



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Documenting Indigenous Plant Species in Arvi Region Dist. Wardha (M.S.): An Ethnobotanical Perspective

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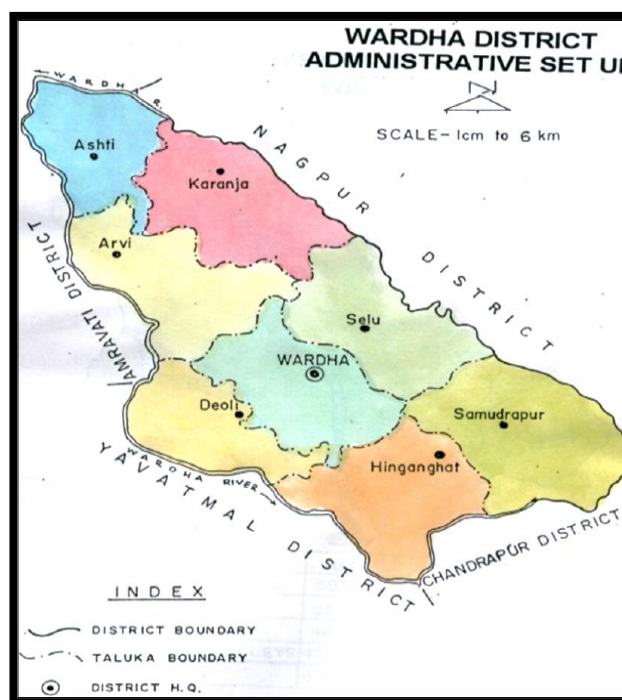
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ABSTRACT

Present paper deals with some ethnomedicinal uses of 23 plant species, by the tribal of Arvi region, in Wardha district of Maharashtra. This region is inhabited by tribal communities like Banjara, Gond, Mahar, Paradhi, Korkus, Dhangars etc. The ethnobotanical information on plants viz., botanical name, family, local name, plant part used and mode of administration is enumerated.

Keywords: Traditional Uses, Tribal People, Medicinal Plants, Arvi region, Wardha district.



Study Area Map

INTRODUCTION

The medicinal plants have been the object of research in both systematic and advanced areas of plant sciences. The tribal's have the knowledge of medicinal and another uses of plants growing in the forests. Tribal medicine men know the exact preparation of the medicine and diagnosis of the diseases (Harshberger, 1896). Some tribes are adhering to traditional way of life, native culture and customs, the tribal have vast store of information and knowledge on potentially useful medicinal plants. The traditional knowledge system in India is fast eroding due to steady decline in human expertise capable of recognizing various medicinal plants. Much of this wealth of knowledge is totally becoming lost as traditional culture is gradually disappearing because it is mostly oral (Hamilton, 1995). Therefore, effort should be initiated for the documentation and computerization of useful medicinal plants and their traditional knowledge (Mehrotra & Mehrotra, 2005).

The value of medicinal plants to the mankind is very well proven. It is estimated that 70 to 80% of the world population rely chiefly on traditional health care system and largely on herbal medicines (Shanley and Luz, 2003). Only 15% of pharmaceutical drugs are consumed in developing countries (Toledo, 1995). The affluent people have little alternative to herbal medicine, and they depend on traditional health care system (Marshall, 1998).

The 177 medicinal plants are used by Banjaras of Vidarbha on various ailments (Bhogaonkar and Chavhan, 2013). Bhogaonkar and Kadam, 2006 and 2005, documented 39 plant species used in treatment of reproductive disorders while 20 monocotyledonous plant species are used in various diseases by the tribal of Umardhed tehsil in Yavatmal district. They have further documented 36 ethnic formulations that are prepared using 50 plant species by locals of Umardhed tehsil (2006).

In the present paper, folk medicinal preparations of 23 plant species used for different ailments has been enumerated.

Study Area

The district Wardha is situated in the state of Maharashtra in the western part of the India north latitudes 20° 44'30" and longitudes 78° 36'20". It occupies an area of 6310Sq. Km. The district had a population of 1,300,774, of which 26.28% were urban as of 2011.

Arvi is located at 20.59°N 79.14°E. It has an average elevation of 328 metres (1075 feet). The Arvi had a population of 1, 45, 981 of which 29.3% were live in urban

area of 2011. This region is inhabited by tribal communities like Banjara, Gond, Mahar, Paradh, Korkus, Dhangars etc.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Tribal medicine men, village heads and local people were interviewed to record different plant part used for folk remedies. Plants were collected, documented and identified with the help of standard floras (Hooker 1997, Cooke 1967, Naik 1998, Yadav and Sardesai, 2002) and herbarium specimens were prepared.

ENUMERATION

The interviewed local people and tribal medicinemen's information is recorded, and enumerated in Table-1.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present communication deals with the local people of Arvi region, Wardha District (M. S.), India were used medicinally important plants of 18 family, 23 genera and 23 species of angiosperms for different ailments. These are herb, shrub and climber, small and large trees. These plants are common and medicinally important to treat various diseases like jaundice, fever, rheumatism, dysentery, diarrhoea, eczema etc. Some therapeutic uses of such plants in Arvi region were documented. The present information is used in drug standardization and estimation of compound content for further studies.

CONCLUSION

Traditional knowledge systems cure different diseases by the tribal of Arvi region. They use plant as a source of drug through trial-and-error method and the process is experienced over hundreds of years. It has been observed that the use of the medicinal plants is also a routine practice in the local people.

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Achyranthes aspera L.



Aegle marmelos (L.) Corr.



Andrographis paniculata (Burm. f.) Nees



Biophytum sensitivum (L.) DC.



Evolvulus alsinoides (L.) L.



Helicteres isora L.



Hyptis suaveolens (L.) Poit.



Martynia annua L.



Tinospora cordifolia (Willd.) Miers ex Hk. f. & Th.



Ventilago denticulata Willd.

Plate I – Prominent Species

Table-1 : Enumeration

Plant Name	Family	Local Name	Habit	Uses
<i>Acacia leucophloea</i> (L.) Willd.	Leguminosae	Hiwar	Tree	Bark is used in bleeding teeth
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Aghada	Herb	Root powder is given in dental problem
<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr.	Rutaceae	Bel	Tree	Fruit pulp used in digestion
<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm. f.) Nees	Acanthaceae	Bhuineem	Herb	Whole plant given in fever, typhoid
<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Bedd.	Combretaceae	Dhawada	Tree	Bark gum is used as a tonic.
<i>Biophytum sensitivum</i> (L.) DC.	Oxalidaceae	Lajalu	Herb	Whole Plant is given for increasing the milk secretion
<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (L.) Dryand.	Apocynaceae	Rui	Shrub	Flower ash is given in cough
<i>Cassia fistula</i> L.	Leguminosae	Amaltas	Tree	Fruits are given in stomach ache
<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (L.) Diels	Menispermaceae	Vasanvel	Climber	Leaf Paste is applied on the eczema
<i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> (L.) L.	Convolvulaceae	Vishnukanti	Herb	Whole plant is given in body debility
<i>Flacourtia indica</i> (Burm. F.) Merr	Flacourtiaceae	Kakai	Shrub	Leaf Juice is given in jaundice
<i>Grewia tiliacifolia</i> Vahl	Tiliaceae	Dhaman	Tree	Stem bark juice is given in diarrhea and dysentery.
<i>Helicteres isora</i> L.	Malvaceae	Murudsheng	Shrub	Fruit is given in stomach ache
<i>Hyptis suaveolens</i> (L.) Poit.	Lamiaceae	Rantulas	Under Shrub	Leaves are used as mosquito repellent.
<i>Madhuca longifolia</i> var. <i>latifolia</i> (Roxb.) A. Chev.	Sapotaceae	Moha	Tree	Fruit is given as a tonic
<i>Martynia annua</i> L.	Martyniaceae	Wagh nakhi	Herb	Fruit is used in skin problems
<i>Phyllanthus lawii</i> Grah.	Euphorbiaceae	Bhui Awala	Shrub	Roots are given in fever.
<i>Ricinus communis</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Erandi	Shrub	Leaves are given in jaundice
<i>Sida acuta</i> Burm.f	Malvaceae	Bala	Herb	Root powder is given in body debility
<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> (Willd.) Miers ex Hk. f. & Th.	Menispermaceae	Gulvel	Climber	Stem juice is used in jaundice.
<i>Tridax procumbens</i> (L.) L.	Asteraceae	Kambarmodi	Herb	Leaves is used in Bleeding wounds
<i>Ventilago denticulata</i> Willd.	Rhamnaceae	Sakal vel	Shrub	Bark is given in dysentery.
<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.	Lamiaceae	Nirgudi	Shrub	Leaves are given in arthritis and rheumatism