

Ethnomedicinal plant used by the tribal and rural folk of Porbandar district in Gujarat to cure dyspepsia in animal

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The present communication reports first-hand information gathered on 34 ethnomedicinal plants traditionally used by the tribal and rural Folk of Porbandar district of Gujarat, so the treatment of dyspepsia Porbandar district of Gujarat was surveyed intensively to collect plants and plant products used by the tribal and rural folk for the treatment of dyspepsia. The study provides informations on local names, botanical name, families, Parts used and mode of administration as practiced by the tribal and rural folk. The medicinal plant wealth of the district is rich in raw materials needed for establishing herbal drugs collection and processing centres for human welfare.

Key words: Tribal and rural Folk, Porbandar district, Dyspepsia.

INTRODUCTION

PORBANDAR district of Gujarat state harbour of vast diversity of vegetation. It include dry deciduous forest. Porbandar district occupies the western part of Gujarat lies between 21° 15' and 21° 50' east longitude. The geographic area of this district is about 2272 km² Junagadh district is lies on southern-east part, Jamnagar district and Barda Hills are lying on northern part and the Arabian sea is lying on western part of this district. The atmosphere of this district is temperate and humid in seashore area. In summer inside the district which is far away from seashore area the atmosphere is hot and dry and in winter the atmosphere is cool and dry. Rain is irregular in monsoon and the average annual rainfall in Porbandar is 675 mm. It experiences extremes of weather conditions. The people of Porbandar district besides practicing agriculture, also domesticate cattle not only for food but also for their use in agricultural activities.

Ethno-veterinary survey of the district has not been so far done, but several references on ethno-botanical studies on medicinal plants of Saurashtra were carried out by J. I. Thaker (1910), Shah et al (1918), Jain (1991), Dastur (1996), Bhatt et al (2001), Oza (2001). Ethno veterinary information regarding medicinal uses of plant growing in Porbandar district of Gujarat for dyspepsia in live stocks is presented in this paper.

Porbandar district is inhabited by tribal and rural folk like Maher, Kharva, Rabari, Charan, Lohana, Brahmin, Rajpoot, Ahir, Bhatia, Baniya, Kanbi belongs to the Hindu community while among muslims sangar and shodha are major castes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present article is an outcome of an ongoing study on the documentation of traditional knowledge of local communities on the ethnobotany in district Porbandar during 2003-2005. Structured questionnaire survey method was employed to

document the traditional ethnoveterinary knowledge of local communities in district Porbandar. During field studies, a total of 42 villages were surveyed from different parts of district Porbandar. The villages and nesses were selected, based on the broad socio-economic setup, topographical variation and cultural diversity. In each of the selected villages 8% house hold were randomly interviewed to document the ethnoveterinary knowledge. However, care was taken to represent all the communities and occupation group within the selected village. In such a manner a total of 460 respondents were interviewed using structured questionnaires. The interviews were conducted individually as well as in groups with the respondents. However, while interviewing in the groups, participant observation method was also employed to observe the respondents and recording the knowledge in terms of number of plants known to them for veterinary purpose, methods of medication and other related information. The respondents consisted of all age groups, ranging from 15 years to above 90 years. Besides documentation of traditional knowledge, other major of objective serve of to know whether the practice of traditional healing still exists in the region and whether traditional ethnoveterinary knowledge is being transferred to the younger generation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study deals with 34 plant species belonging to 20 families used in Dyspepsia. In most of the cases plants or plant parts are given as such, seldom in combination with some other plants or plant parts also used for the treatment of the disease.

The study also indicates that the tribals have sufficient knowledge about the uses of wild plant resources in this region. Tribals easily procure the plants, either in their locality or in adjacent region sometimes they collect the plants from forests of this district.

Table 1 : List of plants used in dyspepsia in animal.

Sr. No.	Scientific Name	Family	Varnacular Name	Part(s) Used	Mode of Administration
1	<i>Acorus calamus</i> L.	Araceae	Ghodavaj	Stem	Powder of stem is mixed with sugar and given orally.
2	<i>Andrographis echloides</i> (L.) Nees.	Acanthaceae	Kariyatu	Leaves	Decoction of leaves is given orally twice a day.
3	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (Corr)	Rutaceae	Bili	Fruit	Fruit pulp crushe in milk and mixed with <i>cuminum cyminum</i> & given orally.
4	<i>Anethum graveolens</i> L.	Apiaceae	Suva	Fruit	Juice of fruit is given orally twice a day for 10 days.
5	<i>Brassica juncea</i> L.	Brassicaceae	Rai	Seed	Decoction of seeds is given orally with sugar.

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