

Traditional Plants Used for the Treatment of Ear Problems in Beed District of Maharashtra

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Keywords	Abstract
Earache Ethnobotany Traditional Plants Treatment	The present paper focuses on the botanicals used in the treatment of ear problems in Beed District of Maharashtra. The author gathered important information of such a 10 plants belonging to 08 different families. An ethnobotanical Survey was carried out in the district and information was collected about the plants, which are used to cure different problems of Ear like Earache, Pus Formation in the ear, listening problem etc. All the species included in this paper are wildy grown. This traditional knowledge is very valuable source for the further research and discovery of new pharmaceutical drugs. For each plant species scientific name, family, local name, parts used and mode of administration for the treatment of ear problem are provided.

1. Introduction

Beed, one of the eight districts of Marathwada region of Maharashtra State. The district being a part of Deccan plateau is situated at an average height of 600 m above mean sea level and lies between 18.28 and 19.28 latitude and between 74.54 and 76.57 longitudes. Vegetation of the district is dry deciduous forest type. Though the district has a very less forest area, the great diversity of vegetation is found. With few tribal groups many other poor communities like Wadar, Laman, Dhangar, Kaikadi, Pardhi etc found residing in the different hilly parts and villages of the district. These communities with their family directly or indirectly depend on the local vegetation to fulfill their basic needs like food, fodder, shelter, fuel, medicine and hunting. Besides this they get economic sources by collecting Honey, Wood, Leaves, fruit, gum, dyes etc and selling in to the local markets.

For the detail study of the Beed District with its ethnobotanical prospects, the author visited various parts of the district in different seasons and gathered the information of different plants, which are used by the local people to cure different severe and common ailments. In rural areas due to the lack of hygienic conditions and medical facilities, local people evenly face many severe ear problems. So they made their own solutions for this and use to treat such type of ailments by using juice of plants like *Achyranthes aspera*, *Aerva lanata*, *Bridelia retusa*, *Cardiospermum heliacabum*, *Cleome viscosa* etc. The ethnobotanical research on such problems is also going on worldwide (Idu M.et.al., 2008). Due

to some natural calamities and manmade activities such as flood, famine, woodcutting, over exploitation and overgrazing, these valuable plants reached at the brink of extinction. Along with this, the people knowing the use of such medicinal plants are getting lost with the time. So it is necessary to conserve and record this valuable treasure urgently. The present study is undertaken to produce an inventory of the plants used by the rural people and local medicine men in Beed district of Maharashtra to treat some ear problems.

2. Material and Methods

The information about the plants used on ear problems has been collected from the rural people residing in the villages as well as hilly parts of the district. Several visits were given to the different parts of the district in different seasons. Appointments of farmers, senior citizens, local medicine men, vaidus and especially diabetic persons were taken to collect the information about the important plants used to cure diabetes. The interesting and unknown plants were collected during survey, identified by using local flora (Naik, 1998) and preserved in the form of herbarium.

3. Results

The data on medicinal plants for treatment of various ear disorders was collected from local people in Beed district, were analyzed. The enumeration and utilization of these are described in-Table.1.

Table 1. Plants used for the treatment of different ear problems

Sr. No	Name of the Plant and Family	Local Name	Parts Used	Mode of administration
1.	<i>Achyranthus aspera</i> Linn. (Amaranthaceae)	Aghada	Root Juice	2-3 drops of fresh roots of the Plant are recommended on Earache.
2.	<i>Aerva lanata</i> (Linn) Juss. (Amaranthaceae)	Bhadra	Leaf juice	The mildly warmed juice of the leaves is dropped in ear on Pus formation in the ear
3.	<i>Bridelia retusa</i> Sen Hook.f. (Euphorbiaceae)	Pathar-phod	Bark	The decoction of the bark and Water is mixed, boiled, and Dropped in the ear on earache
4.	<i>Cardiospermum helicacabum</i> L. (Sapindaceae)	Kapal-phuti	Leaf Juice	Local people use leaf juice to Drop in the ear on earache.
5.	<i>Cleome viscosa</i> L. (Cleomaceae)	Piwali Tilwan	Root	Root juice is administered on The listening problem.
6.	<i>Commicarpus chinensis</i> (L.) H. (Nyctaginaceae)	Pungali	Whole plant	The warmed juice of the plant is effectively used on different Ear problems.
7.	<i>Datura inosia</i> Mill.G.(Solanaceae)	Dhotra	Leaf	The leaf juice is used on the ear Pus formation and itching of ear.
8.	<i>Grangea maderaspatana</i> L. Poir. (Asteraceae)	Macchi-patra	Leaf	The leaf juice is strongly recommended on the earache Ear itching.
9.	<i>Physalis minima</i> Linn. (Solanaceae)	Popti	Whole plant	The plant juice is recommend By local Vaidya for various Ear problems
10.	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> L. (Plumbaginaceae)	Chitrak	Root	Root paste is used in the Primary stage of ear tumours.

4. Discussion and Conclusion

The people residing in the remote hilly areas and in the hilly villages due to the lack of hospital facilities, transport, education etc totally or partially depends upon the wild plants for the treatment of some severe and common ailments like, jaundice, headache, gynecological disorders, fever, dysentery, tumours and many other. Some of them are very expert in this practice and see over the health of all

community. Ear is one of the important sense organ of human being and need to be cared by everyone.

Present study focuses on the utilization of plants available with the people of Beed district; they are using the traditional knowledge for the treatment of different ear problems. But day-by-day, both the medicinal plants and knowledgeable persons are passing away with the time. So, there is

an urgent need to conserve these medicinal plants as well as to document the information regarding their use from knowledgeable persons.

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