

ETHNO-MEDICINAL PLANTS OF FAMILY ASTERACEAE OF VINDHYA REGION (U.P.)

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An account of 36 ethnomedicinal informations of 24 plant species belonging to 20 genera of family Asteraceae from Vindhya region of Uttar Pradesh has been given in this paper. Information on the ethnomedicinal use, dosages, mode of administration and field number has been published in this paper.

Keywords : Asteraceae; Ethnomedicinal; Vindhya region.

The Vindhya region of Uttar Pradesh lies between 82° E and 83° 23' E longitude and 22° 45' N and 24° 34' N latitude which includes the districts namely Mirzapur and Sonbhadra. The forest of the Vindhya region is tropical dry deciduous type. The family Asteraceae is the largest and most advanced among the dicotyledons. The family constitutes with about 30,000 species and over 1100 genera. In India, the family is represented by about 1052 species under 161 genera¹. The region has also been studied earlier²⁻⁹.

The exploration studies were conducted based on the informations gathered from tribal pockets and rural villages, who depend mostly on the forests for their needs and have the sound knowledge over herbal remedies. Plants along with the ethnobotanical informations were gathered during the trips. The plants were identified and preserved according to standard methods¹⁰. All the plant specimens are kept in the Duthie Herbarium, Department of Botany, University of Allahabad, Allahabad. The informations of the plants use, disease and part used, are given along with the field number of the individual author in abbreviated form (Kanchan Lata: KL, Juhi Singh: JS, Usha Singh: US, Part used: P, Disease: D and Uses: U).

Enumeration :

1. *Ageratum conyzoides* L.

KL: 19292; JS: 18191

P: Flower

D: Itching

U: 1. Paste of the flower is applied on the itching area of the skin.

2. *Amberboa racemosa* (Roxb.) Jafri

KL: 19293; JS: 18280

P: Whole plant

D: Epilepsy, atonic sizzures

U: 1. The cow dung is applied on the whole plant and burnt. The ash is mixed with ant hill and given in the case of atonic sizzures.

3. *Blumea laciniata* (Roxb.) DC.

KL: 19051; JS: 18285

P: Leaf

D: Rheumatism

U: 1. The paste of the leaf is applied with the mustard oil in the case of rheumatism.

4. *Blumea membranacea* DC.

KL: 19294; JS: 188270

P: Whole plant

D: Body pain

U: 1. The paste of the whole plant is applied with warm mustard oil in the case of body pain.

5. *Blumea mollis* (Don.) Merr.

KL: 19123, 19156; JS: 18271

P: Flower

D: Conjunctivitis

U: 1. The decoction of the whole plant is applied in the eye.

6. *Blumea bifoliata* (L.) DC.

KL: 19299; US: 17024

P: Whole plant

D: Leucoderma, skin diseases

U: 1. The plant paste is applied with the phylloclade of *Opuntia* sp. (Nagphani) in case of leucoderma.

2. Paste of the leaf is applied externally over Senghua.
7. *Blumea oxydonta* DC.
KL: 19154; JS: 18268
P: Whole plant
D: Leucorrhoea
U:1. The paste of the whole plant is given with the glass of the goat's milk.
8. *Carthamus oxycantha* M. Bieb.
KL: 19139; JS: 18288
P: Seeds, flowers
D: Rheumatism, dysentery
U:1. The oil is applied in the case of rheumatism.
2. The paste of flower is given in the case of dysentery.
9. *Caesulia axillaris* Roxb.
KL: 19295; JS:18270
P: Whole plant
D: Head ache
U:1. Decoction of the whole plant is mixed with camphor and applied externally on the head.
10. *Centipeda minima* (L.) A.Br.& Aschers.
KL: 19301; JS:18299
P: Whole plant
D: Epilepsy
U:1. The plant is mixed with milk and desi ghee and given in the case of epileptic fits.
11. *Conyza canadensis* (L.) Cronq.
KL: 19133; JS: 18265
P: Whole plant
D: Swelling
U:1. The paste of the whole plant with the turmeric paste (*Curcuma longa*) is applied on the swelling.
12. *Cyathocline purpurea* (Don.) Kuntz.
KL: 19047, 19216; JS: 18276
P: Leaf, flower
D: Head ache, fish poison
U:1. The leaf paste is applied on the head with tadi (alcoholic drink from *Phoenix sylvestris*) in the case of head ache.
2. The flower is coated with the paste of neem (*Azadirachta indica*) and used as the fish bait.
13. *Echinops echinatus* Roxb.
KL:19206; JS:18278; US: 16076
P: Root
D: Snake and scorpion bite, leucorrhoea
- U:1. Root powder is given orally with water in the case of snake and scorpion bite.
2. The root powder is given orally with sugar in the case of leucorrhoea.
14. *Eclipta alba* (L.) Hassk.
KL:19296; JS:18252; US: 17177
P: Whole plant
D: Boils and burns, hair fall, antiseptic
U:1. The paste of the leaves and root is applied over the boils and burns for the easy discharge.
2. The paste of the entire plant is mixed with mustard oil and applied on the head in case of hair fall.
3. The paste of the flower is applied as an antiseptic over the wound and ulcers.
15. *Grangea maderaspatana* (L.) Poir.
KL:19127; JS: 19275
P: Leaf, flower
D: Epilepsy
U:1. The flower is tied on the neck of the epileptic patient and the leaf paste is given with honey.
16. *Galinsoga parviflora* Cav.
KL: 19297; JS: 18026; US: 17177
P: Seeds, leaf
D: Ear ache
U:1. Oil of the seed is used as an ear drop in the case of ear ache.
2. The paste of the leaf is applied externally on the dog's bite.
17. *Gnaphalium pulvinatum* Delile.
KL: 19180; US: 17179
P: Whole plant
D: Tooth ache
U:1. The whole plant is used in making tooth paste and used during the tooth ache.
18. *Launaea procumbens* (Roxb.) Ramayya & Rajagopal.
KL:19029; US: 17022
P: Leaf, latex
D: Fever
U:1. The decoction of leaf is given in the case of fever.
19. *Parthenium hysterophorus* L.
KL: 19300; US: 17182
P: Flower, leaf
D: Cold, cuts and wounds
U:1. The flower juice is used as nasal drop in the

- case of cold.
2. Leaf paste is applied externally as an antiseptic healers in cuts and wounds.
20. *Sonchus asper* (L.) Hill.
L: 19297; JS: 18287; US: 16079
P: Leaf
D: Cuts
U: 1. The paste of leaf is applied externally on cuts and wounds.
21. *Sphaeranthus senegalensis* DC.
KL: 19285, 19286; US: 16045
P: Fruit, root
D: Mouth ulcer, leucorrhoea
U: 1. The fruits are chewed in the case of mouth ulcer.
2. Root powder is given with honey in the case of leucorrhoea.
22. *Tridax procumbens* L.
KL: 19296; JS: 18091; US: 16029
P: Leaf
D: Cuts, wounds
U: 1. The paste of the leaf is applied externally on cuts and wounds.
23. *Vernonia cinerea* (L.) Lees.
KL: 19222; JS: 18259; US: 17044
P: Root
D: Leucorrhoea
U: 1. Root powder is given in the case of leucorrhoea.
24. *Xanthium indicum* Koenig
KL: 19131, 19021; JS: 18260
P: Flower, seeds
D: Headache, rheumatism
U: 1. Seed powder is given in the case of headache.
2. Seed paste applied over affected portion of rheumatism.
3. The paste of flower is used in the case of toothache.
- The aim of this study is to give consolidated account of the ethno-medicinal plant wealth of the Vindhya region of U.P. (Mirzapur & Sonbhadra), being used for the treatment of common ailments through the tribal system of medicines.

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