

Tribal Medicinal Plants Specifically Of Rajasthan

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ABSTRACT

Around seven percent of tribal population of India lives in Rajasthan. Ethnobotany can be defined as the total natural and traditional relationship and the interactions between man and his surrounding plant wealth from times immemorial, due to sheer, necessity, intuition, observation and experimentation. Ethnobotany of India might be among the earliest in the world and all traditional systems of medicine had their roots in ethnobotany. Rajasthan has rich cultural diversity and biodiversity. The world health organization (WHO) has recently recognized the importance of traditional medicinal system in different parts of globe and around 4000 plant spp. have been identified which are used in traditional herbal medicinal system. However, proper identification of these crude drugs in Botanical terms has not been carried out or still remains disputed as different authors ascribed different plants source to various crude drugs (Sanghi and Kumar, 2000). More over several difficult diseases have problem related with vitality, diabetes, memory loss, could be cured effectively by use of herbal medicine, which is generally not possible by the Allopathic medicines. However, there is no systematic documentation of this information. Medicinal plants are distributed across diverse habitats and landscape. Around 70 per cent of India's medicinal plants are found in tropical areas. Mostly in the various forest types spread across the Western and Eastern ghats, the Vindhyas, Chota Nagpur Plateau, Aravallis and Himalayas.

KEY WORDS: ethnobotany, tribes, botanical, plants, habitats, WHO

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I. INTRODUCTION

Tribal people and ethnic races throughout the world have developed their own culture, costumes, medicinal practices, etc. A large number of wild and cultivated plants are being used by them for the treatment of various elements, thus, a considerable amount of information on medicinal plants is available with these communities. Rajasthan is one of the largest states located in the Northwestern part of India. Geographically, it lies between 23°3' to 30°12' longitudes and 69°30' to

78°17' latitudes. Southern part of Rajasthan comprising Banswara, Chittorgarh, Dungarpur and Udaipur districts is the tribal belt in which Bhil, Damor, Garasia, Kalbelia, Kathodia and Meena are the main tribes. The plants growing around them form an integral part of their culture. These people are largely dependant on their traditional healing system for their healthcare and the information is passed on from generation to generation through the word of mouth.(1,2)

The climate is tropical with the maximum temperature ranging between

38.3° - 46.0°C (during summer) and the minimum between 7.0° - 11.6°C (during winter). Average annual rainfall has been recorded to be 65.03 cm. The area is characterized by the tropical deciduous type of vegetation consisting of *Anogeissus latifolia* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Guill & Perr., *Anogeissus pendula* Edgew., *Balanites aegyptiaca* (Linn.) Delile., *Boswellia serrata* Roxb., *Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb., *Madhuca indica* J.F. Gmelin, *Tectona grandis* Linn. f., *Terminalia arjuna* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wight & Arn., etc. as the important plant species. Significant contribution has been made by several workers on the ethnobotany in India¹⁻⁶. In Rajasthan, these studies have been carried out from different parts of the state⁷⁻¹⁵. However, the studies on the ethnomedicinal plants of southern Rajasthan are scantier¹⁶. Therefore, an attempt has been made here to collect the information about plants used by tribals in their traditional healthcare system. The study is based on interviews with local tribals living in the region and entirely dependent on the plants occurring around them.(1,3)

II. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To study about medicinal plants utilized by tribal population of Rajasthan
2. To discuss utility medicinal plants in ayurveda
3. To study significance and scope of ethnobotany

III. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field trips are conducted with the local medicine men. Generally tribals, who know about the herbal medicine, do not want to give all the information because they believe that when the medicinal plant is disclosed its medicinal properties will be lost. The people, who can provide information about medicinal plants, were consulted. For authenticity about medicinal properties of plants, the information collected during fieldwork was verified at different places through different informants and in different seasons.(3) Each of the plant species collected with the help of the informants have been recorded, photographed and identified. (4)

IV. OBSERVATIONS

Plant name/Family	Local name
<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L. Papilionaceae	Chirmu Ratti
<i>Acacia catechu</i> (L.f.) Willd. Mimosaceae	Khair katha
<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.) Willd. ex Del Mimosaceae	Boriyo

<i>Acanthospermum hispidum</i> DC. Asteraceae	Dokanta
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L. Amaranthaceae	Andhi Jhara
<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr. Rutaceae	Billa
<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Guill & Perr. Combretaceae	Dhawari
<i>Barleria prionitis</i> L. Acanthaceae	Danteli, Kalabans
<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam.) Taubert. Papilionaceae	Khankra, Sura
<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Ait) R. Br. Asclepiadaceae	Akra
<i>Capparis decidua</i> (Forsk.) Edgew. Capparaceae	Kair
<i>Chlorophytum tuberosum</i> (Roxb.) Baker Liliaceae	Dholi musali
<i>Curculigo orchoides</i> Gaertn. Hypoxidaceae	Moosli
<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i> (L.) Wight & Arn. Mimosaceae	Goya-hair kolai
<i>Echinops echinatus</i> Roxb. Asteraceae	Oont Kantilo
<i>Enicostema axillare</i> (Lam.) Roynal Gentianaceae	Nami
<i>Euphorbia caducifolia</i> Haines Euphorbiaceae	Danda Thore
<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L. Moraceae	Bar, Bargad
Plant name/Family	Local name
<i>Helicteres isora</i> L. Sterculiaceae	Anteri, Maror hali
<i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i> (Roxb.) Planch Ulmaceae	Sil, Kanjeri
<i>Jatropha curcas</i> L. Euphorbiaceae	Ratan Jot
<i>Madhuca indica</i> J.F. Gmelin Sapotaceae	Mori
<i>Medicago sativa</i> L. Papilionaceae	Rizka
<i>Peristrophe paniculata</i> (Forsk.) Burm. Acanthaceae	Bhamwara Kakar
<i>Ricinus communis</i> L. Euphorbiaceae	Arandi
<i>Solanum surattense</i> Burm. f. Solanaceae	Kateli, Bhurangni
<i>Soymida febrifuga</i> (Roxb.) A. Juss. Meliaceae	Rohini
<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> (L.) Miers Menispermaceae	Giloy
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> L. Asteraceae	
<i>Ziziphus nummularia</i> (Burm, f.) Wight & Arn. Rhamnaceae	Jhari, Bordi

V. CONCLUSION

Now a days, much of the wealth of knowledge is being lost as the traditional culture is disappearing. Hence, documentation of traditional practices of herbal medicine will be coherence in future. There is an urgent need to study and document the precious knowledge of ethnomedicinal practices. Documentation of such information will go a long way in developing new drugs through further researches. The information on the ethnomedicinal plants will certainly help in developing strategies for the conservation, cultivation of traditional medicine and economic welfare of rural and tribal population of this region of Rajasthan. The plants and the remedies as recorded here need phytochemical and pharmacological screening for their active principles and clinical trials for therapeutic action.(6,7)

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