

ETHNO MEDICINAL PLANTS USED FOR TREATMENT OF DERMATITIS AND SKIN DISEASES BY TRIBALS OF RAIGAD DISTRICT WITH REFERENCE TO KARNALA FOREST, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

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Abstract

Karnala forest lies in the Raigad district of Maharashtra state 18°75'o" N and 70°07'o" E. It is characterized by average rainfall of 3000 mm, black rocky basalt to reddish yellow coloured soil. Karnala is a combination of moist deciduous and semi evergreen forest. The tribals of these region are Katkaries, Thakars and Mahadev Koli. They frequently suffer from different types of skin infections. The paper deals with medicinal plants used by these tribals for treatment of skin diseases. The data on ethnomedicinal plants and rich herbal forest wealth is on the verge of extinction and special efforts are required for documentation, conservation and sustainable utilization of these plants. So a survey was carried out to collect valuable information on traditional medicinal plants. The information regarding use of plants, their botanical names and local names is described in this paper.

Keywords: *Karnala, Ethnomedicinal plants, Skin diseases, Conservation*

Introduction

Ethnobotany is a branch of economic botany that deals with use of plants in life of man. The tribal communities that dwell in the dense forests of India use the traditional medicine system for health care based on folk remedies for centuries, which is defined as Ethnomedicine. They use plants to cure the common ailments even today, as they consider and prefer this system to be pure, natural and safe, as well the health care centres are at a distance from their dwellings.

Area under study

Karnala forest lies in Raigad district of Maharashtra state, India 18 75 N and 70 070 E. It is characterized by black , rocky, basalt to reddish yellow coloured soil, rainfall about 2000mm per year. The forest is a mixture of semievergreen to moist deciduous with temperature around 25 to 30 celcius.

Materials and Methods

The tribals of this region are Thakkars and Katkaris. A survey carried out revealed that they frequently from different skin diseases. The paper deals with plants used in the treatment of skin diseases by these tribals which are found in this forest.

List of Ethnomedicinal plants

Sr. No.	Local, Botanical Name, Family	Part used and mode of administration
1	Khair Acacia catechu Willd -- Family : Mimosaceae Kapha pit samak, Kustaghan	Powder dried bark sprinkled – affected skin – morning and evening.
2	Onion Allium cepa Linn -- Family : Liliaceae Kustaghana Glycollic acid, Allyl propyl disulfide – antibacterial	Fresh juice applied – on skin infection with rash, scabies
3	Dhotra Argemone medicana Linn -- Family : Papavaraceae Kustaghana Dahashamane	Latex + coconut oil – locally – once- 3 days.
4	Kidamari Aristolochia bracteata Linn - Family : Aristolociaceae Tridoshar, Twagrogaghana (cures skin diseases) Shwetakushtaghna	Leaf juice applied on white patches 2 times a day, for skin parasites.
5	Neem – Azadirachta indica A. Juss -- Family – Meliaceae Kaphapitta samak, Kustaghan	Bark and leaves dried – ashes + coconut oil- paste applied morning and evening on scabies and leprosy – cured, for Skin

	Dahasamak	parasites.
6	Punarnava Boerhaavia diffusa Linn --- Family – Nyctaginaceae Dahanashak, Alkaloid – Punarnavine	Hot poultice of roots locally – skin disease with parasites.
7	Shalmali Bombax cebia Linn --- Family – Bombacaceae Dahadhaman, Sterol glycosides	Paste of bark – applied locally eruptions and pimples
8	Rui Calotropis gigantea Linn --- Family – Asclepiadaceae Kustaghana, Kaphanashak Bitter resins- Calotropin Akundarin	Latex of the leaves applied – broken pustulas – Scabies 2 times a day for 3 days.
9	Bahava Cassia Fistula Linn ---- Family – Caesalpinaceae Dahashamane Kustaghana Anthraquinone Glycoside, Fistulic acid antibacterial	Piece of bark/root rubbed on a stone – paste applied after bath – on scabies till cured.
10	Takala Cassia tora Linn --- Family – Caesalpinaceae- Chrysophanic acid	Til oil applied to seeds roasted pan – powder + equal amount of Triphala churana + water- - Rolled pills - 2 pills 3 times a day for 7 days in treatment of skin diseases / allergy.
11	Brahmi Centella asiatica Linn ---- Family – Umbellifereae Kushtahara Twagrogaghana - Vellarin	Decoction of entire plant 4 cups – conc – 1 cup applied locally – Leprosy, Psoriasis and skin diseases.
12	Mahalunga – Citrus medica Linn --- Family – Rutaceae Kustaghana, Vatakaphahar	Fruit is cut rubbed on body at bed time 7 days – scabies
13	Airan – Clerodendron phlomidis --- Family – Verbenaceae Kustaghana	2 handful of leaves – a cup of juice – Once on empty stomach - Scabies
14	Dhaniya Coriandrum sativum Linn --- Family – Umbelliferae Kaphahar	Juice of leaves applied – allergy once a day
15	Ranharbara Cressa cretica Linn --- Family – Convolvulaceae	Whole plant dried in shade – burnt – black ash + coconut oil- paste – applied once a day for scabies
16	Kanvat Feronia limonia Corr ---- Family Rutaceae Tridoshahar Kandooghna	Leaves 2 handful – crushed – juice ½ cup twice a day orally and locally applied – Skin allergies.
17	Ambadi Hibiscus cannabinus Linn --- Family – Malvaceae	5 leaves crushed – fine paste – applied morning and evening, 7 days - Scabies
18	Safed Jamalgot – Jatropha curcas Linn -- Family – Euphorbiaceae Tridosshar, Kusthaghana - Curcin	Fresh latex applied on scabies and other skin diseases
19	Mehendi Lawsonia inermis ---- Family- Lythraceae Dhahanashamane Lawsone	Paste of leaves applied morning and evening on soggy skin between toes – 6 days

20	Karanj Pongamia pinnata Pierre -- -- Family – Papilionaceae Shwetakusthaghna Essential Oil	Oil from seeds scrubbed over body twice - 7 days – scabies, Leprosy, itching leucoderma, skin parasites.
21	Bavachi Psoralea corylifolia Linn ----- Family – Papilionaceae Kushtanashini Antifungal, Antibacterial Psoralen – Staphylococci Streptococci	Powder of dried leaves – Scabies, Leprosy and Sorasis till cured. Paste of entire plant - Bedtime for 15 days – white spots
22	Chinch Tamarindus indicus Linn ---- Family – Caesalpinaceae Vata Kaphahar, Dahahara, Pottasium tartaric acid, Vit. A and C	Polutice of leaves once day used for - All parasitic skin diseases till cured
23	Sag Tectona grandis Linn - Family – Verbenaceae Kandooghna Essential Oil	Leaves dried crushed – dropped on burning coal – fumes spread all over body once – skin allergy.
24	Unhali Tephrosia villosa Pess- - Family – Papilionaceae Kusthaghana Raktavardhak Glycoside – Rutin	Decoction whole plant – one cup morning and one evening – 4 days – Chronic skin diseases
25	Dudhali Trichodesma indicum- R. Br. Family Boraginaceae Kandoohara (Skin itching)	Ashes of burnt leaves + 2-3 teaspoons coconut oil – paste applied twice a day – 3 days on skin allergy.

Conclusion :

Rapid intrusion of modern civilization into forest areas due to urbanization is causing deforestation. Special efforts needed to – collect store and record valuable data to incorporate sustainable utilization of ethnomedicinal and forest wealth before its extinction.

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