longitudes 77.6869^{o}E respectively. It occupies an area of 1238 square kilometer. According to the census of 2011, the total population of the region was 222,740.

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II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Tribal medicine practitioner men, village heads and local people were interviewed to record different plant part used for folk remedies. Plants were collected, documented and identified with the help of standard floras (Hooker 1997, Cooke 1967, Naik 1998, Karthikeyan & Kumar, 1993, Yadav and Sardesai, 2002) and herbarium specimens were prepared.

Enumeration:

The interviewed of local people and tribal medicine men's information are recorded, is as follows-

Sr. No.	Plant Name	Family	Local Name	Part Used	Mode of Uses
1.	Abrus precatorius L.	Fabaceae	Gunj	Leaves	Throat problems
2.	Acacia catechu (Roxb.ex Rottl.) Willd.	Mimosaceae	Khair	Root	Leucorrhoea
3.	Acacia nilotica (L.) Willd. ex Delile	Mimosaceae	Babhul	Bark	Toothache
4.	Achyranthus aspera L.	Amranthaceae	Aaghada	Root	Typhoid
5.	Boerhavia repens L.	Nyctaginaceae	Punarnava	Whole Plant	Headache
6.	Boswellia serrata Roxb.ex Coleb.	Burseraceae	Salai	Bark	Haemorrhage
7.	Buchanania cochinchinensis (Lour.) Almeida	Anacardiaceae	Charoli, Char	Leaves	Dysentry
8.	Caesulia axillaris Roxb.	Asteraceae	Panbibi	Leaves	Stomachache
9.	Cassia fistula L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Bahava, Amaltas	Seed	Dysentry
10.	Cassine glauca (Rottb.)O.Ktze	Celastraceae	Bhutkesi	Leaves	Khuri animal disease
11.	Curculigo orchioides Gaertn.	Hypoxidaceae	Kali musali	Rhizome	Piles
12.	Diospyros melanoxylon Roxb.	Ebenaceae	Tembhurna	Seed	Chikhalya
13.	Dichrostachys	Mimosaceae	Chhoti	Leaves	Blood

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	cinerea (L.) Wight & Arn.		Bhabhul		Dysentery
14.	Emblica officinalis Gaertn.	Euphorbiaceae	Awala	Leaves	Burn
15.	Euphorbia microphylla Heyne	Euphorbiaceae	Dudhi	Leaves	Headache
16.	Ficus amplissima J. E. Sm.	Moraceae	Pimpari	Bark	Typhoid
17.	Holarrhena pubescens (Buch-Ham.) Wall. ex G. Don Gen.	Apocynaceae	Kuda	Inner Bark, Seeds	Fever, Jaundice
18.	Hyptis suaveolens (L.) Poit.	Lamiaceae	Ran tulas	Leaves	Wound
19.	Lantana camara L.	Verbenaceae	Raymuniya	Leaves	Dysentery
20.	Lepidagathis cristata Willd.	Acanthaceae	Bhui gend	Inflorescence, Leaves	Eczema, Snakebite
21.	Mucuna pruriens (L.) DC.	Fabaceae	Kachkori	Legume hair	Worm
22.	Pongamia pinnata (L.) Merr.	Fabaceae	Karanj	Bark	Arthritis
23.	Semecarpus anacardium L. f. var. anacardium.	Anacardiaceae	Biba	Inner Bark, Seed	Wounds,cuts, foot crack, Maleria
24.	Terminalia alata Heyne ex Roth	Combretaceae	Ain	Inner Bark	Maleria
25.	Ziziphus xylopyra (Retz.) Willd.	Rhamnaceae	Ghat Bor, Ghoti	Leaves	Scorpion sting

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present communication deals with the local people of Umerkhed region, Yavatmal District (M. S.), India were used medicinally important plants of 24 genera, 25 species and 20 families of angiosperms for different ailments. These are herb, shrub, climber, small and large trees. These plants are common and medicinally important to treat various diseases like Piles, Hemorrhages, Dysentery, Leucorrhoea, Arthritis, Jaundice, Typhoid, Malaria, Snake bite, Scorpion sting etc. Some therapeutic uses of such plants in Umerkhed region were documented. The present information is used in drug standardization and estimation of compound content for further studies.

IV. CONCLUSION

Traditional knowledge systems cure different diseases by the tribal of Umerkhed region. They use plant as a source of drug through trial and error basis and the process is experienced over hundreds of years. It has been observed that the use of the medicinal plants is also a routine practice in the local people.

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