

Important Plants Near Kalisil Dam of Rajasthan, India

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Abstract

Kalisil dam is situated in Sapotara tehsil of Rajasthan state. It is also known as Amargarh bandh or Birbasan bandh.

Vegetation types occur in this district are *Anogeissus pendula* series, degraded *Anogeissus pendula* series, *Acacia leucophloea* – *Capparis decidua* series, Grasslands and *Acacia senegal* – *Maytenus emarginatus* series.

The use of medicinal plants is common world-wide. In many regions medicinal knowledge and practice are not directly related to any of the formal medical systems, but have been passed on entirely through the oral tradition and personal experience.

The main tribe of this area is Meena and traditional communities are Gurjar, Mali, Jogi and Kumhar etc. These are settled in different hilly and forest tracts of the district. These primitive groups subsist on their own primitive economy and strictly adhere to their social and cultural traditions even today. They use different floral elements to cure their different types of ailments. Their medicine man is locally known as *Bhopa*, *Ghothiya* or *Bhagat*.

The present paper deals with 26 plant species which are intensively used in traditional herbal therapy by natives of Kalisil dam and their local healer. These species are given with their botanical name, local name and mode of administration.

Key words:- Traditional, Medicine man, Primitive, Tribe



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A GURJAR MAN

INTRODUCTION

The tribal people are the repository of accumulated experiences and traditional knowledge of their surrounding flora and fauna. Living close to environment aboriginals are good familiar with several wild plant and animals. By trial or error, they have screened and developed a highly specific knowledge of their surrounding flora and fauna.

Rajasthan has 70.97 lacs tribal population (fifth rank in India) forming 13.5% of state's total population which is concentrated mainly in ten districts viz. Banswara, Udaipur, Dungarpur, Chhitorgarh, Pratapgarh, Baran, Karauli, Rajsamand and Sawai madhopur.

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In the Sapotara tehsil of Karauli district the main tribe is Meena and traditional communities are Gurjar, Jogi, Mali, Mongia etc. Above mentioned groups are still live in remote areas and used local flora for their daily needs.

A lot of work on ethnomedicines has been carried out in Rajasthan. Joshi (1995) gave an overview of the ethnomedicine of tribals of Rajasthan. Katewa and Jain (2006) reported 384 medicinal plant species used by the tribals of Rajasthan. Sinha (2000), Khandelwal (1998), Meena *et. al.* (2003) documented ethnomedicinal plants of eastern Rajasthan.

METHODOLOGY

Extensive and intensive field surveys were conducted in the interior villages which were tuff to approach. Ethnobotanical information were collected based on methodology followed by Jain (1967, 1987, 1989) and Martin (1994).

The data were collected by interviews, observations and participations in their activities.

All the plant specimens were collected and herbarium sheets were prepared and deposited in Rajasthan University Botanical Library (RUBL). Plants identified with the help of Flora of Indian Desert (Bhandari, 1990), Flora of Rajasthan (Shetty and Singh, 1987-93), Flora of North- East Rajasthan (Sharma and Tiagi, 1979) and BSI (Botanical Survey of India), Jodhpur.

1. ***Abrus precatorius***

The leaves are chewed and masticated to cure mouthsores. Seeds burnt and fumes are inhaled by typhoid victim. The roots and twigs are used in cough.

2. ***Acacia leucophloea***

The gum is used as a demulcent. Stem bark boiled in water is tied over fractured bone.

3. ***Actinopteris radiata***

Whole plant dipped in water for 12 hours is pounded with milk and taken to avoid nocturnal emission and also as tonic. Leaf juice is taken against acidity.

4. ***Adhatoda zeylanica***

Leaves smeared with oil/ghee are warmed and tied locally to get relief from stomachache, bodyache, sprain, muscular pain, fracture and thorn injury. The decoction of leaves is given orally to cure asthma and cough. Flower juice is dropped in nostrils against epistaxis.

5. ***Aegle marmelos***

Fruit pulp or powder is eaten directly or mixed in curd or water to cure diarrhoea, dysentery, stomachache and body heat. The fruit soaked in water whole night is eaten in the morning to cure diarrhoea and constipation. Leaf ash mixed with curd and black salt, is given orally to cure dysentery.

Leaf paste mixed in whey is taken to cure diarrhoea. Leaves are also chewed in diarrhoea.

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Root extract is taken orally to cure piles.

Root crushed with candy is eaten by women against protrusion of uterus.

The pulp of unripe fruits is cut into pieces, dried, powdered and one teaspoonful powder is taken twice a day to cure diarrhoea.

6. *Argemone mexicana*

The latex is rubbed on teeth in dental caries, boils and pimples and applied in eyes to cure conjunctivitis. Decoction of stem and leaves is given thrice a day to treat gastralgia, asthma and cough. Crushed fresh leaves are applied for healing ulcers. The seeds are crushed into paste, mixed with mustard or sesame oil and applied locally on scabies, boils and pimples.

Roasted seeds are mixed with salt and eaten to cure cough. Oil of seeds is applied by cotton plug to get relief in molarache and scabies. Paste of seeds is smeared over fractured bone or seed powder mixed with oil is massaged on affected area. When body parts swell following seed paste application, it confirms bone fracture.

The seed powder/crushed root bark mixed with cow urine is applied on hurt for relief. Seeds are boiled in oil/burnt and inhaled to get relief in dental caries and toothache. *Kajal* made by burning oil is applied in lower eyelids for curing eye diseases. The root is boiled in water and this water is taken to cure cough.

7. *Bauhinia racemosa*

Paste of flowers is mixed with water to make drink that cures diarrhoea and dysentery.

8. *Boerhavia diffusa*

Root paste is mixed with water and sugar. It is given orally to treat stomachache and vomiting.

The root pounded with seeds of black pepper and candy is taken orally to cool body heat during summers.

Crushed roots are boiled with cloves and thick paste is applied locally on boils and pimples. Extract of leaves, stem and roots is used to treat dropsy.

9. *Bombax ceiba*

The tender twig is used as toothbrush to cure mumps. Stem bark is used for making laddoos and eaten as medicine for body pain.

Powdered flowers mixed with honey are given in menorrhagia. The thorn is rubbed on stone with unboiled milk, made into paste and applied as ointment on the face to get rid from acne. Thorn is chewed with stem bark of *Cordia gharaf* to cure mouthsores.

The roots powdered with those of *Chlorophytum*, *Capparis sepiaria* and fruits of *Pedaliium murex* are taken with water as tonic to calm body heat. Root bark extract is given as tonic in case of sexual debility and also as nervine tonic.

Powdered gum is taken orally in diarrhoea, dysentery and diabetes.

Root powder mixed with sugarcandy and milk is taken to avoid impotency.

10. *Calotropis gigantea*

The milky latex is applied to remove warts and unhealthy granulations from ulcers. Root bark is burnt and fumes are inhaled in malaria and typhoid. Bruised fresh root bark and leaves are mixed with cow urine and applied against wasp and scorpion sting, and to wounds caused by snakebite.

11. *Cannabis sativa*

Bruised fresh leaves are boiled with coconut milk and consumed in stomachache. The leaves are made into paste with leaves of *Salvadora oleoides* and peacock's droppings, made into chapatti, roasted from one side and applied on anus to cure piles.

12. *Cissampelos pareira*

Root extract is taken orally to treat dyspepsia, pneumonia, bronchitis, diarrhoea and liver congestion.

13. *Citrullus colocynthis*

Crushed fruits are applied on footsores. The powder of fruit is mixed with sugarcandy and given as remedy for stomachache, diarrhoea and lose of appetite. The fruit is crushed with fruit of *Terminalia chebula* and applied locally on foot sores and eczema. Fruit is cut into pieces and mixed with dried ginger powder, salt and *harad* and put in an earthen pot for 10-12 days, after drying it is powdered and taken orally to avoid indigestion. A person walks keeping fruit in shoe till bitter taste develops in mouth, to cure heatstroke. Pulp of mature fruit is mixed with water and sugar and given orally to patients of constipation, fever and intestinal worms. Juice of fresh leaves is taken by jaundice patient. The fruit of *Terminalia chebula* is kept in the fruit of *Citrullus* overnight and taken in the morning to cure stomachache. The root is pounded on stone with water and 2-3 drops are put in the ears of children to relieve earache.

14. *Cocculus pendulus*

Powder of plant is taken with cow milk by tribal and traditional men and women in sexual debility.

15. *Convolvulus microphyllus*

Paste of leaf and flower is taken as tonic.

16. *Corchorus depressus*

The plant dried in shade is powdered and taken with candy and whey, due to cooling properties to calm body heat. Ladies take it to control bleeding in menorrhagia.

17. *Crinum defixum*

Warmed 2-3 drops of leaf extract are put in ears to cure otitis media.

18. *Curcuma amada*

The rhizome powder is boiled with oil or ghee and taken orally for relieving muscular pain. It is taken by women in debility.

19. *Digera muricata*

Seeds are used to prepare laddoos and eaten against sexual debility.

20. *Gloriosa superba*

The root is rubbed on stone and applied locally against scorpion sting. Leaf paste is mixed with milk and given orally in pneumonia.

21. *Indigofera tinctoria*

Root powder is given orally to cure dropsy.

22. *Momordica dioica*

Root of sterile plant is crushed with jaggery and milk and taken orally to check fertility forever.

23. *Oxalis corniculata*

Extract of leaves is taken to stimulate appetite.

24. *Sida acuta*

Root extract is given orally to treat pneumonia, bronchitis, liver congestion and to improve digestion. Root extract is mixed with cow ghee and given to pregnant lady whose labour sets in as oxytocic.

25. *Tamarix aphylla*

Tender twig is used as toothbrush against swollen gums. Decoction of leaves is used to gargle.

26. *Ziziphus mauritiana*

Leaf paste is applied locally against insect bite and as styptic.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The paper provides the information on medicinal uses of 26 plant species used by the tribal and traditional communities around Kalisil dam. Most of plants part used is fresh. They collect plant part near their vicinity for uses.

The ethnomedicinal informations provide basic information to initiate research to search for new compounds related to pharmacognosy, pharmacology and phytochemistry. Thesetraditional medicine research help in the development of new formulations to cure certain diseases.

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