



REGULAR ARTICLE

ETHNOMEDICINAL PLANTS USED BY KORWA TRIBE OF KORBA DISTRICT, CHHATTISGARH INDIA

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ABSTRACT

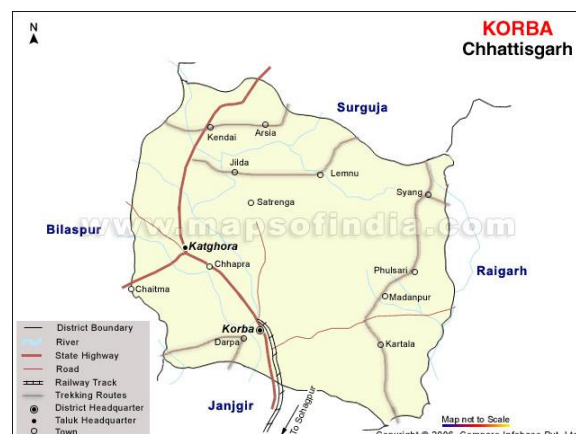
The paper deals ethnomedicinal information of Korwa tribe of Korba district. The tribe still using several plants to cure different disease, 30 plants belonging to different families, with their botanical names, family, vernacular name, month of flowering part used and uses given here. Basically Chhattisgarh is “The land of tribe” and because of abundance of the tribe Korwa, this region was named Korba. The information was collected through survey. During the survey knowledgeable person, vaid, were interviewed and information recorded. The data indicate the uses of 30 ethnomedicinal plants used to cure different disease. The tribe residing in the forest continues to utilize their traditional system of cure which is still effective and these plants are having great socio-economic importance. There are so many other plants other than the mentioned and there is a need to record the maximum information.

Keywords: Ethnomedicinal, Tribe, Vaid, Vernacular name, Socio-economic development.

INTRODUCTION

The people residing deep in the forest are totally depended on plants for their food, shelter, medicine, etc. The proper utilization of plants effects their socio-economic development. Herbal medicine is in existence still time immemorial in many parts of the world [1]. Earlier, studies of medicinal plant used by Himalayan tribes have been conducted by Bisht *et al.* [2]. Dhar *et al.* [3] done a case study on conservation of medicinal plants. Qureshi *et al.*, [4] studied medicinal plants of Gilgit district and surrounding area in Pakistan and reported 27 medicinal plants. Ejaz-ul-Islam Dar [5] studied ethnobotanical uses of plant of Lawat district Muzaffarabad. Idu *et al.* [6] studied ethnomedicinal flora of Otu people of edo state, Nigeria. Some other workers e. g. Dongarwar [7], Saxena [8], Bhalla and Bhalla [9], Tosh [10], Yadav and Bhamare, [11] have also studied ethnobotanical and ethnomedicinal plants in different aspects.

The Korba District is known as the Industrial hub and Power Capital of Chattisgarh, India. Korba is situated between latitude 22-20 °N and longitude 82-42 °E. Korba is an industrial district and also enriched with forest resources. The major tribes are–Kanwar, Gond, Binjhar, Korwa etc. In which Korwa tribe has been struggling for their existence, they are few in number and living at hill region (www.korba.gov.in).



(www.mapsofindia.com)

The Korwa are Kolarian. Tribe found in Korba, mainly settled in hills. There are two subdivisions of KORWA–Kisan Korwa (live in planes) and Pahadi Korwa (live in hills). They are short statured with dark brown complexion and strongly built and active with good muscular development. Their fore head is narrow Pahadi Korwa have still blacker skin and wear minimum cloths. Generally, the Korwa tribes are landless and few have little land on which they cultivate the crops gondili and millets and they usually practice shifting cultivation (millets, pulses, maize, gram sweet potato etc.) They also collect MFP from forest areas such as medicinal plants, seeds, tendupatta, lac and other produce [12].

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Korba is having rich forest cover and rich biodiversity having diverse flora. Korwa tribes, resides in the forest area and their life and livelihood is directly dependent upon forest products. They utilize the various products such as in the form of firewood, food, fodder, timber wood and medicines, this Korwa tribes are dependent upon their surrounding environment for all their needs. The Korwa tribes generally isolated people and having no relation with other communities and little of superstitions nature, they utilize these common plants to cure different diseases and having good knowledge of the plants or herbs growing there [13].

This paper mainly deals with the study of medicinal plants used by Korwa tribe, even today (21st century) herbal medicine plants play an important role in rural areas and still being used as household remedies. We have tried to study the common plants which used by Korwa tribes, gathered information and uses of that plants. So we can make efforts for the conservation and potential income to local people and to determine and monitor harvest levels of medicinal plants.

Study area and method

Our study areas included forest of Korba district and the place where Korwa tribes reside (Chhatasari and Dudhitangar village). Including most of the people which depend on agriculture, agroforestry and forest resources. The study was conducted from June 2006 to May 2007. From these areas we have collected information regarding the usage of medicinal plants available in that area for treating various ailments and diseases. Information was collected directly by contacting elders, vaidya and knowledgeable person through a Questionnaire e. g.

- Medicinal plants found local area.
- Their Name
- Uses
- Method of using
- Which part is utilizing for medicinal purpose
- Object of collecting that plant.
- Time of collection
- For personal use
- For commercial use

The Plant material was collected and identification done by authenticated source.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Forest are one of the most unique gift of nature and man has been dependent on plants for time immemorial forest produce includes a large variety of edible, industrial and commercial products, which have multifarious uses and in dispensable requirement of population living in around forests the volume and quantum of contribution of these products to our daily life is tremendous. The life of tribes intimately limited to forest product their basic needs and livelihood earnings are from processing and collection of these items. The tribals live in harmony with plants and the main interest of man in plants is sub systemic and find remedies for their miseries and ailments.

There are number of herbs with great therapeutic importance *Rauwolfia Serpentina*, root of which has been used for countries in traditional medicine as were for insanity epilepsy and high blood pressure, *Gymenema* is used for diabetes, *Phyllanthus niruri* for jaundice etc. Demand of the herbal health products are growing even if it is proving costlier than the corresponding expensive synthetic one.

We learned through our survey that tribes are still dependent on plant resources for treatment of various ailments but this dependence is decreasing and the knowledge of herbal medicine and utilization of plant various remedies is reducing. In our study we have documented and identified 30 plants with their medicinal Important and tried to secure the traditional knowledge

-Resume of decreasing knowledge of herbal medicine-

1. Lack of belief
2. Decline of folk medicinal use of plants.
3. collection/harvest by drug manufacturers.
4. Lack of systematic survey to identify the rare and endangered species.
5. Lack of market information and research.
6. Growing biotic pressure and consequent site degradation are not allowing its region in natural forest.

Following table 1. Lists the medicinal plants species recorded from the sites studied and uses of plant parts for traditional ailments.

Table 1: Medicinal plants of Korba district with information collected on the basis of interview with Korwa tribe and local people

Species	Family	Vernacular name	Parts used	Medicinal uses
<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L	FABACEAE	Gunj, Ratti	White seeds, Leaf	preventing conception. swelling in the body parts. headache.
<i>Acacia catechu</i> L.	MIMOSACEAE	Khair, Kattha	Stem bark	night blindness (Rat-kana).
<i>Amaranthus viridis</i> L.	AMARANTHACEAE	Kanta bhaji	Root, leaf	Root paste is applied on boils for suppuration. Leaves are applied as poultice Sores.
<i>Argemone mexicana</i> L.	PAPAVERACEAE	Pili kateri	Seed, Root	eczema. toothache.
<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	MELIACEAE	Neem	Leaves	Diabetes and chicken pox
<i>Andrographis peniculata</i> Burm.	ACANTHACEAE	Chiraita.	Stem bark, Leaf	loss of appetite malaria
<i>Adhatoda</i>	ACANTHACEAE	Adusa	Leaf	Asthma, malaria, Diarrhea

<i>vasica</i> Nees.				
<i>Abutilon indicum</i> L.	MALVACEAE	Kanghi	Leaf, Bark	Leaf paste is applied in Boils.
<i>Achyranthus aspera</i> L.	AMARANTHACEAE	Chirchita	Seed, Entire plant, Fruits, Leaf	The decoction of the bark is taken in fever. Cough, scorpion bite
<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i> Retz.	POACEAE	Bans	Leaf	Boil, irregular menstruation.
<i>Buchanania lanzan</i> Spreng.	ANACARDIACEAE	Char, Achar, Chironji	Leaves, Bark, Seed	expectorant.
<i>Butea monosperma</i> Lamk.	FABACEAE	Palash, Parsa	Flower, Bark, Seed	Contraceptive, scabies
<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> L.	NYCTAGINACEAE	Punarnava	Whole plant	Jaundice, asthma.
<i>Chlorophytum tuberosum</i> Roxb.	LILIACEAE	Koijhari bhaji, safed musli	Tuber	Tuber powder is taken for stamina. Tuber powder is taken in urinary problem.
<i>Costus speciosus</i> J. Koenig	COSTACEAE	Keokand	Rhizome	Rhizome powder is purgative.
<i>Gloriosa superba</i> L.	LILIACEAE	Kalihari	Tuber, seed	Tuber paste is applied and yaken to promote labour pain. Seed powder is wormicidal (in minute quantity). Tuber powder is taken in stomachache
<i>Gymnema sylvestris</i> Retz.	ASCLEPIADACEAE	Gurmar	Leaf	Leaf powder is taken in diabetics.
<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> R. Br.	ASCLEPIADACEAE	Anantmul	Root, Latex	Root powder is taken in urinary problem and joint pain. Latex is applied on skin diseases. Latex is taken as lactic agent.
<i>Phyllanthus niruri</i> L.	EUPHORBIACEAE	Bhui amla	Entire plant	Juice of whole plant is taken in jaundice. Juice of plant is also taken in lever problem.
<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> L.	FABACEAE	Karanj	Seed oil.	Seed oil is applied on skin diseases externally.
<i>Pueraria tuberosa</i> Roxb.	FABACEAE	Patal kumhada.	Tuber	Tuber powder is taken to increase stamina. Tuber powder is diuretic.
<i>Saccharum munja</i> Roxb.	POACEAE	Kans	Root	Root powder is diuretic.
<i>Smilax macrophylla</i> Roux.	LILIACEAE	Sher	Root, Stem	Root powder is taken in stomachache. Root powder is taken as tonic. Root powder is taken in joint pain. Stem is chewed in toothache.
<i>Tephrosea purpurea</i> L.	FABACEAE	Sarphonk	Flower, Root	Root powder is used for blood purifier. Flower juice is taken to increase blood.
<i>Terminalia arjuna</i> Roxb.	COMBRETACEAE	Kahua	Stem bark	The bark of Arjuna is used in the form of powder and decoction to treat heart diseases. Bark powder is applied for skin. Bark powder is taken in diarrhea. Seed powder is taken with honey in cough
<i>Terminalia bellerica</i> Rouxb.	COMBRETACEAE	Baheda	Fruit	Fruit powder is taken in acidity.
<i>Terminalia chebula</i> Retz.	COMBRETACEAE	Harra	Fruit, Bark	Fruit powder is taken in asthma. Fruit powder taken in night after meal in constipation and other abdominal problem. Roasted fruit pieces is chew in cough. Fruit powder is taken in acidity.
<i>Urginea indica</i> Roux.	LILIACEAE	Jangli pyaj	Bulb	Bulb is used as Cardiotonic. Crushed bulb is applied on joint pain. Seed powder is taken twice in asthma.
<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> L.	LYTHRACEAE	Dhawai	Flower, Bark	Entire flower is taken thrice in a day in dysentery. Bark paste is applied on fresh wound to stop bleeding
<i>Ziziphus jujube</i> Lamk.	RHAMNACEAE	Boer, Ber	Fruit	Fruit powder is taken in constipation. Fruit pulp is applied on mouth ulcer.

Research need in conservation practices for the rich biodiversity of medicinal plants

We observed in our study that medicinal plants are being collected from wild habitats for domestic and commercial uses without any specific method to conserve them. This lack of effort to protect these sustainable resources may result in their depletion from natural habitats and also till now no quantitative assessments however available as to produce these medicinal plants. No information available about the amount consumed by local population and amount sold at markets. Efforts on scientific management of these medicinal plants is hampered due to increase in biotic pressure on forest leading to deforestation and degradation [12].

So far enhancing the production of these products from forest and other lands is essential to carry out studies on ecological and socio-economic aspects and also great need to create awareness among the indigenous communities about endangering medicinal plant if over exploited [13].

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

We find that important knowledge of medicinal plants gathered by the Korwa tribe are needs to be determined in order to develop plans for their protection, improving Awareness, proper documentation of indigenous knowledge about the plants used by them.

The Study area is rich in medicinal plants and due to rich forest cover and diversity many important plants are found but due to lack of identification and improper knowledge they are not utilize. so there is need of creating awareness, motivating the local people for cultivation of medicinal plants and other economic species which can play an important role in economic development of area.

In this study of medicinal plants research and conservation efforts should be focused on the resources of the area and collected information should be utilizing to improve the production of medicinal and other useful plants in this area.

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