ETHNOBOTANY OF WILD PLANT SPECIES OF RAMPURI VILLAGE, TALUKA - BHILODA, DISTRICT - ARAVALLI, NORTH GUJARAT

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ABSTRACT

An ethnobotanical field trips were undertaken during June 2015 to document the folk medicinal plants used by tribes residing in villages such as Rampuri of taluka Bhiloda district Aravalli, Gujarat. Tribes residing in the area are Dungari garasia. The tribal communities in the study area have important information about therapeutic values of medicinal plants growing in their surroundings. The firsthand information has been gathered to document the medicinal plants being used traditionally by tribes to treat common human ailments such as jaundice, vomiting, diabetes, indigestion, dysentery, diarrhoea, wounds, etc. The information on Ethnobotany has been presented with their photos, local name, scientific name and plant parts used in this paper.

KEY WORD: Bhiloda, Ethnobotanical, Gujarat.

INTRODUCTION

The aravalli ranges, which runs along the northern fringe of Gujarat State, situated between 23º03’-24º37’ N latitudes, and 72º15’-73º39’ E longitude. The area under study i.e., Bhiloda taluka is in Aravalli district as a part of Aravalli ranges. The tribal people who live in forests areas of region under treat their common diseases with plant remedies and their local formulations.
The ethnobotanical field survey was conducted during 2015. The firsthand information and views given by tribals were recorded as data. Indigenous traditional practitioners and some knowledgeable tribal informants, who have knowledge about of wild plant species, were interviewed in the forest and in their homes. The information on various plants were gathered from Asari Kanubhai, 50 yrs old, Asari Ratnabhai, 68 yrs old of the tribal community, residing forest area of Bhiloda Taluka. The data considered worth mentioning only when at least 2 to 3 local healers gave similar answers for the same plant. The collected plant specimens were identified using ‘Flora of Gujarat State’ (Shah, 1978).

(1) *Abrus precatorius* L. (Fabaceae) Chanothi
Leaves use as antidotes, cough, indigestion, eye problems, hair care, mouth ulcer, burr, swollen and arthritis.
Roots are use as antidotes, pain relief, stomach ulcer, arthritis and asthmas.
Seeds are used as beautifier/ ornamental objects, also for hair care. (Plate 1 - A, B)

(2) *Acacia chundra* (Rottler) wild (Mimosaceae) Kher
Gum is edible and medicinal.
Roots use as antidotes and beneficial in diabetes, diarrhoea, dysentery.
Bark is beneficial in skin diseases and wound.
Wood is used as furniture and household like pestle and bed legs. (Plate 1 - C, D, E)

(3) *Aegle marmelos* (L.) *Correa* (Rutaceae) Bili
Bark is beneficial in heart diseases.
Fruit is use as cooling drink sharbat and beneficial in dysentery, diarrhoea, stomachache.
Leaves use in worship of hindu god shiva, Also beneficial in mouth ulcer, fever and diabetes.
Roots are beneficial in fever. (Plate 1 - F)

(4) *Anogeissus latifolia* (DC.) wall. Ex. Bedd. (Comretaceae) Dhov/Dhavdo
Gum is edible and medicinal.
Leaves give relief in tumor.
Roots are beneficial in urinary problems.
Stem is useful in making of furniture and other woody objects like plows/cultivator.
Bark gives relief in muscular swellings. (Plate 2 - A, B, C, D)

(5) *Asparagus racemosus* Willd. var. *javanicus* (Liliaceae) Shatavri
Roots are beneficial to periods, dysentery, eye diseases, lactose secretary diseases. (Plate 2 - E, F)

(6) *Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub. (Fabaceae) Kesudo,Khakhro,Palash
The most important use of this tree is as a host of a lac insect for production of *Rangini* lac. It is cultivated for this purpose.
The species is suitable for raw material for the production of newsprint either alone or in mixture with bamboo pulp in proportion of 60:40.
The leaves are lobed for fodder for buffalo and are used for making leaf plates and cups and bidi wrapping.
Flowers yield orange dye for colouring cotton fabrics but has little permanancy.
Seeds used as vermiculifuge for elephants and horse.
The seed and flower extract have contraceptive value. When the seeds are pounded with lemon juice, they successfully used as a cure for a form of herpes.
The bark particularly of roots yields a coarse brown fibre used for rough cordage/Rope/string and caulking boats. Incision in the bark gives a clear red gum known as Butea gum.
Wood used mainly for well-curbs and water-scoops; also employed as a cheap board wood and for structural work. (Plate 3- A, B, C)

(7) Cissus repanda (Wight & Arn.) Vahl (Vitaceae) Panivel
Used as vegetable in stomachic troubles.
Peoples in jungles used to drink its watery sap instead of water, which obtain by cutting the stem of plant. (Plate 3-D, E)

(8) Dendrocalamus strictus (Roxb) Nees (Poaceae) Lakadiyo vaans
It is beneficial in arthritis.
Bark is beneficial in eye pain.
Leaves are beneficial in catheter problems and are abortional.
Stems are use as household and other ornamental objects/beautifier.
Stem is useful in making of musical instruments.
Stem is useful in making of dhanush, baskets, roofs, fence, pipes for blowing fire or to swallow medicine to animal pets and ladder.
(Plate 3 - F. Plate 4- A, B, C, D, E. Plate 5- A, B, C.)

(9) Diospyros melanoxylon Roxb. (Ebenaceae) Timru, Tendu patta
This endemic plant of India is used in various ways. Besides being the source of Indian ebony, its wood is also utilized for making boxes, combs, ploughs and beams.
The bark is burnt by tribals to “cure” small-pox.
The seeds are prescribed as cure for mental disorders, palpitation of heart and nervous breakdown.
Above all, the leaves of this plant constitute one of the most important raw materials of the “Bidi” (Indian cheap smoke/Indian cigar) industry.
The fruits are eaten and sold commercially. (Plate 5- D, E)

(10) Emblica officinalis Gaertn. (Euphorbiaceae) Amla
Fruits are used to eaten raw or cooked. They are rich source of vitamin C.
Fruit, bark and leaves are rich in tannin.
Fruit is diuretic.
Mostly industries using fruit as hair oils and shampoo making they nourish hair and scalp and prevent grey hairs.
Woods used as furniture. (Plate-5F)

(11) Nyctanthes arbortristis L. (Oleaceae) Parijatak
Leaves are useful in catheter problems, fever, cough, dysentery, diarrhoea and stones.
Flowers are having specific odour.
Stem used in making of arrows/sagitta (Teer). (Plate 6- A, B)

(12) *Tectona grandis* L.f. (Verbenaceae) Saag
The wood of tectona is very durable and resistant to fungi so it’s used for poles, beams, columns, roofs, doors, window frames, flooring and other constructional work. Best timbers used for furniture, wagon and railway carriages. Also use for marine construction-boats and ship building for plywood and musical instruments. Kernels yield fatty oils which promote the growth of hairs. Flowers use in urinary discharges. Flowers and seeds are diuretic. Wood is good for leuco derma. Roots use for urinary tract problems. Bark use to treat diabetes. Yellow brown dyes produce from the root bark which is used for dye cloths (wool/cotton). Young leaves and root bark used for paper and cloth manufacture. Waste of wood is use as fuel. (Plate 6- C, D)

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Among the recorded species, most of the plants were dicot. Trees were the most dominant plant form in the study area. It was followed by shrub (1), trees (7), grass (1) and climbers (3). The above collected information suggests that the plants have various activities against different forms of diseases like diarrhoea, arthritis, cough and urinary problems. Traditional uses of natural compounds, especially of plant origin received much attention as they are well tested for their efficacy and generally believed to be safe for human use. As well as plants are useful as households and beautifiers. Researchers are exploring the therapeutic potential of this plant as they have more therapeutic properties which are not known.

CONCLUSION

The present work mainly represents identification and ethnobotany of Rampuri village of Bhiloda tahuka of Aravalli district in North Gujarat. Literature does not have description of some special ethnobotanical uses of forest plant species. Tribes of this area not interested in the conservation of natural resources, they only use it tremendously. So it is very important to aware these tribes how to use the forest resources and how to conserve it. The scientific names and ethnobotanical uses of 12 plant species are supplemented by photographs and these are additional to description. These will help in better understandings of the uses and their proper identification. Because the local names are not sufficient for the identification and collection of forest wealth.
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