

SOME TRADITIONAL MEDICINAL PLANTS USED BY TRIBES IN TELANGANA STATE.

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Abstract

Traditional Medicinal plants Used by Tribes In Telangana state, which is mainly occupied by tribes revealed that some medicinally important plants were used by herbal healers (ages between 54 - 80 years). In the present study, scientific name, family, vernacular name, habit and medicinal uses have been identified. Traditional Medicine studies were conducted particularly and dense forest where the tribal community inhabits. The present study of the area belonging to the tribes and we were visited, identified and gathered information on different plants used as medicine was recorded by direct observation, casual interview and taken photographs.

In the present study, a number of plants which are used by tribes of Telangana State, India for treatment of skin diseases have been documented. The present study is based on the concept of “a plant for cure of a common disease”. For example a single plant was selected for common skin diseases like wounds, ring worm, itching, warts, eczema, vitilago, chicken pocks, measles and etc.. Among these plants, some species like *Azadirachta indica*, *Curcuma langa*, *Annona squamosa*, *Plumbago zeylanica*, *Citrus lemon*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Phyllanthus emblica*, *Hybiscus rosasinensis*, *Tridax procumbens*, *Lucas aspera*, *Ricinus communis* and *Mangifera indica* were collected from the forest for treatment. From the present analysis plant parts are used roots, stem, bark, leaves, seeds and flowers.

The present study concludes that, the used the pharmacognostic values of these plants. Such proven plant species may be used in the formulation of new drugs against different ailments. Hence, there is great need of cultivation and conservation of such plants.

Keywords: Folklore Medicine, plants, trees.

INTRODUCTION

The pattern of tribal livelihood has not changed since immemorial. In the dense forest areas, nature is so kind that for thousands of years it has been possible for these tribal to live in comparative ease by simply hunting and food gathering (Kosambi, 1962). A variety of natural products provide them a balanced diet. They include fruits, nuts, berries leafy vegetables, tubers, yams mushrooms and honey. Over 210 such natural wild plant products can be gathered in a season. Besides these, materials for shelter, fabrics, medicine and other necessities for survival are found in surrounding nature (Vartak and Gadgil, 1980).

Study Area:

Bhadrachalam famous pilgrim place near Godavari River in Telangana state .it lies between at 11° 55' N latitude and 75° 59' N' longitude. Temperature Goes down to 19°C during the winter season and to 33°C during the summer months. The rain fall ranges from 310mm-

810mm. The forest types are Tropical, sub tropical, deciduous forest. Soil is alluvial type of soil. Surrounding states are Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Climate is favourable for growth and development of plants. Traditional herbal plants are readily available in rural areas for treatment of common diseases. Survey studies have highlighted the richness of indigenous plant use across states, and emphasised that many species remain scientifically under-explored (Lalitha Kumari-2018)

Review of Literature

Traditional medicinal systems form an essential component of indigenous healthcare practices in India. Among them, tribal communities play a crucial role in preserving and transmitting ethnobotanical knowledge through oral traditions and daily practices. **Jain (1965, 1991)** was among the first to establish systematic ethnobotanical survey methods in India, emphasizing documentation and preservation of indigenous knowledge. His frameworks continue to guide researchers studying plant-based remedies used by rural and tribal communities.

Kosambi (1962) and Vartak & Gadgil (1980) discussed how tribal livelihood patterns are closely interlinked with forest ecology. They observed that tribals rely heavily on forest resources for food, shelter, and medicine, indicating a strong symbiotic relationship between people and their environment.

In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, Reddy et al. (1988) and Sudhakar et al. (2004) reported numerous medicinal plants used by tribal healers, especially among the Chenchu, Koya, and Lambada tribes. Commonly used species included *Azadirachta indica*, *Curcuma longa*, and *Phyllanthus emblica*, primarily for skin infections, fever, and gastrointestinal problems. Savithramma et al. (2011) further conducted ethnobotanical surveys in Eastern Ghats and recorded over 200 species employed by tribes in folk medicine, highlighting the urgent need for conservation of this knowledge.

In Telangana, the forests of **Adilabad, Khammam, and Bhadrachalam districts** are inhabited by tribal groups such as the Koya, Gond, and Yerukala and Yanadi communities. **Swamy et al. (2014)** documented medicinal plants in Adilabad district used for curing common ailments like dysentery, wounds, and skin infections. Similarly, **Prasad et al. (2018)** recorded 64 ethnomedicinal plant species from Khammam district used by local healers for treating a variety of diseases including eczema, boils, and ringworm.

Studies by Rao & Henry (1996) and Hemadri (1999) in South India also contributed valuable records of plants used in traditional medicine, such as *Plumbago zeylanica* and *Tridax procumbens* for skin ailments and wound healing. Anitha et al. (2013) documented the ethnomedicinal importance of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* and *Moringa oleifera* for dermatological issues among Telangana tribes.

Recent works, such as Reddy et al. (2019) and Srinivas & Reddy (2020), have reaffirmed that indigenous healers, often aged between 50 and 80 years, possess deep-rooted empirical knowledge about herbal treatments. However, due to modernization, deforestation, and reduced intergenerational transmission, much of this knowledge is at risk of being lost.

The current study builds upon these findings by focusing on Bhadradi Kothagudem district, an area rich in deciduous forest vegetation and dense tribal habitation. Field surveys revealed that local healers use various plant species—such as *Azadirachta indica*, *Curcuma longa*, *Citrus limon*, *Plumbago zeylanica*, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, *Ricinus communis*, and *Mangifera indica*—to treat common skin diseases including wounds, eczema, warts, and itching. These findings confirm that traditional medicinal systems remain vital to the primary healthcare of tribal communities in Telangana.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Frequent field visits were conducted in selected Districts of Telangana State and gathered information about traditional knowledge pertained to skin diseases and the detailed application and administration of plant remedies for skin diseases. Data sheets and questionnaire were used for data collection, which includes collection number, name and age of informant, place, location name, family, specificity in collecting useful parts detailed method of drug preparation, specificity of dosage, restriction if any and administration. Photographs were also taken for correct identification. The plants are enumerated in the scientific name followed by family local name, plants used and medicinal uses. A detailed description about preparation administration and application of the drug are also given. For gathering information regarding plants using medicinally by the rural areas several field trips were under taken in the district and surrounding areas of different season. Ethnobotanical data was collected According to the methodology suggested by SK Jain 1991. informations (vernacular names, mode of preparation ,medicinal uses) through questionnaires interviews and discussion among the rural practitioners in their local languages accorded in the field note book Collected Information was cross checked with the available literature (SK Jain 1965). These study also involved an extensive literature search and herbarium examination.

Results and Discussion

Enumeration of plant species scientific name ,family ,habit ,vernacular name parts used and mode of administration. Present information deals with 12 medicinal plants which are used for the treatment of skin diseases. While much of this work has focused on general medicinal plant use or specific ailments like diabetes (Singh et al., 2023)³. Fewer studies have focused exclusively on plants used for **skin diseases** within a single tribal village context. For example, Singh, Chandana & Chandraprakash (2023)

This indicates that rural people of this area possess good survey of folklore plants for treatment of skin diseases in Bhadradi Kothagudem district. Scientific name, family, vernacular name, habit medicinal uses present in alphabetical order.

***Abrus precatorius* L.** Fabaceae ‘Guriginja; Climber leaf paste is applied on affected parts to cure any type of skin diseases and leucoderma.

***Allium sativum* L.** Liliaceae ‘Velluli’ Herb Crushed garlic bulb applied on Segal lumps. Bulb is edible

Aloe vera (L) burm f. Liliaceae ‘Kalabanda’ Herb Leaf paste is applied on wounds and cuts. Jelly is taken internally for hemorrhoids

Amaranthus cardatus L. Amaranthaceae ‘Thotakura’ Herb leaf paste applied on skin diseases. Leaves are edible.

Amaranthus spinosus L. Amaranthaceae ‘Mulla Thotakura’ Herb Fresh leaf paste applied on skin diseases for three days.

Azediricta indica L. Meliaceae ‘Vepa chettu’ Tree Fresh leaf paste applied on skin allergies, seed oil used for exzema, scabies and ring worm.

Carica papaya L. Caricaceae ‘Boppaye’ Small Tree; Unripe fruit latex applied on torts until cure. Ripen fruit pulp taken orally used for abortion.

Centella asitica L. Urban Apiaceae ‘Saraswathi’ Prostate climber. Fresh root extract is applied on effected parts of skin diseases. Whole plant decoction taken orally increased memory

Citrus lemon L. Rutaceae ‘Nimmachettu’ Small tree Leaf paste applied on skin diseases. Fresh fruit juice applied on scabies on fold hands.

Curcuma augustifolia roxb Zingiberaceae ‘Kasthuri pasupu’ Herb Rhizome and ***Moringa olefera*** L. Moringaceae ‘Munaga’ Medium Tree Bark paste applied on leucoderma daily until for cure and daily below 9 am exposed to Sun rays with effected parts of the skin ten minutes in daily. Rhizome paste apply a paste made of turmeric applied on cold allergy on skin.

Cynodon doctylon L. Poaceae ‘Garika’ Herb; Leaf paste with turmeric powder applied on effected part of the cuts, wounds and skin allergy.

Curcuma longa L. Zingiberaceae ‘Pasupu’ Herb Rhizome paste applied on fresh cuts and wounds. A Hot poultice of the rhizome is applied on affected boils from 2-3 hours.

Datura metal L. Solanaceae ‘Umetha’ Shrub Dried leaf smoke cured Asthma. Seeds are poisonous

Ficus glomerata Roxb Moraceae ‘Medichettu’ Big Tree Latex applied on bacterial infections till cure. Fruits are edible.

Hibiscus rosa-sinesis L. Malvaceae ‘Mandara’ Shrub Fresh leaf or flower paste applied on hair fall and black hair. Dried flowers with jaggery ***Saccarum officinarum*** poaceae: ‘Cheraku’ internally take for leucorrea

Jatrpha Curcas L. Euphorbiaceae ‘Adavi amudamu’ Shrub Fresh bark paste are taken in amounts are boiled together and mixed with the processed leaves of ***Nicotina tobacuum*** L. Solanaceae ‘Pogaku’ Shrub are prescribed to apply locally for itching.

Melia azedarach L. Meliaceae ‘Turka vepachettu’ Medium Tree Bark decoction orally for menstrual pain and skin diseases

Mirabilis jalapa L. Nyctaginaceae ‘Rudraksha’ Shrub leaf paste applied on skin itches regularly every day.

Morus indica L. Moraceae ‘Kambali Chettu’ Herb Leaf taken orally used for cough.

Ocimum Sanctum L. Lamiaceae ‘Tulsi’ Herb Leaf paste applied on acne. Leaf decoction take internally for cough, cold and fever.

Pongamia pinnata L. Fabaceae ‘Ganugachettu’ Medium Tree Seed oil is applied on skin diseases.

Plumbago zeylanica L. Plumbagenaceae ‘Chitra mulamu’ Herb Fresh leaves of *Ocimum sanctum* L. Lamiaceae ‘Rama thulasi’ Herb are grounded and mixed with a little amount of salt are prepared in the form of paste applied on ringworm.

Tridox procumbens L. Asteraceae ‘Gaddi chamanthi’ Herb Fresh leaf paste applied on wound healing stop bleeding, dandruff

Abrus prectorius L. *Allium sativum* L. *Aloe vera* (L) burm f, *Amaranthus cardatus*, *Amaranthus pinosus* L, *Azadiricta indica* L, *Carica papaya* L. *Centella asitica* L. Urban, *Citrus lemon* L, *Curcuma augustifolia roxb*, *Cynodon doctylon* L, *Curcuma longa* L, *Datura metal* L, *Ficus glomerata* Roxb, *Hibiscus rosa-sinesis* L, *Saccarum officinarum*, *Jatrpha Curcas* L, , *Melia azedarach* L, *Mirabilis jalapa* L, *Moringa olefera* L, *Morus indica* L, *Nicotina tobacuum* L, *Ocimum Sanctum* L, *Pongamia pinnata* L. *Plumbago zeylanica* L, , *Tridox procumbens* L. Total 26 plant species.

Liliaceae, Amaranthaceae, *Caricaceae*, Apiaceae, Rutaceae , Moringaceae, Zingiberaceae, Solanaceae, Malvaceae, Poaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Solanaceae, Meliaceae, Nyctaginaceae, Moraceae, Fabaceae, Plumbagenaceae, Lamiaceae,. Asteraceae. Total 19 families belongs to dicots and monocots these are Angiosperms. Plant habits are climbers, herbs, shrubs, medium tree and big tree. Useful plant parts are whole plant, root, root bark, rhizome, stem bark, leaf, flower, fruit, seed, root

Conclusion

The present study conducted in Bhadradi Kothagudem District of Telangana State highlights the rich ethnobotanical knowledge of the tribal communities, particularly in the treatment of skin diseases using locally available medicinal plants. The documentation reveals that traditional healers, aged between 54 to 80 years, continue to rely on a wide variety of plant species for primary healthcare. A total of 24 plant species were identified and documented with detailed information on their local names, scientific names, families, parts used, and mode of application.

This research not only emphasizes the cultural and medicinal significance of folklore medicine but also underlines the urgent need for preserving indigenous knowledge, which is at risk due to modernization and lack of documentation. The pharmacognostic values of these plants suggest potential for developing new, natural remedies for common dermatological conditions such as wounds, eczema, ringworm, scabies, and other skin infections.

Further scientific validation and phytochemical analysis of these plants be conducted to confirm their efficacy and safety. Conservation strategies be implemented to protect these valuable plant species from over-exploitation. Awareness and training programs be organized for local communities to encourage sustainable harvesting and preservation of medicinal plants.

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