

MEDICINAL PLANTS OF NAHARGARH WILDLIFE SANCTUARY (NWS) TRADITIONALLY USED BY THE PEOPLE IN THE VICINITY OF SANCTUARY

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Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary is rich source of traditional medicinal plants and inhabitant for biodiversity. It covers total of 52.40 Sq. Km. of area and situated between 26°15' Northern to 28°45' Northern latitude and 75°45' Eastern to 77°05' Eastern longitude. There are more than 300 plant species growing in various seasons and most of them are useful for medicinal purpose and used by people in the vicinity of sanctuary. Twenty-two plant species present, have 'rare' status in the sanctuary, have immense medicinal value. These medicinal plants are useful in various human ailments and seasonal disorders and cure diabetes, dysentery, acidity, cold, cough, fever and many more diseases.

Keywords : Ailments; Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary; Rare medicinal plants; Traditional medicine.

Introduction

About 80% of world population depends on traditional medicines for primary health care. Interest in traditional medicines is renewed now a days. India is rich in medicinal plant wealth having more than 2500 plant species of known medicinal value. India is endowed with one of world's richest biodiversity in respect of medicinal plants¹. The state of Rajasthan has a sizable tribal population and still surviving in Aravali hill ranges. They have good knowledge of causes and symptoms of common human ailments.

Ethnobotanical investigation of medicinal plants and their uses in traditional medicine is gaining great importance these days because a number of these plants have provided valuable drugs to the modern medicine plants. These investigations have also led to the study of available genetic diversity among those medicinal plants and their genetical and ecological status². In every ethnic group there exists a traditional health care system, which is prevalent and popular among the community³. The tribal communities give first and foremost importance to their traditional health care. The present study emphasizes on the use of rare medicinal plants by the people in the vicinity of Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary.

The ever increasing human and bovine population causes erosion of these plants⁴. Various exotic plant species like *Verbisina enceleoides* and *Parthenium hysterophorus* are very much disturbing the native plants⁵⁻⁸. The conservation and protection of medicinal plants against over exploitation by domestic and foreign

commercial interest without benefits accruing to the nation, are clearly our priorities⁹. Earlier work in NWS at preliminary stage was carried out by many workers¹⁰⁻¹³. The present study emphasizes on both, the use as well as the conservational, aspect of medicinal plants of sanctuary, because in the wake of their bioprospecting and uses as herbal medicines, they have been exploited badly resulting into serious genetic erosion of these species.

Material and Methods

Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary (NWS) is situated at Northern outskirts of Jaipur city. It is a small sanctuary situated very near to metrological city of Jaipur. It is going to become one of the important place in near future for inhabitant. Forest type in sanctuary is subsidiary edaphic type of dry tropical and tropical thorne forest. World's oldest hill Aravali ranges traverse through the sanctuary, which act as barrier for spreading of desert North-West to South-East part of Rajasthan. Rare plants of sanctuary, used as traditional medicines by people, are found in less number and sporadic.

There were several frequent field trips undertaken for gathering informations regarding plants traditionally used for medicinal purpose by the people of sanctuary. The informations about medicinal uses of plants were collected by meeting and contacting the folk healers and other practitioners in the traditional medicine. The scientific verification of these data were made by consulting the literature on traditional medicine. The informations were also collected as suggested by Jain¹⁴, and the dictionary of Indian folk medicines¹⁵ and Indian

Materia Medica¹⁶ were also consulted.

Several informations which were given by the traditional healers about the healing properties of a particular plant species were 'new' and often not mentioned and recorded previously.

Observations

Following plant species are enumerated as curing agents

for various human ailments in the vicinity of NWS.

Discussion

Now it has been realized that the medicinal plants are going to play a very important role in materia medica of the world in future. Most of modern research on herbal medicine have hinged around traditional folklore medicine. Although the study was limited to NWS but it

S.No.	Botanical Name	Local Name	Family	Part used	Uses
1.	<i>Flacoutia indica</i>	Bilangna	Flacoutiaceae	Bark and fruits	Dysentery and enlarged spleen
2.	<i>Sapindus emarginatus</i>	Ritha	Sapindaceae	Bark and fruits	Pain and astringent
3.	<i>Tecomella undulata</i>	Rohira	Bignoniaceae	Stem bark	Syphilis
4.	<i>Embllica officinalis</i>	Anwla	Euphorbiaceae	Fruits, bark and leaves	Sores, pimples, refrigerant, diuratic
5.	<i>Ficus racemosa</i>	Goller	Moraceae	Roots and fruits	Dysentery and diabetes
6.	<i>Diospyros melonoxylon</i>	Birri-putta	Ebenaceae	Seeds and fruits	Germicidal
7.	<i>Annona squamosa</i>	Sitaphal	Annonaceae	Roots, leaves and bark	Diarrhea, dysentery and rheumatism
8.	<i>Bauhinia racemosa</i>	Jhinjha	Caesalpinaceae	Bark and leaves	Malaria
9.	<i>Acacia nilotica var. indica</i>	Babul	Mimosaceae	Bark and latex	Burn and Cholera
10.	<i>Salvdora persica</i>	Jal, chotapilu	Salvadoraceaea	Bark and roots	Asthma and gastric
11.	<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i>	Khirmi	Apocynaceae	Seeds, roots and bark	Toothache and luxative
12.	<i>Cordia dichotoma</i>	Lasora	Boraginaceae	Leaf and fruits	Cold, fever and stomach pain
13.	<i>Cordia gharaf</i>	Goondee	Boraginaceae	Stem and bark	Astringent and gargle
14.	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Chuka	Oxalidaceae	Whole plant	Piles and anemia
15.	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i>	Chitrak	Plumbaginaceae	Roots and latex	Skin diseases and ulcers
16.	<i>Calotropis gigantia</i>	Safed akra	Asclapiadaceae	Whole plant	Leprocy and dysentery
17.	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>	Giloi	Menispermaceae	Whole plant	Bone fracture and diarrhea
18.	<i>Viola cinerea</i>	Vanphasa	Violaceae	Flowers and roots	Throat pain, purgative and on injuries
19.	<i>Ampilocissus latifolia</i>	Panibel	Vitaceae	Roots	Placed on wounds
20.	<i>Luffa acutangula</i>	Torai	Cucurbitaceae	Leaves and seeds	Emitic, leprosy and splenitis
21.	<i>Cucumis prophetarum</i>	Tambi	Cucurbitaceae	Whole plant	Purgative and ematic
22.	<i>Striga gesnerioides</i>	Lalgia	Scrophulariaceae	Whole plant	Employed to treat diseases

also covered other regions of Rajasthan, because several traditional folk healers from different part of Rajasthan showed uniformity and unanimity in the mode of treatment and use of medicinal plants.

Present study reaffirmed that traditional herbal medicines are still practiced among the traditional people and they have not lost faith in the age of modern synthetic medicines. Most of plants enumerated above are used in cure of pain, stress, diabetes, constipation, skin diseases, dysentery, acidity, cough and cold, injuries, jaundice, liver problems and many more seasonal disorders. The observations were recorded from interview with people of NWS, folk healers, vaidyas and other practitioners in the traditional medicines. The tribal people living in the vicinity of NWS since several years and have knowledge about traditional medicines, pass this knowledge from one generation to another, through oral communication. This vital knowledge is needed to be scientifically and systematically documented before it is lost.

NWS is situated very near to metropolitan city of Jaipur. Due to this, it has heavy biotic pressure and many rare plant species are at the verge of extinction from the sanctuary. Similar observations have been recorded from other part of the India by many workers¹⁷⁻²³.

It has been observed in the present investigation, that the modern educated people were also showing interest towards these traditional medicines. They are perhaps more aware and read about the benefits of herbal medicines. It is also observed that some folk healers and practitioners, in this part, have also come to learn the scientific names of some important medicinal plants.

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