

Ethno - Medicinal Value of Some Plants Used by The Tribes of Jamtara District, Jharkhand.

Arbind Kumar Singh

Jamtara College, Jamtara, Jharkhand

ABSTRACT

Ethno–medico–botanical survey was conducted during the year 2008-2010 in different tribal dominated area of Jamtara district. It was found that many plants of ethno-medicine values are growing in this area and the same are used as medicine by the tribal and rural mass. These plants are also prescribed by indigenous medical practitioner i.e. the Kavirajs and the vaidyas. Few of these important plants are *Boerhavia diffusa*, *Achyranthes aspera*, *Euphorbia hirta*, *Argemone maxicana* and *Solanum surattense*.

Key words : Ethno-Medicinal, Jamtara, Indegenous.

INTRODUCTION

Jamtara district is located at a lower altitude of Chotanagpur plateau and situated between 23° 10' to 24° 5' North altitude and 86° 30' to 87° 15' East longitude. The total area of the district is 1801.98 sq.k.m. Out of these 71.04 sq.k.m is forest area. The tribal population in the district is 35.51% of the total population. It is mostly dominated by Santhal tribe.

The tribal of Jamtara district are mainly dependent on herbal medicine for treatment of almost all the ailments. The present paper gives an illustrative account of the medicinal uses of different plants by the indigenous people of Jamtara district.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant specimens were collected, Identified and documented after frequent field visits of the study area. i.e. the tribal dominated villages of Jamtara district and adjoining areas from the year 2008 to 2010. The places were visited at least twice during different season to get the authentic information and to collect the plant specimens in their flowering and fruiting period.

OBSERVATIONS

On the basis of the extensive field work it has been observed that a large number of herbaceous plants

are used in traditional medicine to cure the various diseases.

Comprehensive lists of such plants have been prepared and presented here with their botanical names, vernacular names, part of the plants which is used and the names of the diseases against which it is used.

1. *Boerhavia diffusa* Linn.

Family – Nyctaginaceae Local Name – Punarnawa, Khaprasag

Medicinal Uses

The whole plant is used in anemia, stomach problem, cold cough, liver complain, menstrual problem, kidney diseases, eye complain and eczema.

It helps in arthritis as it reduces inflammation and pains in joints.

The plant is used in all kind of kidney problem as it reduces the urea level in body. It helps in removing the kidney stone.

It helps in skin diseases and removing the guinea worm.

The plant is used in increasing the impotency and enhancing the quantity and quality of semen.

Kaviraj and vaidya suggest to use the plants in

Jaundice and typhoid as it rejuvenate and detoxify the liver.

It helps in rejuvenating against diseases.

2. *Achyranthes aspera* Linn

Family- Amaranthaceae Local Name- Chirahita, Latjira, Apang

Medicinal Uses

The plant is used in remedy of cough, spleen enlargement and piles.

Root is used in toothache, gum problem and dysentery.

The plant is used by the tribal people in quick delivery of child.

The root paste is applied externally to relieve pain in scorpion bite and in skin diseases.

The seed oil is used as ear drops for ear disorders.

The plant is also used in cardiac problem and helps in breakdown of stone in kidney as well as in gall bladder.

3. *Euphorbia hirta* Linn.

Family–Euphorbiaceae Local Name–Dudhi

Medicinal Uses

The decoction of plant is given to nursing mother as a galactagogue.

The root is given to induce vomiting

The latex of the plant is applied on wounds and injury.

It is also used in killing worms, asthma, dysentery and cough.

The plant is also known as asthma weeds as it is very effective in asthma, bronchitis and other respiratory problem.

4. *Argemone maxicana* Linn.

Family – Papaveraceae Local Name – Kataila, Siyal Kanta

Medicinal Uses

The leaf is used in ulcer, leprosy, ringworm etc.

The seed is used in asthma, cough, gum trouble, headache etc.

The root is used in mouth wash and dog bite.

The yellow latex is used in eye complain,

jaundice, constipation and skin diseases.

5. *Solanum surattense* Burm

Family–Solanaceae Local Name–Regni

Medicinal Uses

The plant is used in the treatment of cough, cold, asthma and other respiratory diseases.

The fruit is used in piles.

The fresh juice of plant is used in skin diseases and hair treatment.

The root is used in cardiac problem.

The seed of the plant is used in gum and teeth problem.

The plant is used in snake bite and worm infection.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study reveals that the Jamtara district is very rich in having enormous ethno medicinal plants. It has been observed that there are many plants growing widely in this area which are used as traditional medicine by the indigenous people. The ethno botanical study gives opportunities to gather new information on plants to be utilized for the benefit of mankind. It is suggested that over exploitation of plants for commercial use may lead to destruction of some important plants and need to be conserved.

REFERENCES

- Bodding , P.O. 1925 studies in santal medicine and connected folklore – I. Santal and diseases. Mem. Asiat. Soc. Bengal. 10(1) : 1-32
- Bressers, J. 1951. The Botany of Ranchi District, Bihar, India.
- Ghosh, T.K. 1971. Studies on the Flora of Ranchi District, Ph.D. 9. Thesis, Ranchi University, Ranchi
- Ghosh, T.K. : Sahu, S.C. & Mahato, A.K. 1980 some important Medicinal plants used against dysentery by tribals of Chotanagpur and Santhal Pargana (Bihar). 67th Proc. Ind. Sc. Cong. PP 63 (Abstract).
- Haines H.H 1925. The Botany of Bihar and Orissa. Vol. I-VI