



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Some Ethnomedicinal plants of Panhala taluka used as anti Allergics

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ABSTRACT

Panhala taluka lies in the Sahyadri ranges of Western Ghats of Maharashtra state 16°48'0" N and 78°8'0" E. It is characterized by black rocky basalt to reddish yellow coloured soil, with dense dry semi evergreen to moist deciduous type of forest. It is enriched with lush green hills, diversified flora and fauna. There are 130 villages situated within the taluka, most of them in remote rural areas. The local people dwelling there make use of traditional knowledge to cure local ailments. The paper deals with medicinal plants used by these locals for treatment of skin diseases and various skin allergies. The data on ethnomedicinal plants is on the verge of extinction and special efforts are required for documentation, conservation and sustainable utilization of these plants. So a survey was carried out to collect valuable information on traditional medicinal plants. The information regarding use of plants, their botanical names and local names is described in this paper.

Keywords : Panhala, Western Ghats, Ethnomedicinal plants, Skin allergies

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INTRODUCTION

Ethnobotany is a branch of economic botany which deals with the role of plants in the life of tribal people. A number of tribal communities live in the remote areas of our country. In the dense forest pockets nature has been so kind that for thousands of years it has been possible for these tribals to live and rely on plants and plant products. They are dependent on plants for their basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing and essential amenity including medicines. The tribals are using traditional medicine system for centuries. This branch of ethnobotany is termed as Ethnomedicine. Ethnomedicine has become an interdisciplinary science. Ethnomedicinal claims may aid in finding novel lead molecules for welfare of mankind and the data can be useful for further scientific investigations. Scientist are now well convinced that ethnomedicinal claims can be successfully utilized as focal points for development of new resources in medical sciences. India is endowed with rich wealth of medicinal plants. The indigenous traditional knowledge transmitted orally for generations is rapidly disappearing due to advent of modern technology and transformation of traditional culture botany in the process of urbanization. That is the significant reason why research in this field should be undertaken, otherwise there is every possibility that the valuable data on ethnomedicine will be lost in near future.

AREA UNDER STUDY

Panhala is a famous hill fort village taluka/ town 3127 ft above sea level in the Sahyadri ranges. It is located 16° 48' North and 74° 8' East, 20 km from Kolhapur, in Maharashtra, India. It is characterized by dense drsemi evergreen to moist deciduous type of forest. The average rainfall is 75" to 80" per year. The temperature ranges from 34.4°C maximum to 18°C minimum in winter. It is enriched with lush green hills, beautiful landscape, fauna and flora. There are more than three thousand trees including fruits, flower, foliage, ornamental garden plants, grasses and medicinal plants. Panhala has not only been gifted with lush green cool nature, birds, fresh air and calm atmosphere but a place with great history blessed by Shivaji Maharaj. It is endowed by natural beauty with many lakes like Someshwar, Sadhoba, Shivtirth, Nimajaja and gardens like Mayur Garden, Gopaltirth Garden, Tabak Van Udayan Teen Darwaja Udyan etc. Its historical importance coupled with being a hill station made it to be established and a taluka place. There are 130 villages situated within this taluka with a total area of 56,867.35 sq.kms. It includes many rural areas and many villages are impassable and remote. Because of rich fertile soil and good rainfall

farming is the main occupation. Not only for food but they (local villagers) rely heavily on plants for their health care. Most of the local people make use of traditional knowledge and use different parts and products of the medicinal plants to cure local ailments such as skin infections,diseases, cold, cough fever, jaundice, snake and scorpion bites, cuts wounds etc. The following paper deals with plants used as anti skin allergics,

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Several survey's were conducted through regular field trips in different villages and padas in the area under study. A prior consent was obtained from the knowledge providers at each location. The information on medicinal plants was collected through frequent interviews with the local physician practicing indigenous medicine (vaidus) villagers and local elderly folk. The field observations included local names, uses, habitats and supportive specimens of folklore claims. The data obtained during these excursions is documented and compiled in a systematic study.

OBSERVATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

The list of ethnomedicinal plants with their local name, botanical name habit, part used, family and medicinal uses are given below : - . .

1. *Bombax cebia* Linn (Kate Savar)

Family – Malvaceae

Habit – Tall deciduous tree

Part used – Thorns

- Dry thorns are powdered and strained through a muslin cloth – resulting powder is mixed with milk – and the paste is applied on pimples.

2. *Acacia concinna* D.C. (Shikkai)

Family – Fabaceae

Habit – Medium Shrub

Part used – pods

- a. Paste of the pods – applied on skin infections

3. *Acaia nilotica* (L) Wild (Babul)

Family – Fabaceae

Habit – Medium Tree

Part used – Bark, Leaves, Gum

- a. Ointment made from burnt leaves with coconut oil – is applied for skin disease.

4. *Santalum album* Linn (Chandan)

Family – Santalaceae

Habit – Medium Tree

Part used – Wood

- a. Paste of wood powder is used as cooling, antiseptic, dressing for prickley heat and skin diseases due to excessive heat.

- b. Oil extracted from the wood is applied over scabies

5. *Hiptage madablota* Kurz (Madhumalati)

Family – Malpighiaceae

Habit – Woody climbing shrub

Part used – Bark, Leaves

6. *Decoction Rubia cordifolia* L (Manjistha)

Family – Rubiaceae

Habit – Evergreen climbing herb

Part used – Roots,bark

- a. Paste of the roots – applied over swelling, inflammations, skin disease, ulcers, leucoderma.

- b. Decoction of bark and leaves applied locally for skin infections

7. *Acacia Catechu* Wild (Khair)

Family – Fabaceae

Habit – Thorny Tree

Part Used – Bark

- a. Powder of dried bark is sprinkled on skin infection twice a day.

8. *Argemone mexicana* Linn (Dhotra)

Family – Papaveraceae

Habit – Annual Herb

Part Used – Latex

a. Latex + equal quantity of coconut oil – applied locally on skin allergies.

9. Aristolochia bracteata Linn (Kidamari)

Family – Aristolochiaceae

Habit – Herbaceous Vine

Part used – Root, Leaves.

a. Leaf juice applied on white patches on the skin and skin infections due to parasites.

10. Azadirachta indica Linn A. Juss (Neem)

Family – Meliaceae

Habit – Medium Tree

Part used – Bark, Leaves

a. Bark and leaves dried – ashes + coconut oil – Paste applied on scabies and leprosy.

11. Boerhaavia diffusa Linn (Punarnava)

Family – Nyctaginaceae

Habit – Perennial Herb

Part used – Roots

a. Hot poultice of roots locally applied on skin disease with parasites.

12. Calotropis gigantea Linn (Rui)

Family – Asclepiadaceae

Habit – Evergreen shrub with milky stem.

Part used – Latex

a. Latex of the leaves applied on broken pustulas of scabies.

13. Clerodendron phlomis Linn (Airan)

Family – Verbenaceae

Habit – Small herb

Part used – Leaves

a. Juice of the leaves – once on empty stomach for treatment of scabies.

14. Feronia limonia Corr (Kanvat)

Family – Rutaceae

Habit – Deciduous tree

Part used – Leaves

a. Juice of the leaves – ½ cup is given twice a day and also applied locally on all skin allergies.

15. Lawsonia inermis Linn (Mehendi)

Family – Lythraceae

Habit – Small Tree

Part used – Leaves

a. Paste of the leaves applied on soggy skin between toes.

16. Pongamia pinnata Pierre (Karanj)

Family – Fabaceae

Habit – Deciduous tree

Part used – Roots, Seeds.

a. Oil extracted from the seeds is applied locally for 7 days on leprosy, itching, leucoderma.

17. Psoralea carylifolia Linn (Bavachi, Kustanashini)

Family – Fabaceae

Habit – Herbaceous Plant

Part used – Leaves

Powder of the leaves dried – applied over sorasis, leprosy and scabies.

18. Tephrosia villosa Pess (Unhali)

Family – Fabaceae

Habit – Tall Herb

Part used – Whole plant

a. Decoction of the whole plant – twice a day for 4 days on all chronic skin diseases.

19. Trichodesma Indicum R. Br. (Dudhali)

Family – Boraginaceae

Habit – Annual Herb

Part used – Leaves

a. Ashes of the burnt leaves + 2 – 3 teaspoons coconut oil – paste applied twice a day for 3 days on skin allergy.

CONCLUSION

The rapid intrusion of modern civilization into forest areas due to urbanization is leading to deforestation. Therefore special efforts should be made to collect, record and store the valuable data on Ethnomedicine before its extinction

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