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RESEARCH ARTICLE

ETHNO-MEDICINAL PLANTS USED BY THE KORKU TRIBES FROM SOUTHERN MELGHAT, BULDANA DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA IN THE TREATMENT OF HEPATIC DISORDERS

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ABSTRACT

The present paper reports such medicinal plants which are usually practiced by the Korku tribe from the southern Melghat of Buldana district in the treatment of hepatic disorders. The tribal communities inhabiting in southern Melghat of Buldana district rely mostly on the ethno-medicinal plants for curing common as well as chronic diseases. Now a days, the medicinal plants offers genuine plant materials for using it in the formulation of drugs and also alterative for traditional medicines. It is necessary to document the information blocked with local practitioners with correct identification of plant species.

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INTRODUCTION

Nature has healing properties. Man is dependent on nature to fulfill his day to day requirement. He also needs medicine to cure his ailments. Since ages man has been using herbal remedies to cure his ailments. This traditional knowledge of herbal remedies has been transferred from one generation to another orally. Traditional medicine is plant based material. Mostly in rural and tribal villages of India plants are used in local health problems by tradition. Real medicinal values of many plants are either little known or unknown to mainstream population (Pandey Govind, 2011). Many drugs presently prescribed by physicians are directly isolated from plants or are artificially modified versions of natural products (Wang *et al*., 2007). On the basis of traditional uses drug development and discovery of newer drug molecules are possible. Liver, the largest chemical laboratory is a vital organ of human body. It has a pivotal role in regulation of physiological processes. Almost all the drugs, foods, and water constituents are metabolized and detoxified in the liver. So it is often exposed to diseases resulting in number of clinical syndromes. Now a day's life style is completely changed.

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We are exposing our liver to many chemicals, drugs and toxic food which can causes liver diseases such as jaundice, hepatitis, cirrhosis etc. Ninety percent of acute hepatitis is caused due to viruses. Hepatitis B infection leads to primary liver cancer. Thus liver dysfunctioning is one of the serious health problems. But we do not have satisfactory allopathic drugs. Numbers of plants are traditionally used against the treatment of jaundice. Which show antioxidant and anti-hepatotoxic status which have many scientific proofs.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Several ethno-medicinal surveys were carried out during 2015 - 2016 with the help of local herbal practitioner of southern Melghat, Buldana district, Maharashtra. Based on total forest cover and tribal populations (Jadhav, 2006), the study area can be considered as ethno-botanical hotspots of Buldana region.

Field survey and data collection

Field exploration was undertaken to collect information about tribes regarding their history, life style, culture, socio-economic background, food habits, major role in conserving medicinal plants, local languages they used and traditional medicinal practices associated with them.

Table 1. Plants used in the treatment of hepatic disorders

Botanical name	Local name	Family	Plant parts used
Acacia catechu(L.)Willd.	Khair	Mimosaceae	Stem bark is given to treat jaundice
Adiantum sp.	Bhuitkhal	Pteridaceae	Leaf powder is given to cure jaundice
Alangium salvifolium (L.f.)Wangerin	Ankol	Alangiaceae	Root powder is given in chronic liver cirrhosis and liver cancer at the preliminary stage
Andrographis paniculata (Brum. f.)Wal. Ex. Nes.	Kirayata, Bhuinimb	Acanthaceae	Leaf juice is given to treat jaundice
Argemone maxicana L.	Satyanasi	Papaveraceae	1-2 drops exacted from root is given to treat jaundice
Asparagus racemosus Willd.	Shatawari	Liliaceae	Root powder is given in liver weakness
Bacopa monnieri (L.) Wetlst	Nirbramhi	Scrophulariaceae	Leaf powder or juice is given to cure jaundice
Boerhaavia repens L.	Punarnava	Nyctaginaceae	Root powder is given to treat jaundice
Cassia sophera L.	Devtarota	Caesalpiniaceae	Leaf powder is used to cure jaundice
Chlorophytum borivilianum L.	Safed musali	Liliaceae	Root powder is given to treat chronic liver cirrhosis
Cleome viscosa L.	Chipakaniyo, Tilwan	Cleomaceae	Root powder is given to cure jaundice
Clitoria ternatea L.	Supadi Gokarna	Papilionaceae	Leaf or Seed powder is mixed with honey and given to treat jaundice
Curculigo orchioides Gaertn.	Kali musali	Hypoxidaceae	Rhizome decoction is given to treat liver ailments
Cuscuta reflexa Roxb.	Amarvel	Cuscutaceae	Stem juice is given to cure jaundice
Echinops echinatus Roxb.	Ootkanta	Asteraceae	Root powder is given to treat jaundice
Embelia ribes Burm. f.	Vavding	Primulaceae	Leaf juice is given to cure jaundice
Enicostema axillare (Lam.) A.Raynal.	Nai	Gentianaceae	Dried leaf powder or root is given early in the morning to treat various liver ailments
Ficus hispida Linn.	Bhui umbar	Moraceae	Fruits are boiled in goat milk and given to cure jaundice
Hemidesmus indicus (L.) R.Br	Anant mul	Asclepidaceae	Root paste is given to treat various liver ailments
Hygrophila spinosa T. Anderson	Talimkhana	Acanthaceae	Leaf powder is given twice a day to cure jaundice
Leea macrophylla Roxb. ex. Hornem.	Hatikarn	Leeaceae	Root paste or powder is given to cure jaundice
Laucas aspara Spr.	Dronpushpi	Lamiaceae	Leaf juice with curd is given to cure jaundice
Oroxylum indicum Vent.	Tetu,Talwar seng	Bignoniaceae	Stem bark powder is given to treat jaundice
Plumbago zeylanica L.	Chitrak	Plumbaginaceae	Root powder is given to cure various liver ailments
Solanum nigrum L.	Makoi	Solanaceae	Leaf decoction or juice is given to cure jaundice
Solanum xanthocarpum L.	Bhuiringani	Solanaceae	Root powder is given to cure jaundice
Tinospora cordifolia (W) Mier. Ex Hook.	Gulvel	Menispermaceae	Stem juice or powder extracted (satwa) from stem is given to cure jaundice
Taraxacum officinalis (L.)Weber.ex F.H. Wigg	Dendelion	Asteraceae	Leaf juice is given to treat jaundice
Trianthema portulacastrum L.	Khaparkhundi	Aizoaceae	Leaf, stem and root are given to treat jaundice
Trichosanthes cucumerina L.	Kanduri	Cucurbitaceae	Rhizome powder is given to cure various liver ailments
Trichosanthes tricuspidata Lour.	Lal Indrayan	Cucurbitaceae	Seed powder is given to treat jaundice
Uraria picta (Jacq.) Devs. ex. DC	Dubra, Pitawan	Papilionaceae	Root decoction is given to treat jaundice
Urginea indica (Roxb.)Kunth.	Jangli kanda	Liliaceae	Bulb juice is given to treat jaundice
Vitex negundo L.	Nirgundi	Verbenaceae	Leaf juice is given to cure jaundice

The medicinal utilities of the plant species along with the mode of administration is procured from the tribal medicine men and well known experienced herbal healers in the region who practiced the crude drugs to cure various disorders. The data regarding medicinal uses were also collected by filling questionnaire (Jain, 1991). Herbariums were prepared and plant species were identified with the help of floras and authenticated by the taxonomist. The information procured from the herbal healers of the region is authenticated through the literature survey. Scientific name of the plant species with local name, family, parts used to cure hepatic disorders is given in the table no.1

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The information on 34 plant species belonging to 20 families have been given which are used by the herbal healers to cure various hepatic ailments.

Liver ailments are still dangerous and becoming worldwide health problem. The synthetic drugs used in the treatment of liver ailments may cause serious side effects. But herbal drugs are very effective to cure hepatic ailments without any side effects and mostly preferred by the local inhabitant. The plant species used by the herbal healers must contain some bioactive compounds which have property to cure a specific ailment. Therefore further chemical analytical work of such plant species will definitely helpful to design a particular drugs. Some medicinal plants in the region are vanishing due to over exploitation and because of anthropological activities. Some plant species like *Alangium salvifolium*(L.F.) Wangerin, *Oroxylum indicum (Kurz), Leea macrophylla* Roxb. ex. Hornem. are critically endangered and *Uraria picta* (Jacq),*Chlorophytum borivilianum* L., *Plumbago zylanica* L., *Urginea indica* (Roxb) Kunth. are endangered. These plants are need to be conserve.

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