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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Ethno Botanical Study on Medicinal Plants Used by Traditional Healers in Kondapur Village, Medak Dist., Telangana State

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ABSTRACT

An ethno botanical study was conducted to collect the information about the medicinal plants used by the traditional healers of Kondapur area, Medak District, Telangana state. The present work is an effort to recognize and record the medicinal plants of this area. A survey was conducted with the local traditional healers and Lambada tribe people. They were interviewed for information. Data were collected on the specific parts of the plants used and for which disease it is used. The present paper reports the ethno medicinal uses of 15 medicinal plants belong to 11 families were used in traditional medicine to heal different diseases. The present paper deals with identification of medicinal plants with vernacular names (local names) used by local people for different diseases. Most of the medicinal plants are taken orally with or without combination of other plants. The botanical name, family name, vernacular name, parts used, purpose of drugs are given.

Key words: *Ethnobotany, Ethnomedicinal drugs, Traditional healers.*

INTRODUCTION

Flowering plants are the main natural sources on earth. India is one of the best examples for its rich bio diversity from ancient days plants have become a source of medicine in our daily life and many systems of therapy have been developed primarily based on plants. Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Sidda, Unani, etc. are our traditional systems of medicines. The plant-based medical systems continue to provide the primary health care to more than three-quarters of the world's population. World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that over 80% people depend on traditional medicine (Akerele 1992). Herbal medicinal plants are safe, having no side effects, low cost and easily available. Interviewing traditional healers for information about medicinal herbs and their medicinal and other uses constitutes an important activity in pharmacological field investigation (Lipp, 1989). It is a fact that natural forests are disappearing due to overexploitation, makes it compulsory to investigate and document our flora .It is essential to use the natural resources for development without destruction of the biological diversity (Ratnam KV 2005). Natural or manmade activities have degraded nature to the extent of driving many species to extinction and threatening (Thammanna, Rao K.N 1990). Today continued deforestation and environmental degradation in many parts of forest brought about depletion of medicinal plants (Thurston. E, 1909).Traditional herbal theraphy is an age old practice (Rawat, Choudary 1998). Traditional healing practices are gaining curiosity among various researchers. (Tag et al 2004).

An ethno botanical survey was conducted during 2013-2014 among the local tribal people and traditional healers. Present study area comprises of Kondapur **Village**, which is located at 17.56°N 78.01°E.**Kondapur Village** is a Mandal headquarter located in Kondapur Mandal, Medak District, Telangana state. Population of this village is 4,251 as per the survey of census during 2011 by Indian Government. Total area of this village is 937 hectares.

OBJECTIVES

1. To know about ethno medicinal plants.
2. To study the medical administration of local medicinal plants.

3. To utilize the knowledge of Ethno medicine for better treatment.

MATERIAL & METHODS

A survey was conducted with the local Lambada tribe people, traditional healers of this village. They were interviewed for information. Majority of medicinal plants used by traditional healers are collected from the forest directly by these healers. During the interview, the informants whose age ranged from 45 to 80 years old, displayed specimens of medicinal plants. Some informants were taken to the field to locate the medicinal plants.

First hand information was recorded. Repeated enquiries were made to understand their knowledge, methods of diagnosis and treatment of deceases. Data were collected on the specific parts of the herbs used, collection, method of usage of the medicine, and for which disease it is used. The medicinal plants are identified with the help of the floras (Gambel and Fischer 1957, Ellis1987,T.Pullaiah1997) and the medicinal plant wealth of Andhra Pradesh by Hemadri *et al.* (1986, 1994).

ENUMERATION

The present ethno botanical exploration conducted in Kondapur resulted in 15 medicinal plants belong to 11 families. In the enumeration, plants arranged alphabetically. The following data includes botanical name of species is followed by, family name, Vernacular name, disease and purpose.

S.No.	Name of the plant	Family	Vernacular name	Useful part	Purpose
1	*Achyranthes aspera L.*	Amaranthaceae	Uttareni	Whole plant	Antifilariatic, Antidote
2	*Aerva lanata L.*	Amaranthaceae	Kondapindi	Whole plant	Diuretic, Piles, Kidney stones
3	*Catharanthus roseus L.*	Apocyanaceae	Billaganneru	Roots, Leaves	Cancer, Diabetes, Blood pressure, Menstrual disorders
4	*Celosia argentea.L*	Amaranthaceae	Errakodijuttu	Leaves	Ulcer
5	*Centella asiatica L.*	Apiaceae	Saraswathiaaku	Areal parts	Brain tonic, Leprosy,Jaundice, Skin diseases.
6	*Eclipta alba L.*	Asteraceae	Guntagalgaraku	Whole plant	Hair loss, Jaundice
7	*Leucas aspera Spreng.*	Lamiaceae	Tummi	Leaves, Flowers	Anemia, Cough, Sore throat
8	*Ocimum sanctum L.*	Lamiaceae	Tulasi	Leaves, Roots, Seeds	Cough, Skin diseases, Throat disorders
9	*Oxalis corniculata L.*	Oxalidaceae	Pulichinta	Whole plant	Toothache,Piles, Eye diseases
10	*Phyllanthus amarus schum. &Thonn.*	Euphorbiaceae	Nela usiri	Whole plant	Jaundice, Constipation
11	*Rauvolfia serpentina L.*	Apocynaceae	Sarpagandha	Root	Tranquilizer, Heart diseases, Snake bite
12	*Talinum cuneifolium L.*	Portulacaceae	Silone bachchali	Leaves, Roots	Diabetes, Mouth ulcers
13	*Terminalia chebula Retz.*	Combritaceae	Karakkaya	Fruits	Cough,Ulcers, Asthma,Joundice
14	*Tinospora cordifolia Miers ex Hook.F.et.Thoms*	Menispermaceae	Tippateega	Stem	Malaria, Gout, Infertility, Asthma
15	*Tribulus terrestris.L*	Zygophyllaceae	Palleru	Leaves	Jaundice, Kidney stones

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study focused mainly on the plant species used by local people in Kondapur area for various medicinal uses. The reported plants were arranged according to their scientific name and family, local names as recorded during the field work and uses are presented. During the study period, 15 plant species belonging to 11 families were identified as medicinal plants. Medical administration includes oral administration of decoctions and plant parts as paste.

CONCLUSION

The information collected from the traditional healers o for the treatment of various ailments is useful for researchers in the field of Medicine and Pharmacology. People acquired the knowledge of medicinal properties of local plants through times immemorial by trial and error methods and transmitted this knowledge orally from generation-to-generation. Several wild medicinal plants are fast disappearing due to the destruction of forest habitats and introduction of new crops. Many medicinal plants occurring have yet to be subjected to chemical screening and pharmacological investigation. Hence there is an urgent need for exploration and documentation of this traditional knowledge in order to determine the conservation value of the local forests.

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