

Studies on ethnomedicinal uses of herbal plants resources in northern hilly zone of Chhattisgarh

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SUMMARY

Chhattisgarh is the only state of the country where about 43.85% (59285.27 heq) of the total area of state occupied by the forest. In this state the percentage of Sal and mixed forest is more than the teak forest. Chhattisgarh state is divided geographically into three regions, namely Northern hills, Chhattisgarh plain and Bastar plateau. Total 25 important plant species are enumerated which have ethno-medicinal value. Tribal and rural people of northern hilly zones used to treat their ailments by using these fresh plant materials. In the enumeration, data of medicinal uses of plant are arranged by botanical name, local name along with family and their mode of application.

Key words : Ethno-medicinal, Medicinal values

Ethnobotany deals with the direct, traditional and natural relationship between human societies and plants. Ethnobotanical studies assume great importance in enhancing our knowledge about the plants grow and used by native/tribal communities, the rich diversity assembled by them for their sustenance and the different means adopted by them for its preservation and conservation. Vast Ethnobotanical knowledge exists in India from ancient times (Trivedi, 2002).

Chhattisgarh is the only state of the country where about 43.85% (59285.27 ha) of the total area of state occupied by the forest. Chhattisgarh state is divided geographically into three regions, namely Northern hills, Chhattisgarh plain and Bastar plateau. Various plants species are commonly applied as paste or extract externally on boils, wounds, cuts, swellings, burns, eczema, etc. ethnic groups and rural people of Chhattisgarh used to treat their ailments by using these fresh plant materials. Earlier, studies were carried out on the Ethnobotanical and medicinal aspects of plants by Thaker (1910), Nadkarni (1926), Dastur (1952), Roia and Smith (1977), Shah *et al.* (1981), Jain (1991), Agnihotri and Vaidya (1996), Kamboj (2000), Zafar *et al.* (2003), Laloo *et al.* (2006), Sandhya *et al.* (2006) and Verma *et al.* (2008).

According to WHO, about 80% population of world rely on traditional medicine for their primary health care needs (Retnam and Martin, 2006; Shah and Khan, 2007). These medicines have fewer side effects and men can get it easily from nature. The people have, by trial and error, developed their own traditional ways of diagnosis

and treatment of diseases and fulfill their basic requirement in this regard from the near by forest. As a consequence of this long experience and practice, it has become an effective way of accumulation of rich knowledge on medicinal plants and usage of other natural resources among them (Singh, 2002).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was mainly conducted in northern hilly zone of Chhattisgarh. The information of medicinal aspect of plant, particularly on medicinal value have been collected by means of arranging meeting, dialogues and discussions with rural, tribal and knowledgeable people from various villages of Surguja district of Chhattisgarh from March 2008 to July 2008. The documental information was also verified by cross-questioning with key information's and elderly people of different villages. In the enumeration, the following aspects of plants are given. The botanical name, family, local name and ethno-medicinal uses of collected plants are given:

Enumeration:

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| – Botanical name | : <i>Cassia tora</i> Linn. |
| Family | : Caesalpiaceae |
| Local name | : Charota |
| Parts used | : Leaves, Seed |
| Ethnomedicinal uses | : Paste of leaf and seed is applied on roasted, ringworm and eczema. |
| – Botanical name | : <i>Jatropha curcas</i> Linn. |
| Family | : Euphorbiaceae |
| Local name | : Ratanjot |
| Parts used | : Leaves |
| Ethnomedicinal uses | : Paste of leaves is |

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