Progress and prospects of medicinal plants of Ethnopediatric importance in Mahadevapur Reserve Forest of Karimnagar East Division of (A.P.) India

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ABSTRACT

In the present studies, we aimed to envisage about twenty of the herbal medicinal plants such as *Abrus precatorius, Adhatoda vasica, Alangium salvifolium* L *Bambus atulda* Roxb. *Calanthe triplicata* Ames. - *Cassia siamea* Lam. *Crotalaria juncia* L. *Desmodiu mtrifolium* (L.) *Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb. *Elephanto pusscaber* L. *Gardenia gummifera* L. *Justiciabe tonica.*L. *Mangifera indica* L, *Mimosa pudica* L, *Oroxylum indicum* vent, *Pavetta indica* L, *Solanum surattense* .Burm.F, *Urena lobata* L and *Vicoa indica* which are specially prescribed for children by local tribal and village medicine men. As the subject Ethno pediatric medicinal plants are very poorly known, therefore the present ethnopediatric information may prove helpful for further scientific studies. In recent years no valuable study has been made out on ethnopediatric medicinal plants. The number of informats such as local traditional medicinal practitioners and knowledgeable elders has provided the information in frequent field visits to this place. Total number of 20 plant species belonging to 15 families has been enumerated with scientific names families; uses and locality of use. The tribals are, by nature, reluctant to go to the hospital and have a great faith and insist on their own traditional system of medicine. Still the tribals use these plants frequently to cure diseases. The knowledge of this traditional medicine is intact in this region and they use this knowledge mostly for their daily requirements, due to lack of modern facilities. The tribals are very conservative in nature and they do not easily mixed up with other communities for exchange or to share their empirical knowledge.

Key words: Paediatric, Ehtanobotany, Traditional and Mahadevpur.

INTRODUCTION

Ethnobotanical field study in Mahadevapur Reserve Forest Karimnagar East Division Karimnagar (A.P.) India, the "Deshari", "Bijunis" (Tribal Medicine Men) and other informers from different villages extending from 25-30 were consulted. The informers include responsible old experienced persons, village medicine men, who are fully aware about their forest wealth. The Tribal Medicine Men look after the welfare of the tribal society and do the needful for the prosperity of the tribal village too.

During the course of studies, besides the "Deshari" and "Bijunis", the local inhabitants also been contacted with the help of cross enquiries within the same community of the different villages, and the collected data were confined and authenticated. The collected data was compared with the literature on medicinal plants like (Watt 1888-93; Dastur 1915; Kirtikar and Basu, 1935; Chopra *et al.,*1969; Wealth of India 1948-1976). Besides this monumental work, the recent Ethnobotanical works in AndraPradesh viz Mahadevapur (1963) (Mudgal and Pal, 1980; Tribedi *et al.,* 1982) and it was found that most of the information are not recorded in above published accounts.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The tribals who have the knowledge of medicinal plants were taken into the forest area in their village vicinity. Country yards of the villagers and protected inhabitants near dwellings were searched and information on the cultivation and protection of the wild medicinal plants were collected.

Information was also gathered on parts used of the wild medicinal plants. The vernacular names in "Kondh" given by the medicine men were checked from local flora and their botanical names with family names were identified by taking the help of books and records of local herbarium available. All the voucher specimens were deposited in the Department of Botany, S.R.R. Degree & P.G. College Karimnagar Andrapradesh, India.

Enumeration of the species: The species are arranged alphabetically by their botanical names and family name. Also, it has been noticed that, most of the prescription made by "Deshari" and "Bijunis" are restricted specifically for the treatment of children. Generally, they prescribed in the form of powders, pills, decoctions, and infusions for various ailments along with worship, devination and exorcism.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

***Abrus precatorius* -Leguminosae**

Eight to ten seeds of *Abrus precatorius* and three to four roots of *Wrightia tomentosa* are mixed and made into about fifteen grams and grinded into powder. This powder is equally divided in to six to eight doses and mixed with honey into paste and it is prescribed orally in empty stomach for fever.

***Acacia catechu.*Willd. Mimosaceae**

Ten grams of crushed and dried stem bark is grinded into powder. This powder is made into five doses. Each dose is mixed with honey and given orally for throat pain.

***Adhatod avasica* Nees. = *Justicia adhatoda* Linn. = *A.zeylanica* Medicus. (Acanthaceae)**

Five grams of fresh root is grinded into paste and mixed with honey and is given for whooping cough. Powdered leaf is applied for skin diseases. Grinded fresh leaf is applied on forehead for headaches.

***Alangium salvifolium*L. (Alangiaceae)**

Two inches long root of *Alangium salvifolium* is powdered along with 7-8 dry fruits of *Ficus religiosa* and made into four doses. Each dose is prescribed twice daily with honey or breast milk in cold, cough and pass out phlegm.

***Bambusa tulda*Roxb. (Bambacaceae)**

Dried tender culm is powdered. The powder is mixed with paste of ginger and honey. This mixture is given thrice orally per day for five days in fever.

***Calanthe triplicata* Ames. (Orchidaceae)**

Paste of the fresh tuber of *Calanthe triplicata* and three seeds of *Piper nigrum* is orally prescribed thrice a day for dysentery.

***Cassia siamea* Lam. (Ceasalpiniaceae)**

The paste of the seeds of *Cassia siamea* and *Piper nigrum* seeds in 5:1 is prescribed orally with water to stop vomiting. The seeds of *C. accidentalis* are also used as substitute.

***Crotalaria juncia* L. (Leguminosae)**

Seven pieces of roots of *Crotalaria* of about 2-3 cm long are tied in a thread and given to wear as garland in malarial fever. The flowers are also used as garland in other fevers.

***Desmodium trifolium* (L.) (Leguminosae)**

Root paste is applied in skin diseases for external use only.

***Diospyrosmelano xylon* Roxb. (Ebenaceae)**

Ten green fruits are boiled in about one liter of water till it comes down to one-fourth. The decoction is orally prescribed in dysentery.

***Elephantopus scaber* L (Asteraceae)**

Three to five grams of Elephantopus root and three seeds of black pepper are made into paste, which is orally given as laxative, where as the root extract as appetizer and given to children of age group below one year.

***Gardenia gummifera* L. (Rubiaceae)**

The small bark pieces, and peacock feathers are alternately tied to a thread and made as a garland. This garland is given to wear on neck to stop vomiting after feeding milk.

***Justicia betonica* L. (Acanthaceae).**

Root pulp is applied all over the body to lower down the body temperature, during the high fever.

***Mangifera indica* L . (Anacardiaceae)**

Powder of tender fruits is given with breast milk in dysentery.

***Mimosa pudica* L. (Mimosae)**

The extract of root and leaves powder is prescribed in fever due to enlargement of spleen. The residue is also applied externally for the same purpose over the stomach.

***Oroxylum indicum* vent. (Bignoniaceae)**

Oroxylum bark powder is mixed with the powder of *Curcuma longa* in 3:1 ratio is orally given in interlunar night to keep away the evil eyes which is believed to cause unconsciousness with high fever.

***Pavetta indica* L. (Rubiaceae)** The leaves are boiled in an earthen pot and given to chew with common salt in intermittent fever and cough.

***Solanum surattense.*Burm.F. (Solanaceae)**

Plant paste is kept in ash of cow dung for five to six hours, and which is mixed with the bark powder of *Ficus religiosa* in equal ratio and is given twice daily for ten days in hooping coughing.

Powder of roasted twig is prescribed orally with honey twice daily for seven days in cough.

***Urena lobata* L. (Malvaceae)**

The leaves and fruits are burnt into ash. The ash is mixed with the oil of *Linumus itatissimum* and the paste is applied locally on wounds.

***Vinca indica* D. C. (Asteraceae)**

The whole plant is burnt into ash. This ash is mixed with the oil of *Brassicca impestris* and the paste is locally applied on wounds and eczema below the knees. The above twenty species belong to twenty genera belonging to eighteen families are employed in different ailments by the tribal people of Mahadevapur Reserve Forest East division Karimnagar of Andrapradesh India. It is seemed that the Leguminosae family came into the first position in treating the children, and the field survey is also envisaged the same. In the country like India, where the death rate of children, particularly in rural areas, is much higher than the other developed countries in the world. Hence the scope of this type of study is very promising and important and it may give new source of drug plants in pediatric diseases. Ethanobotanical uses of all of the above mentioned botanicals and their Pharmacological potentials have been supported by the literature (De 1965 and 1980b: Dey and De, 2011a)

There has been increased interest on medicinal plants in conservation view point and for economic view point of development of Indian Herbal Medicine. The recently constituted State Medicinal Plant Board can catalyze these activities. There is also a need for greater attention to the prioritized species and medicinal plant conservation areas. A net work of the medicinal plant gardens and protected areas can add to effective conservation. With all these programmes and involvement of the people of the state is poised to take a quantum leap towards the rapid progress in herbal health care.

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