

Botanicals Sold by Herbal Vendors Employed for Skin Diseases in North Maharashtra

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ABSTRACT

Ethno-medicinal plants have traditionally occupy an important position in socio-cultural and socio-economic arena of rural and tribal societies. The present authors surveyed, Nasik, Nandurbar, Dhule, Jalgaon and Buldhana Districts of North Maharashtra for the traditional knowledge of herbal vendors, since July 2009. This paper particularly reports drugs sold by vendors to combat various skin diseases such as mouth sores, itching, boils-with pus, pimples, ringworms, black pots, eczema, scabies, bile, hair blister etc. Total 24 species belonging 24 genera and 19 angiospermic families are included. They employ various plants parts like rhizome, stem barks, leaves, flowers, fruits, seeds or entire plants and some domestic substances. The paper shows correct botanical names, local names, parts used types of medicinal recipes and doses prescribed by the herbal vendors. These drugs if studied on scientific lines, may yield valuable lead molecules and serve as additional sources of medicine.

Keywords: Herbal, Vendors, Ethnomedicine North Maharashtra

I. INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plants have been crucial in sustaining the health and well-being of mankind. It is generally agreed that major section of population especially in developing and underdeveloped countries seek healthcare from sources other than conventional medicines. They also seek help of some organized systems of medicine like Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha etc. Apart from these every community or village has a wealth of herbal folklore. Our ancestors possessed a profound understanding of healing powers of plants. They used to try and test local plants for a range of common health problems. These ancient healing practices are still vogue in a period when different well-thought and organized systems of medicine are in practice all over the world. Their knowledge has been passed orally generation-to-generation since long past. India is one such country having the oldest system of healing in the world. Moreover, tribal and rural societies in India still have their choices of indigenous drug selection and application. A review of literature indicates the Herbal Vendors (Jadibutiwalas) and their traditional knowledge about plant drugs has remained untapped. They have been always ignored in

our country. In India Sinha (1998) has attempted on this line and studied Delhi and surrounding areas. The present authors investigated, some districts of north-western part of Maharashtra. *viz.* Dhule, Nandurbar, Nashik, Jalgaon and Buldhana. Information of 24 plants species used for various human ailments are being communicated in this paper.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Herbal vendors wandering in north Maharashtra are tapped and enquiries w.r.t. plant drug, recipe, administration plant names, precautionary tips and diseases treated are noted. Plants samples or products are purchased / collected and presented scientifically. They are identified by using various regional, state and national floras in India. (Cooke, 1958; Naik, 1998; Sharma *et al.*, 1996 Singh *et al* 2000; Patil 2003 and Kshirsagar and Patil 2008) Repeated surveys were conducted in different villages, towns and cities of North Maharashtra. Information regarding remedies related especially to the human diseases was recorded. The data adduced is based on personal interviews, observations and experiences of vendors in the region. The data is compared with the classical literature (Anonymous 1948-1976; Ambasta 1986; Jain 1991; Watt 1889-1893 etc.). Asterisk to the plant species indicate reports in classical literature.

These are presented in the following table-I.

Observations: During our Intensive Survey the observations are Provided in Tabular Form

Table – I : Enumeration of identified botanical and utilities

Sr. No	Botanical Name (Family)	Vernacular Name	Part Used	Recipe and Administration
I	**Abitulon indicum (L.) Sweet (Malvaceae)	Atiwalal Dabala	Stem bark	Decoction of stem bark is used for 7 days at night to cure black patches of skin.
II	*Alangium salvifolium (L.,f) Wang. (Alangiaceae)	Ankol	Root's	Slurry obtained from roots is administered. One teaspoon twice daily for five days is advised to reduce Poisoning role of bile.
III	Alstonia scholaris R. Br. (Apocynaceae)	Saptaparni	Stem bark	Stem bark is burnt and smoke is passed over body and ash is wrapped over body of person suffering from skin itching.
IV	**Azadirachta indica A.Juss (Meliaceae)	Kadu-Nimb	Stem bark	1) The fresh slices of internal bark juice and one drop is mounted on eye's for three four night's against sore's in eyes. 2) Ash of stem Bark is mixed with coconut oil (<i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.) and the paste after bath is applied morning and evening against scabies It is treated till it cures.

V	**Barleria prionitis L. (Acanthaceae)	Kate- koranti	Leaves	Leaf juice of this plant mixed with powder of (<i>Cuminum cyminum</i> L.) orally twice daily for ten day's in complaints of burning micturation.
VI	**Cardiospermum halicacabum L. (Sapindaceae)	Kapalphod i	Roots	Roots are boiled in half cup water and mixed in spoonfull mustard oil (<i>Brassica compestris</i> L.) Brasseceae. This paste is applied on skin for ten days to cure skin diseases.
VII	Carissa congesta Wight. (Apocynaceae)	Karawand	Roots/ Seed's	Root powder is mixed with one two drops of lemon juice (<i>citrus aurantifolia</i> L.) and Camphor (<i>Cinamomum comphora</i> (L.) Presl) 1 to 2 ml of horse Urine and the paste is applied on affected parts of skin for ten days to cure white spots on skin.
VIII	*Cayratia auriculata (Wall. ex Wight & Arn.) Gamble (Vitaceae)	Ambatwel / Amlaparni	Leaves	A fistful of leaves are crushed and juice is squeezed out. It is applied once daily for four days after bath to cure ring-worms.
IX	*Chenopodium murale L. (Chenopodiaceae)	Bathua Chill	Seed's	one spoonful of Seed powder is mixed with honey and consumed at night for three days to cure bile problems.
X	**Cinnamomum zeylanicum Bl. (Lauraceae)	Dalchini	Stem bark	Stem bark powder is applied on infected parts of body for three days to cures scabies.
XI	Cullen corylifolia L. (Fabaceae)	Bhapad/ bawanchi	Leaves, Entire plants	1) Dried leaves are kept in sunlight for a day and fine powder prepared. It is applied on infected part for Seven days. It is useful against scabies. 2) Four to five plants are ground into fine paste, this paste, is applied at bed time for ten to fifteen days to clear white spots on skin.
XII	**Daucas carota L. (Apiaceae)	Gajar	Roots	Crushed roots are heated and pinch of salt is added and paste is applied on skin for three days at night to cure eczema and ringworms.
XIII	*Emblica officinalis Gaertn. (Euphorbiaceae)	Avala	Seeds	Seed ash is mixed with coconut oil (<i>Cocus nuecifera</i> L.) and this paste is applied for four nights on scabies till it cures.
XIV	Helicteris. isora L.	Murad	Leaves	Paste of fresh leaves daily applied for three

	(Sterculaceae)	sheng		days at night to cure eczema till it cures.
XV	**Helianthus annuus L. (Asteraceae)	Suryaful	Roots	Roots paste is applied on vagina at night for six days to cure itching and burning sensation of vagina
XVI	Jasminum officinale L. (Oleaceae)	Chameli	Leaves flowers	Leaf and flowers paste is applied on skin for three days to cure boils and skin related problems.
XVII	Mallotus philippensis (Lam.) Muell.-Arg. (Euphorbiaceae)	Sindur / shendri / Kapila	Stem bark	Twenty five gm stem bark powder of this plant mixed with oil of (<i>Sesamum orientale</i> L.) then it is boiled and cooled. This oil is applied on affected skin for four days to cure ring worm and itching of skin.
XVIII	Ocimum basilicum L. (Lamiaceae)	Karpuri tulas	Entire plant	Three fistful of plants twigs are crushed and the paste is obtained. It is applied on twice a day for four day's to cure ring worms.
XIX	**Papaver rhoeas L. (Papaveraceae)	Lalbehama n Janglimud rika	Stem bark, latex	The latex is collected from incision of unripe capsule wall. If The latex is applied on legs for three night's to cure eczema.
XX	Pongamia pinnata (L.) Pierre. (Fabaceae)	Karanj	Seeds	1.Drid seed powder is made into paste and is applied on body for 4-5 days to releve skin problems. 2.Seed oil is applied on skin parts for one month to cure ring worms.
XXI	*Phyla nodiflora (L.) Greene (Verbenaceae)	Fikipalam/ jalpai / jalpimpri	Leaves Stem bark	Dried leaves and stem bark powder is mixed with honey and Castor oil (<i>Ricinus communis</i> L.) are mixed together. It is made in to pellets These pellets are advised twice daily for fifteen days to treat ratches and itching of skin.
XXII	**Plantago ovata Forssk.. (Plantaginaceae)	Esabgol	Seeds	Seed paste is applied on affected part of skin at four nights to cure eczema.
XXIII	**Vernonia anthelmintica (L.) Willd. (Asteraceae)	Kadu jira kalajira.	Seeds	Seed powder about one teaspoonful is taken orally for a month. is useful in treatment of skin allergy (black spots).
XXIV	**Wrightia tinctoria R. Br. (Apocynaceae)	Dhudhkud i kadukuida	Seeds	Paste of seeds powder is applied on affected part of skin for seven days at morning and evening as remedy against burning of skin.

III. RESULT

The present authors came across some botanicals used by vendors to treat various human skin diseases in North Maharashtra. Presently, botanicals belonging to 24 plant species of 24 genera belonging to 19 families are communicated. All are angiosperms. Of these, (01) species are exotic. The number of wild (19) and 06 species are used as supplementary (06) source. It is to noted that (05) plant species are cultivated ones. These are advised to employ botanical in the form of various medicinal recipes e.g. decoction (01), Powder (09), juice (02), paste (11), pillates (01), pulp (01), ash (03), latex (01) oil (02) and slurry (01). These recipes are prepared using Leaves (06), Seeds (05), roots (05), stem bark (06), entire plant (02), and flowers (01).

IV. DISCUSSION

Comparative study of ethno medicinal claims indicated that 16 species, which on Comparison with classical literature, are being reported useful for first time from India. There are Eleven species viz. *Abitulon indicum*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Barleria prionitis*, *Cardiospermum halicacabum*, *Cinnamomum zeylanicum*, *Daucas carota*, *Helianthus annuus*, *Papaver rhoeas*, *Plantago ovata*, *Vernonia anthelmintica*, and *Wrightia tinctoria*. Which are reported earlier useful for the affliction under study but the parts use employed are different. Even they are used raw or sometimes simply warmed. In many cases, they use them as a sole drug or occasionally supplemented by other botanicals or substances like honey, salt, oil, Leman juice, Camphor(06) etc. They used these to combat common (10) diseases such as sores in mouth, skin itching, piles, boils with pus, pimples, ringworm, black spots, eczema, scabies, white spots, bile, hair blister, sores in eyes etc. The herbal vendors carry on their business traditionally especially in public places like, railway stations, bus-stations, weekly bazaar, famous temples, pilgrims, special gatherings, courts, government. Offices, main roads, etc. Even in modern period, many people purchase medicines from them. It is not scientifically verified by the vendors and hence it is advisable to testify these bio resources in laboratories. Such attempts will authenticate these claims and may add new or additional source of medicines

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