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ETHNOBOTANICAL AND ETHNOMEDICINAL STUDY OF SOME MEDICINAL PLANTS OF BARSHITAKLI TAHSILDISTRICT AKOLA (MS) INDIA.

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ABSTRACT

Barshitakli forest area supports excellent plant biodiversity with tremendous medicinal potential. These plants made the integral part of the routine health care system of the tribals and rural peoples residing in the small villages located in the canopy area of the forest. The author studied the 10 different plants namely *Adathoda vasica, Celosia argentea* L., *Buchanania lanzan, Gymnema Sylvestre, Calotropis gigantea, Cannabis sativa, Cassia occidentalis, Cuscuta reflexa, Datura stromarium and Pergularia daemia* of nine families, present work is focused on the indigenous knowledge of trible peoples about the use of various plants parts on ailments like common fever, malaria, dysentery, rheumatism, asthma, diabetes, snake bite, kidney and heart diseases etc.

KEYWORDS: Ethnomedicines, diabetes, malaria & dysentery.

INTRODUCTION:

Ethnobotany can be very broadly defined as the study of the interactions between plants and people in their local environment (Martin 2001).We can distinguish two different goals or approaches to this study: the contribution to the knowledge of a part of human cultural heritage and the search for new drugs or useful plant-derived products. Ethnopharmacology more usually related to this second goal, but is also concerned with the first one. As a multidisciplinary field, it must take into account the perspective of finding products, which can enhance human health, not forgetting the social structure, richness and problems of the communities from which the information is taken. As Etkin (2001) recently claimed a higher degree of interdisciplinary activity is needed in ethnopharmacological studies. Having in mind the precedent statements, we have been conducting for the last 2 years Ethnobotanical researches in different regions of Akola district with the 2-fold purpose of contributing to the knowledge and the preservation of a part of the national cultural heritage, and finding out new or rare uses of medicinal plants, which could lead to the use of new plant-based medicines. This kind of research, much rarer in Barshitakli ranges.

India presents a colorful mosaic of about 563 tribal communities which have acquired considerable knowledge on uses of plants for their livelihood, health care and other purposes through their long association with the forests, inheritance, practices and experiences. With the advancement of civilization, this Ethnobotanical information has been depleting at an alarming rate.

In Barshitakli ranges, about five different tribal communities are found. Of these Banjara are dominated. They are basic inhabitants and depend mostly on the forest and its products for their livelihood. They posses some unique and valuable indigenous knowledge how to use the plants for different purposes. The present paper deals with the indigenous information about the plants used in Respiratory, Abdominal, and Gynic and Skin infection by the Peoples of Barshitakli ranges.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- The medicine men in the tribal Banjara were interviewed and the information was collected about which plant/ plant parts in which composition they used on different disorders.
- During the investigation, authors visited different bit of forest ranges namely Barshitakli bit and Patur bit, interviewed the medicine.
- The collected plant material was taxonomically identified using the standard flora; the herbarium is submitted in the department of botany, Gulam Nabi Azad Arts, Commerce & Science College of Barshitali District. Akola (Kamble and Pradhan 1980).
- The information collected was analyzed in the focus of view of modern ethnobotanists.
- The analyzed data of 10 different plants is presented here in the form of their botanical name, family, part use, diseases on which it is use and method of usage.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSION

10 plants, namely *Adathoda vasica, Celosia argentea* L., *Buchanania lanzan, Gymnema Sylvestre, Calotropis gigantea, Cannabis sativa, Cassia occidentalis, Cuscuta reflexa, Datura stromarium and Pergularia daemia* of nine families. The information collected from the local

peoples was analyzed in the light of recent researches. The information' collected is presented below in the form of table.

Botanical name and family	Diseases	Part use	Method to use the plant
Adathoda vasica Nees. **(Acanthaceae)**	cold and cough	fresh leaves	The plant is used as astringent, against cold and cough. It has the active principal, Vasaka-D. An aqueous extract of the dried leaves of this species is used as an expectorant. Juice from the fresh leaves is given to relieve the symptoms of cough and cold (2 tea spoon for 3 days).
Celosia argentea L. **(Amranthaceae)**	diarrhea and dysentery	fruits and seeds	The plant is aphrodiastic. Also used in diarrhea and dysentery. The fruits and seeds are used to cure blood disorders, mouth sores and eye diseases.
Buchanania lanzan Speng. **(Anacardiaceae)**	chest and body pain	bark gum	The gum obtained from the bark, is swallowed directly to combat chest and body pain. The bark gum is administered to swallow directly in the form of small tablets (thrice daily for 10-15 days) to cure chest and body pain.
Gymnema Sylvestre R. Br. **(Asclepediaceae)**		leaves	The leaves of this plant have the antidiabetic property. The leaf decoction is prepared and administered 2 spoonfuls twice daily for about 2months.
Calotropis gigantea **(Asclepiadaceae)**	Sinusitis and respiratory problems	Stem	Hollow stem is given to the person to smoke like cigarate, to cure sinusitis and other respiratory problems.
Cannabis sativa **(Cannabinaceae)**	Indigestion and asthma.	Leaves and seeds	Leaf and seed powder is given in indigestion. Leaf juice is orally administered in Asthma.
Cassia occidentalis **(Ceasalpiniaceae)**	Stomach pain, Skin rashes and, contraception.	Tender leaves and shoot & seeds.	One table spoon seed powder is given in stomach powder. Leaf extract is applied on skin rashes. Tender leaves & shoots are given to women for contraception.
Cuscuta reflexa **(Cuscutaceae)**	Dermatitis, itching problem, skin diseases	Entire plant	Entire plant is boiled in water and the water is given to the patient for bathing.
Datura stramonium **(Solanaceae)**	Asthma and Gonorrhea	Leaves	The leaves are burn and smoke in case of asthma and the leaf juice is given orally to gonorrhea patient.
Pergularia daemia **(Asclepiadaceae)**	bone fracture	leaves	The leaves of this plant with leaves of *Plumbago zeylanica* are used in bone fracture. The leaves of *P. daemia* and *P. zeylanica* are ground into paste and paste applied in plaster till 2-3 months

Photo – Plate

Fig. 1: *Adathoda vasica*

Fig. 2: *Celosia argentia*

Fig. 3: *Buchanania lanzan*

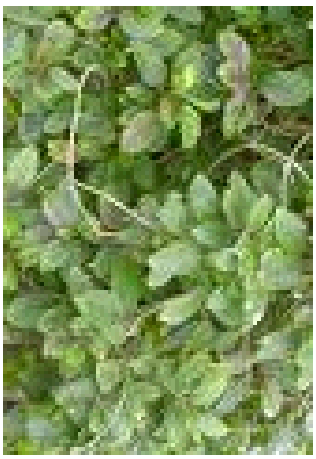

Fig.4: *Gymnema sylvestre*

Fig. 5: *Calotropis gigantea*

Fig. 6: *Camabis sativa*

Fig. 10: *Pergularia daemia*

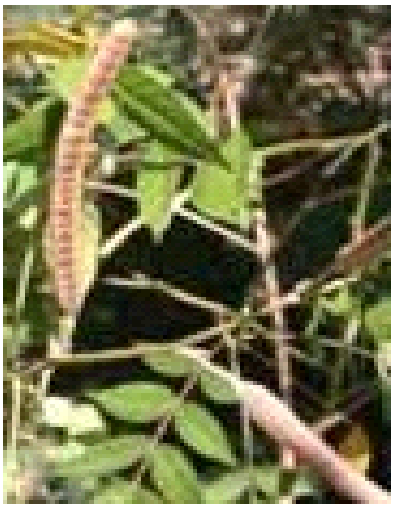

Fig.7: *Cassia occidentalis*

Fig. 8: *Cuscuta reflexa*

Fig. 9: *Datura stramonium*

Although above plants are common and ethnomedicinally investigated from various regions of Indian subcontinent, the present study is focused mostly on the view of ethnomedicines of Korku in Satpuda ranges as these ranges are lacking proper health care system. During the investigation, authors have collected about 60 different plant species of which only 10 plants have presented here. The collected indigenous information is mostly found true and analogous to the reports of Kapur *et al.* (1993), Badhe *et al.*, (1982), Bhogaokar and Devkule (2002) and Tripathi *et al.* (1996). However, the present study needs further phytochemical investigation which might prove beneficial for improving the life style of Barshitakli regional tribals.

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