

SOME ETHNOMEDICINAL PLANTS OF SHEOPUR DISTRICT, M.P.

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ABSTRACT

A large number of medicinal plants are found in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh. The plant diversity of this district is quite rich and the people especially the tribals depend on plants for procuring house hold remedies. In this work, ethnomedicinal information on 17 plant species belonging to 13 families was documented by interrogating the local traditional practitioners. Concerned scientific names along with their family, vernacular names, parts used, disease cured by these plants have been discussed in this paper.

KEY WORDS: Sheopur, ethnomedicine, traditional practitioners, documentation

Sheopur district in Chambal division of Madhya Pradesh lies between 25°20'-26°15' N latitude and 76°30'-77°40' E latitude. The district is 213m to 498 m high from the sea level. The total area-cover is of 6666.609 Sq Km. It is surrounded by Baran, Kota, Savai Madhopur and Karoli districts of Rajasthan. Sheopur is a tribal dominated district of Madhya Pradesh. Nearly 75% people of the total population depend on indigenous system of medicine.

The Kuno wild life Sanctuary is also situated in Sheopur district.

The average temperature ranges from 39.0 to 48.2°C, and annual rainfall is 822m.m.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Field surveys were conducted during 2008-2009. Different plant species were collected from different areas of Sheopur viz. along with seep river, Sheopur fort, around the nursery, along with kunho river, jatkhara gaon, near Chambal river and were identified in the field by expert of forest department and later confirmed with the help of Floras (Mukherjee 1984,) These specimens were processed for preservation in the institutional Herbarium. Information about the medicinal use of plants was collected mainly from the herbal-healers Gobardhan and Atmaram of this region especially belonging to the tribal specially sahriyas and moghias communities.

Table1: Medicinal plants and their uses as documented from forested areas of Sheopur district

S. No.	Name of the plant	Family	Local name	Plant Part Used	Disease cured
1	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i>	Acanthaceae	Adusa	Leaves	joint pain, cough
2	<i>Aloe barberedense</i>	Liliaceae	Gaurpatha	leaves	Liver, spleen, eye and skin diseases
3	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	Acanthaceae	Kalmegh	whole plant	Stomach, cholera
4	<i>Boehrvia diffusa</i>	Nyctaginaceae	Patharchatta	whole plant	Urinary troubles and kidney stone
5	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	Fabaceae	Girmala	Fruit (pod)	Constipation and diabetes
6	<i>Cocculus vilosus</i>	Manispermaceae	Jaljamni	Leaves	Urinary troubles
7	<i>Croton tiglium</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Jamalgota	Seed	Asthma
8	<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i>	Convolvulaceae	Amarbel	Leaves	Leucoderma
9	<i>Evolvulus alsenoids</i>	Convolvulaceae	Shankhpushpi	Leaves	Loss of memory and jaundice
10	<i>Gymnema sylvestris</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Gudmar	Leaves	Diabetes
11	<i>Helicteres isora</i>	Sterculiaceae	Marorphali	Fruit and seed	Amoebiosis
12	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>	Zygophyllaceae	Gokhru	Fruit	Urinary troubles. Haematuria
13	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>	Menispermaceae	Giloy	Dry stem and bark	Fever, urinary troubles, jaundice, syphilis, diabetes
14	<i>Withania somnifera</i>	Solanaceae	Asgandh	Dry root	Hematological problems
15	<i>Bacopa moneac</i>	Fabaceae	Jae Brahmi	Whole plants	Mental disorder
16	<i>Mucuna pruriens</i>	Fabaceae	Kivach	seeds	Male sterility.
17	<i>Sida acuta</i>	Malvaceae	Gudni	Leaves and seed	Gonorrhea, asthma.

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During investigation medicinal uses of as many as 17 plant species belonging to 13 families including *Adhatoda*, *Aloe*, *Androgrphis*, *Boehrvia*, *Cassia*, *Cocculus*, *Evolvulus*, *Gymnema*, *Withania* etc. were documented. It is evident from the data given in table 1 Sheopur district is quite rich in a ethnomedicinal plant wealth, which are used by local inhabitants for various ailments including cough, joint pain, cholera, urinary troubles, kidney stone, asthma, diabetes, fever, jaundice, syphilis, male sterility and gonorrhea, diseases of liver, skin and stomach (Nayak et al. 2000, Sharma 1990). These medicinal plants are sold to the dealers in crude drug for which they happen to be the main economic source of the tribal people. Realizing that the plant diversity of Sheopur district is a boon to the tribal people and it is emphasized that the flora should be conserved for the future generations and the tribal population should be encouraged for growing these medicinal plants on a large scale for optimizing their economic conditions. there is also an urgent need to document the indigenous knowledge about medicinal plants as existing still today in Sheopur district, Madhya Pradesh.

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