

ETHNOMEDICINAL PLANTS SPECIALLY USED IN "JAUNDICE" BY TRIBALS OF CHOTANAGPUR, JHARKHAND, INDIA

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The present communication brings out sixteen (16) medicinal plant species, being reported specially for the folk and traditional treatment of the 'Jaundice' patients by the tribals of Chotanagpur. These medicinal plants have the highest level of ethnomedicinal values.

Keywords : Chotanagpur; Ethnomedicinal; folk; Jaundice; traditional; tribal.

The tribal people of Chotanagpur mainly depend on herbal medicines for treatment of all the diseases. They are confidently using their own traditionally, self managed system of folk medicine because it is effective, acceptable, easily available, accessible with little or no side effect or reaction.

This study was carried out on the ethnomedicinal values of some plants specially used in the treatment of 'jaundice'. As regards to the studies on traditional treatment and self medication, only a few contributions are on the record¹⁻⁹.

The symptoms of jaundice are damage of the liver cells, level of serum bilirubin high in blood, below the eye (conjunctiva) became yellow, skin and urine become yellow, loss of appetite, at last stage patient develop mental confusion then coma, etc.

Ethnomedicinal survey has been conducted in different villages and remote areas of Chotanagpur. Interviews were conducted in the study area involving many old people, Baidya families and Kaviraj. Information collected from those people and confirmed by ethnic families for the authenticity of different types of plants specially used for the disease 'jaundice' and mode of preparation of the drugs. All the ethnomedicinal prescription described here are the outcome of the current study and is irrespective.

Identification of the medicinal plants was established at BSD and DD herbarium and also consulted with standard book (Hooker, 1967).

Information on sixteen medicinal plant species were collected for the treatment of the jaundice. In the following description the Plants are arranged alphabetically, for each plant the family name, local name, botanical name and traditional uses (parts of the plants) are given in succession.

1. *Astercantha longifolia* L. Nees (Acanthaceae)
or *Hygrophila spinosa* T. Anders,
Local name - Talmkhana
Root, leaves and seeds are used.
2. *Argemone mexicana* Linn. (Papaveraceae) Local name - Katela
It contains "berberine" and "protopine" in the seed oil. The yellow juice of plant is very useful for jaundice.
3. *Boerhavia diffusa* Linn. (Nyctaginaceae)
Local name - Punarnava
Roots and leaves of white flower variety are used.
4. *Berberis aristata* D. C. (Berberidaceae)
Local name - Berberry
Decoction of root bark and wood is used.
5. *Centella asiatica* Linn. (Umbelliferae)
Local name - Brahmi booty, Beng sag.
Hydrocotyle asiatica Linn.
Paste of whole plant body mixed with misri (sugar) is very much effective.
6. *Curculigo orchoides* Gaertn. (Amaryllidaceae) Local name - Musali
Rhizome is used.
7. *Citrullus Colocynthis* Schard. (Cucurbitaceae) Local name - Indreni
Root is used.

8. *Euphorbia nuruleris* L. (Euphorbiaceae)
Paste of whole plant is very effective in serious jaundice.
9. *Emblica officinalis* Gaertn (Euphorbiaceae)
Phyllanthus emblica Linn. Local Name - Amla
Dried fruits are very useful.
10. *Eclipta prostrata* Roxb. (compositae)
E. alba Hassk; Local name - Bhringraj
Plant juice in combination with aromatic administered for serious jaundice.
11. *Hygrophila auriculata* (Schum) Heine; (Acanthaceae)
Juice of leaf is used.
12. *Pavetta indica* Linn. (Rubiaceae) Local name - Takai
Root is used.
13. *Phyllanthus niruri* Linn. (Euphorbiaceae)
The whole plant is very much useful.
14. *Phyllanthus fraterans*, Webster. (Euphorbiaceae) Local name - Badianla
Paste of whole plant with honey is very effective.
15. *Solanum nigrum* Linn (Solanaceae)
Local name : Makoy
Plant is very useful for the treatment of jaundice and enlargement of liver.
16. *Tinospora cordifolia* (wild.), Miers (Menispermaceae) Local name - Gurchi
Whole plant body is very effective.

During the present study, it was found that the tribal people of Chotanagpur are utilizing above listed medicinal plants

by the folk and traditional method specially for the treatment of 'jaundice'.

Like the various other aspects, ethnobotany offer vast scope for medicinal research in modern terms and all the available information should be collected and recorded for proper scientific evaluation and wider application.

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