DIVERSITY OF ETHNOBOTANICAL PLANTS USED BY RURAL COMMUNITY OF TRYAMBAKESHWAR HILL OF NASHIK DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA.

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ABSTRACT

An ethno botanical survey on medicinal plants and their indigenous uses was carried out in Tryambakeshwar region of Nashik District in Maharashtra. These areas are floristically rich areas where plants of various categories are growing spontaneously in their natural habitat. The rural community of these region uses some of the plants as medicine for the treatment of human ailments. In a floristic survey 31 ethno medicinal plants species belonging to 25 families were recorded from this region. These medicinal plants are listed in alphabetically order of Latin names, local names along with family & part used as medicine.

Keywords : - Baidya, Herbal medicines, Indigenous knowledge, Ojhas.

INTRODUCTION

Tryambakeshwar hill region of Nashik District have rich diversity of vegetation mostly tribals and rural communities, depending on plant resources for their day to day life, The rural communities are well versed with traditional knowledge and are using various parts of major, minor plants and tree species extensively for health care and other purposes. The present study, therefore aimed to highlight 31 ethno medicinal plant species belonging to 25 families with their local name of plant parts used as medicine in Tryambakeshwar hill region of District in Maharashtra.

METHODOLOGY

The study was initiated in the month of August to December 2012 To collect the information from some proper knowledge informants, elderly people, headman of the hamlets, tribal medicinal man ‘Baidya’ and ‘Ojhas’ were collected because they were the only source to plant name which were used for different ailments. Voucher specimens were scientifically identified , and mounted in the laboratory.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In table 1, the medicinal uses of plant species from families are described in alphabetical order and Latin name, local name along with family and parts used as medicine. The present study has brought out to light, the traditional and indigenous knowledge on 31 ethno medicinal plants belonging to 25 families used by Tribal rural communities of Tryambakeshwar hill region of Nashik District in Maharashtra for treating and controlling the diseases. The tribes and rural population of India are highly dependent on the medicinal plant therapy for meeting their health care needs. There is an urgent need to catalogue the plants used by indigenous around the Country and to collaborate with chemists to analyze the compound in medicinal plants. It is high time for agriculturists and foresters to introduce new crops, for
anthropologists to gather more information on traditional culture and conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of plant resources. The survey in different area Tryambakeshwer hill region revealed that we were engaged in the collection of large no. of plant parts like stems, barks, leaves, flowers, fruits and roots of their day to day requirements.

During the course of investigation it was observed that a particular plant was sometime prescribed for different ailments in different localities and some medicinal man applied a mixture of plants for remedy of a disease. For example according to tribal healers *Andrographis paniculata* (locally known as ‘ Bhui neem’) was a excellent remedy for liver disorders but its plant powder was also effective for warts. As such, this study indicated that the tribal had good knowledge of medicinal uses of the plant species available in the region. Unfortunately, their knowledge had not been documented and there was an urgent need for documentation knowledge on priority basis. Efforts should be made to conserve this knowledge. If this knowledge does not flow on to the next generation, a time will come when this knowledge pool will be lost forever. Hence there is an immediate need that this treasure of knowledge should be conserved and inherited in such a way that we may be able to preserve this age old cultural heritage. The clinical trials may also be done and the plants may be furthermore explored on active principles which may yield longer dividends if researchers, planners and policy makers combine their efforts. This will recognize the traditional knowledge on one hand and enrich the state wealth as the other.

### TABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Botanical Name</th>
<th>Local name</th>
<th>Family</th>
<th>Part used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Acacia catechu</td>
<td>Khair</td>
<td>Mimosaceae</td>
<td>The bark is useful in conjunctivitis, Heartwood has high medicinal value.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Acacia nilotica Lam</td>
<td>Babul</td>
<td>Mimosaceae</td>
<td>The ark is used in diarrhea, dysentery and diabetes. The gum is medicinal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Aegle marmelos L.</td>
<td>Bel</td>
<td>Rutaceae</td>
<td>Young fruit is crushed with a piece of turmeric which is applied externally in case of pimples.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Agave americana L.</td>
<td>Kekti</td>
<td>Agavaceae</td>
<td>The root is diuretic and used in syphilis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ageratum conizoides L.</td>
<td>Goat weed</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td>Leaf is used as blood coagulant and to heal the wounds, leprosy, skin diseases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Andrographis paniculata Nees Kalmegh</td>
<td>Acanthaceae</td>
<td>Whole plant is used in dysentery bronchitis, influenza, fever and in liver diseases.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Andrographis paniculata wall Kalmegh</td>
<td>Acanthaceae</td>
<td>Leaf is used against insect bites. Whole plant is used in hepatitis and inflammation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Artemisia valgaris Linn.</td>
<td>Indian worm weed</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td>Leaf is used as laxative. Flower is used in exelling round worm &amp; on wounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Asparagus recemosus willd Shatawar</td>
<td>Liliaceae</td>
<td>Used in leucorrhoea, epilepsy, gastrointestinal disorders, Roots used in lactation in women and cattle’s.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Azadirecta indica A.</td>
<td>Neem</td>
<td>Meliaceae</td>
<td>Leaves are used as insect repellant. Bark, leaf and fruit is antiseptic used in ulcers, skin diseases. Seed used for treatment of intestinal worms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Blumea lacera Burn Kukurband</td>
<td>Asteraceae</td>
<td>Root used piles and cholera. Leaves used for mouth diseases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Butea monosperma (Lam.) Taub.</td>
<td>Palash</td>
<td>Fabaceae</td>
<td>Root used to cure fever. Seed is used against roundworm and skin diseases It is also used to cure diarrhea and dysentery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Calatropis procera W.T. Aitm Rui</td>
<td>Asclepidaceae</td>
<td>Root is used to cure tuberculosis, cough, bronchitis, asthma, dysentery and skin diseases. Latex is used as antdote to scorpion bite.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Cardiospermum helicacabum L.</td>
<td>Kanphuti</td>
<td>Sapindaceae</td>
<td>Leaves used for rheumatism, piles, fever, hydrocoele and ear ache.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15 Chlorophyllum borivillianum Santpaus
Safed musli Liliaceae Root is used improving strength, capable of promoting the semen and sexual vigor.

16 Coccinia grandis L. Kundru Cucurbitaceae Fruits are used in diabetes.

17 Datura metal L. Datura Solanaceae Smoke of leaves and seeds used in asthma and respiratory disorders. Leaf used in various inflammation, piles, joints pain

18 Deospyros melanoxylon Roxb. Tendu Ebenaceae Bark is used diarrhea. Leaf is used in skin and blood diseases. Seed used for dysentery.

19 Ephorbia tricalii L. Sehand Ephorbiaceae Whole plant is useful in wound healing. Milky juice is used in rheumatism, cough, asthma.

20 Evolvulus alsinoides L. Shankha phuli Convolvulaceae The plant is bitter nerve tonic antispasmodic. The leaves are used treatment of epilepsy, bleeding.

21 Ficus religiosa L. Peepal Moraceae Latex is used as tonic, bark for gonorrhea and scabies. Leaves as antidote to snake bite.

22 Magnifera indica L. Aam Anacardiaceae The roots and bark used in wounds, ulcers, vomiting, diarrhea, dysentery, rheumatism. Fruits used as a cooling agent.

23 Nerium indicum Mill Kaner Apocynaceae The leaves are medicinal. Bark and Roots are poisonous

24 Ocimum sanctum L. Tulsi Lamiaceae The leaves are used in treatment of skin diseases. Also used in cough and cold.

25 Psoralea corylifolia L. Bawchi Papilionaceae Seed is used in cough, diabetes, fever, edema, piles and ulcer

26 Sesamum indicum L. Til Pedaliaceae Seed oil in medicinal and also used as hair oil.

27 Syzygium cumini L. Jamun Myrtaceae The seeds are used in diabetes

28 Tamarindus indica L. Imli Caesalpiniaceae Fruits and leaves are used as carminative, digestive, laxative and astringent.

29 Tectona grandis L. Sagwain Verbanaceae The oil is used to treat ringworm, and itchies.

30 Withania somifera L. Aswagandh Solanaceae Root is used in ulcer, fever, cough and leucoderma.

31 Ziziphus mauritiana Ber Rhamnaceae The bark is used in diarrhea and in removing intestinal worms.

REFERENCES