

Exotic medicinal plants from West Vidarbha region of Maharashtra -III

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Abstract

Present paper deals with the report of 23 exotic medicinal plants collected from various localities from West Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. Some of them are naturalized and now they are the part of our indigenous flora. Tribals and villagers are used them as a medicine and also some are having reputed value. The medicinal values of all plants collected by taking oral interviews with tribals and villagers.

Keywords: Exotic, medicinal plants, West Vidarbha region#

INTRODUCTION

Exotic plants found in West Vidarbha region of Maharashtra are naturalized, in some parts of forest along dams, canals, roadsides, around villages, on hedges of fields & they are dominating to the native vegetation. Some of them are harmful to human beings & also to animals. During our exploration tour in forest, found that the tribal communities and villagers are regularly using some plants for the purpose of medicine so we have collected those plants, which are used in medicine. Some earlier reports on these plants having ethnomedicinal values reported by Kothale and Rothe (2009), Rothe (2009), Pullaiah (2002), WHO (2002), WHO (2004). A list of 23 plants mentioned in this article.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

An extensive plant exploration was conducted during 2005-2008 for the study of exotic medicinal plants from the West Vidarbha region several medicine men and the Vaidos was contacted with the help of discussion and oral interviews with them collected the data on medicinal uses also the literature available on the same plants compared with the latest information, It is found that most of the exotics are now used by them instead of indigenous plants probably they may have better results or their easy availability in the region. These plants material after drying and processing with mercuric chloride, herbarium sheets have been prepared and are identified by using Floras like, Flora of Maharashtra by Almeida (1996-2009), Cooke (1901-1908), Naik (1998), Sharma *et al.* (1996), Singh *et al.* (2000), Singh *et al.* (2001) & the medicinal value is compared with earlier available literature. Bhattacharjee, (2008), Prajapati *et al.* (2009), Dastur, (1962), Naik (1998), Sabnis, and Bedi (1983). All these plants are enumerated in the following ways.

Paleotropical

1) *Ipomoea purpurea* L.

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Vernacular name: Laxman

Locality: Dagadparva, Rothe, 2400.

Uses: Leaves of this plant used to keep pregnancy in buffalo.

2) *Physalis minima* L.

Vernacular name: Popati

Locality: Patur, Rothe, 453.

Uses: Fruits are diuretic, leaf juice used against the earache.

Tropical America

3) *Phyllanthus asperulatus* Hutch.

Vernacular name: Lekurwali

Locality: Narnala, Rothe 635.

Uses: Plant is used for stomach ache, Diarrhoea, Dysentery and Urinogenital disorder. Fresh roots are used for jaundice. Stem and Leaves are used for Cotton black.

4) *Dioscorea bulbifera* L.

Vernacular name: Varahkand

Locality: Kasmar, Rothe, 1498.

Uses: Tubers are edible after thorough processing, often used as vegetable.

5) *Sonchus asper* (L.) Hill.

Vernacular name: Mhatari

Locality: Chandur, Rothe 459.

Uses: Leaves used as salad, leaf juice in liver complaints, stomach ache and ulcers.

Mexico

6) *Nicotiana glauca* Graham.

Vernacular name: Tambakhu

Locality: Wangeshwar, Rothe 751.

Uses: Leaves used as an insecticide in combination with leaves of *Lawsonia inermis*.

7) *Nicotiana plumbaginifolia* Viv.

Vernacular name: Ran-tambakhu

Locality: Wangeshwar, Rothe 974.

Uses: Leaves used as an insecticide, also against snake bite and wounds.

South America

8) *Lantana camera* L.

Vernacular name: Ghaneri

Locality: Narnala, Rothe, 893.

Uses: The decoction of leave is given in Tetanus and rheumatism. It contains an essential oil; leaves are used for snake bite.

9) *Passiflora foetida* L.

Vernacular name: Krushnkamal

Locality: Vanoja, Rothe 428

Uses: Fruits are edible.

10) *Opuntia elatior* Mill.

Vernacular name: Fanta

Locality: Gautama River, Rothe 752,

Uses: Watery juice obtained from stem used against fevers, indigestion, chest complaint, urine stone and stomach ache. Dried flower powder mixed with honey used against hic cough.

11) *Bidens biternata* (Lour.) Merr. & Sherff.

Vernacular name:

Locality: Kapsi, Rothe 632.

Uses: Leaves used in inflammation.

12) *Xanthium strumarium* L.

Vernacular name: Landga

Locality: Manora, Rothe 697.

Uses: Root is used as a bitter tonic, diuretic diaphoretic, sedative, cooling and demuscent also given in small pox chronic malaria leucorrhoea and urinary diseases.

Africa

13) *Coccinia grandis* (L.) Vight

Vernacular name: Tandali

Locality: Dabki, Rothe 158.

Uses: Whole plant is laxative used in gonorrhoea as a wound healer. Leaf juice and roots are used in diabetes. Poultice of leaves used in skin eruption. It helps in improve digestion in amoebiasis. It purifies blood also for removal of extra amount of mucous accumulation in respiratory tract.

Europe Asia and North America

14) *Medicago sativa* L.

Vernacular name: Lasunghas

Locality: Patur, Rothe 693.

Uses: Plant is a source of vitamin A; C & E. Seeds are the source of drying oil used for manufacture of paints. Leaves and stem are source of commercial chlorophyll.

Eurasia Asia

15) *Medicago polymorpha* L.

Vernacular name: Lasunghas

Locality: Barshitakali, Rothe, 17

Uses: Grown as a green manure & fodder crop. Leaves are rich source of Ascorbic acid.

Afro Asian

16) *Asclepias currasivica* L.

Vernacular name: Haldi Kunku

Locality: Chikhaldara, Rothe, 980

Uses: Seed hairs are used as substitute for kapok. Leaves are anthelmintic. Some plants are live stock poison.

17) *Citrullus colocynthis* (L.) Schrad.

Vernacular name: Indrayan

Locality: Kapsi, Rothe, 875.

Uses: Fruits are purgative. Seeds along with Coconut Oil used in blackening of hairs.

Pantropical

18) *Dioscorea oppositifolia* L.

Vernacular name: Akashwel

Locality: Kasmar, Rothe, 1287

Uses: Tubers are boiled in water with salt and their skin is removed and they are eaten

19) *Euphorbia geniculata* Orteg

Vernacular name: Dudhi

Locality: Kinhiraja, Rothe 549.

Uses: Leaf juice and seed used as strong purgative. Juice is also used for remedy of ringworms and other skin diseases. It is an antidote for snake bite.

20) *Ricinus communis* L.

Vernacular name: Erandi

Locality: Medshi, Rothe, 764

Uses: Seed oil for joint pains. Young twigs in vagina caused abortion. Leaves applied externally after heating to remove muscular pain.

21) *Rhynchosia minima* (L.) DC

Vernacular name: Ran tur

Locality: Kapshi, Rothe, 11.

Uses: Plant is useful as fodder. Leaves are reported to be abortifacient, pods eaten by villagers.

22) *Sesbania sesban* (L.) Merr

Vernacular name: Shevari.

Locality: PDKV, Rothe, 10.

Uses: as a wind break for betel vines & grape vines. As a green manure crop, leaves and young branches are fed to live stock. Bark yield a fibre which is used for ropes. A poultice of leaves is said to promote suppuration of boils & absorption of rheumatic swelling.

23) *Zornia diphylla* (L.) Pers.

Vernacular name: Govind

Locality: Narnala, Rothe, sn

Uses: Used as fodder for cattle. Root induces sleep in children.

DISCUSSION

Naturalists and conservationists know that the biodiversity in any area comprises native or indigenous species and also exotics species. Among indigenous species some occurs only in restricted areas like within a state or country and some also occurs outside that area called as endemic. In true sense traditional knowledge relates primarily to indigenous species. Knowledge about exotics is a later creation or addition to traditional knowledge. Researches now try to determine what components of traditional knowledge related to indigenous species and what percentage of exotics. Discovering uses of exotic species by native people can indicate paucity or depletion of indigenous species, for the particular or better properties in the exotics. The following is a list of about 30 exotics plants, which are useful in medicine.

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