

Studies on ethnomedicinal plants of Ranipur Wild Life Sanctuary, U.P.

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SUMMARY

A study on ethno-medicinal plants was conducted in various locality of Ranipur Wild Life Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh. This study included 20 plants species from 16 families which have ethno-medicinal potential. Out of these 20 plants there were 8 trees, 3 shrubs, 6 herbs and 3 climbers. These plants materials were also collected for preparation of herbaria and authentic identification.

Key words : Ethno-medicine, Phytotherapy, Tribes, Wild Life Sanctuary

Ranipur Wild Life Sanctuary situated along the foot hills and the hilly regions of plateau of Vindhya hill series in the Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh. This area is enriched by rare and endangered flora and fauna. Nature has blessed this protected area with dense dry mixed deciduous forest, round the year flowing water streams, rivers, water falls and jalkunds. Total area of Wild Life Sanctuary is 263 Sq. Km., out of these 230 Sq. Km. area has been recognized as core area and 33 Sq. Km. as buffer zone. The Sanctuary make the border of M.P. State. The sanctuary and its adjoining forest area is inhabitat by tribes like Kols, Gonds and this protected area has very rich ethno-medicinal plant wealth that has been continuously exploited by the indigenous/local peoples. Inhabitants of this area depends directly or indirectly on these plants not only for livelihood but also for indigenous herbal drugs for treatment of their different ailments.

Studies on ethno-medicinal plants has been carried out earlier by some workers, like Jain (1973, 1989, 1991); Hembrom (1991); Maheshwari *et al.* (1981); Singh *et al.* (1996); Kamboj (2000); Joshi (2002); Behera (2006); Verma *et al.* (2008); Chak and Agrawal (2008) etc., in various states of India. But no ethno-medicinal study of this area has been conducted so far. Because of poor means of transportation and communication this area remain untouched by the botanists. Some documentation of medicinal plants has been done by department of forest but it is still incomplete.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Extensive and frequent field survey of ethno-

medicinal plants has been conducted from remote areas of Ranipur Wild Life Sanctuary that is mainly inhabitat by tribes like Kols and Gonds. During the field study ethno-medicinallly important plants of the area were collected for preparation of herbaria. The collected plants were identified by available taxonomic literature of Joshi (2002) and Duthie (1994). The information on medicinal aspect of plants have been collected by means of having conversation with local informants, elderly peoples, knowledgeable persons and Vaidyas. The information regarding identification and mode of administration of crude drug, local name, common name, methods of preparation of crude drug etc. were also recorded and documented.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the course of field study and conversation with local peoples, information about medicinal importance of plants for the treatment of various ailments were recorded. Twenty such plants species were recorded and collected. These plants enumeration has been arranged in alphabetical order.

Aegle marmelos Correa.

Local name : Bael
Family : Rutaceae
Uses : Fresh roots and bark of the plant is used in curing of intermittent fever.

Abrus precatorius Linn.

Local name : Ghunghchi
Family : Papilionaceae
Uses : Decoction of fresh leaf and roots are used for curing cough and cold. Seeds are some time used as poison for homicide.

Adhotoda vesica Nees.

Local name : Arusa

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