

UNIVERSITY OF BURDWAN



BOTANY PROJECT NOTE BOOK

B.SC GENERAL (BIO)

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MY TOPIC

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF
MEDICINAL PLANTS AND THEIR USES IN
BANKURA DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL.


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INTRODUCTION-

- serve the health needs of about 80% of the world population especially for millions of people in the rural areas of developing countries (Schultes 1962).
- The Indian region is very rich in ethno-botanical heritage due to its rich cultural diversity. Rig Veda is one of the important earliest available documents which emphasize about herbal medicinal knowledge. Later on Indian herbalists such as Maharshi Charaka and Sushruta made use of the importance of medicinal plants for curing various diseases.
- Plants and plant based medicaments are basis of Medical plants have been used as source of medicine in any indigenous communities throughout the world. The Indian region is very rich in ethno-botanical heritage due to its rich cultural diversity.

OBJECTIVES :

 In view of growing demand and importance of tribal medicines to control fertility and the need to recognize the services of tribal healers, attempts have been made. The tribal people of the district Bankura are rich in their traditional knowledge about phytomedicine and Ethno medicine. But they do not have written any scripts or prescriptions.

 Thus information about ethno medicine especially used in controlling fertility was collected through personal investigation among the Tribal communities and especially the Santal Tribal communities of the Bankura district, West Bengal, India.




DATA COLECTION

- ➔ For present investigation, extensive field survey was carried out in different villages of Bankura subdivision. Several field trips were carried out in and around the different villages and various markets spreading though out the different villages of our study area during 2013-2014.
- ➔ Traditional healers ho prepare remedies also serve as diagnosticians, identifying causes off illness before prescribing treatment. The dose given to the patient depends on age, physical status and health conditions of the patient. The method of use of plants varies according to nature of disease.


MEDICINAL PLANTS AND THEIR USES.




Achyranthes aspera: Family name – Amaranthaceae

-  Root is used in case of sprained and strained muscle and to cure piles and haemorrhoids (Pattanayak 2012). Plant is in leprosy (Gupta et al., 2010). Seeds are used as emetic in hydrophobia. Lodhas used this plant to cure piles and for the treatment against burning sensation in urination as well as to stop bleeding after abortion.
-  For worm, the roots are ground into powder and 5 gms of powder is used in 1 cup of water and take one cupful in the morning for 7 days.
-  In case of burn injury 100 gms of dried leaf powder is mixed with 2 spoonful of mustard oil and applied externally to treat boils and wounds.

Allium cepa: Family name- Amaryllidaceae




 Bulb of this plant is used to promote bile production, reduce blood sugar and used as stimulant, diuretic, expectorant and flatulence and dysentery. Plant juice is moderately bactericidal (Chopra et al., 1956). Paste of bulb mixed with curd and salt is used in diarrhea and dysentery. Aqueous extract of the bulb lowered the blood sugar as well as serum cholesterol and serum urea levels in alloxan diabetic albino rats (Annon 2004).

 Juice of fresh leaves is mixed with 3-4 drops of mustard oil and applied externally on the infected portion to treat boils and wounds and applied 20 ml in each times and 3 times daily for 7 days.

Asparagus racemosus: Family name –Asparagaceae

- ➔ Plant is used as demulcent, diuretic, aphrodisiac and galactogogue. The plant is also used in immune-modulator. Root of this plant exhibits inhibitory effects on the digestive enzymes .
- ➔ Roots are applied in urinary disease , dysentery, gonorrhoea and leucoderma (Hailemariam et al., 2009). Plant is used in blood dysentery, phylaria and nyctapols (Ghosh et al., 2014) and in cough, abortion, bronchitis and tuberculosis .
- ➔ 1 gm dry powder of leaves mixed with 1 gm salt, 1 spoonful ghee and 1 cupful of water to make tea and take 1 cup full in every morning for 5 days to take hypertension, high blood pressure.

Coccinia grandis: Family name –Cocurbitaceae

-  Plant is used internally in gonorrhoea. Leaves and root are used in diabetes. Leaves applied externally in case of skin diseases. Fruits used to reduce blood sugar (Chopra et al., 1956, Annon 2004).
-  Root of the plant is used to cure leucorrhoea (Nawaz et al., 2009). Fresh leaves are used to cure skin diseases like curbanicle, scabies, ulcer, abscess, septicemic wounds etc.
-  For stomach pain 500 gms powder of dried leaves is mixed 5 of suger and 1 spoonful of salt and 500 ml thrice in a day and continued for 5 days.




Cynodon dactylon: Family name – Poaceae

- ➔ Root of this plant is used as diuretic, to stop bleeding. Juice of plant is used as astringent ; and also used in dropsy and anasarca , in hysteria, epilepsy, insanity, genito-urinary disorders (Annon 1950, Chopra et al., 1956, Basak 1997).
- ➔ Plant is applied in herbal therapy for urinary ailments (Acharaya and Mukherjee 2010). Fresh shoot are eaten to treat habitual abortion (Ghosh 2003).
- ➔ Juice of fresh [eaves is drunk 6-7 drops, thrice in aday and continued for 3 days for fever.

Elephantopus scaber: Family name – Asteraceae

- ➔ The whole plant is used to stimulate diuresis, reduce fever and to eliminate bladder stone, peptic ulcers and also used in piles and scabies as well as used as vermifuge for infants (Annon 2005).
- ➔ Plant is used as astringent, cardiac tonic, febrifuge in snake bite. Roots and leaves used in dysuria, diarrhea, dysentery, swelling or pain in stomach, to arrest vomiting.
- ➔ Roots were paste and then make a pill of 1mm diameter and filled it into the teeth cavity to reduce tooth pain and remove it after taking each meal and replaced it 3-4 times in a day .

CONCLUSION

-  Documentation of this knowledge is valuable both for the community health care and their future generations and for scientific consideration of wider uses of the knowledge.
-  The indigenous knowledge and rights of the tribal communities and local people regarding uses of plants needs is to be secured.
-  Appropriate mechanisms for effective benefits sharing of potential value of this knowledge need to be developed (Schultes 1962).

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