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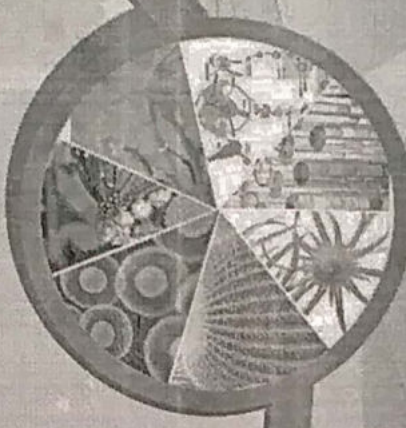
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Medicinal Uses of The Family Euphorbiaceae In Marathwada

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ABSTRACT *The ethnobotanical data obtained from the survey of Marathwada Region of two districts Latur and Beed districts. The present paper reveals some important information regarding the medicinal use of different plant parts belonging to the family Euphorbiaceae. In this study 21 plant species of Euphorbiaceae were found effective in curing some common human diseases. Mode of application of these has been provided in most of the cases. The study highlights how the local practitioners developed the art of treatment through the use of different parts of different plants as drugs and they still use them to cure their diseases.*

KEYWORDS: *Ethnobotanical, Eubhorbiaceae, local practitioners, Marathwada*

The use of plant and plant parts to cure the disease is very old concept in our country, but its execution in our country is new. The ethnobotany expresses the interrelationship between man and the plants in the past and present human societies. The term ethnobotany was first coined by Harshberger (1895) for such studies, he conceptualized ethnobotany as a science. It is an offspring of economic botanist on one hand and anthropologist on the other hand. The present survey highlight, how the biological resources found in the nature are utilized by the primitive people. The tribal people are integral part of the complex web of the plants and animals, as they exploit many plants and animals for their survival. Living close to nature they have developed close relationship with the living organism of their locality. The plants / plant community play an important role in the economic social and cultural life of the tribal. With a view to record a rich knowledge on plant drugs, the present study was undertaken to record the data regarding the drugs of plant origin as used by certain tribal, common people and the medicine men of this area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The survey of the area was conducted repeatedly and interviews of the experienced senior local practitioners called vaidhu, common men and medicine men were arranged to know the medicinal use of the plant for their daily requirements. Repeated inquiries on medicinal application of the same plant were made to different persons of Marathwada to ascertain the correctness of the information. The vaidhus studied of different areas are well known to make the different drugs derived from the plants / plant parts to cure the various human diseases. The information regarding the preparation and their application in each case was carefully recorded. Beed district has an area of 10,693Sq.km and forest area is 261Sq.km. and lies between Latitude N 18°28'-19 and Longitude E 74°54;-76°57'while Latur has an area of 7,372 Sq.km with forest area 66 Sq.km. and lies between Latitude 18°05' to 18°07' N and 73° 25' to 77° 25' E longitudes. Its climatic condition is tropical with hot summer followed by heavy rains and dry winter. The winter extends from middle of October to end of March. The coldest month is January in which temperature falls below 70C. The summer is hot, the average temperature ranges from 06-43 C. The average total annual rainfall is about 900 mm out of which nearly 80 per cent is received during rainy season (June to September). The collected plants were identified with the help of local Flora - by Naik(1998); Naik (1980) as far as possible. The doubtful specimens were further verified and their identity are confirmed at ARI, Pune and western Circle of BSI at Pune. Scattered information in the literature were also scrutinized and incorporated in our account of the taxa. Properly mounted specimens are deposited at the Herbarium of the department of Botany Deogiri College, Aurangabad.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Information regarding the medicinal applications of different parts of 24 plant species belonging to family Euphorbiaceae was obtained through the information collected from local practitioners from villages of Marathwada, common people and medicine men belonging to districts Latur and Beed. The information of plant resources has been explored earlier by Naik 1979 & 1998 in his floras. The information are tabulated and confirmed on the basis of personal inquiries made from time to time for the last three years. In most of the cases the medicinal applications of the plants have not been recorded earlier. It is suggested to screen out the medicinal plants recorded to study their active principle and to ascertain their usefulness and application given by the local people, as the information may not be always very authentic. Well known taxonomist of this area Dr V.N.Naik(1998) has published Maharashtra's samanya Vanaushadi was also very much useful during this exploration.. However, it is right time to pay more attention to the plant treasure and to make systematic studies into this almost unexplored territory.

Much emphasis should also be given to the *in-situ* conservation of these medicinal plants. Due to over exploitation, habitat modification and environmental stress, a perceptible change is sometimes noticed in the growth patterns and regeneration strategies of plants. *In-situ* conservation of medicinal plants is highly desired along with their habitats. It is hoped that the information recorded will be helpful to the plant chemists and pharmacologists. The present investigation also covers the medicinal plants distribution and the actual frequency of occurrence.

Table 1: Some medicinal plants of the family Euphorbiaceae employed by Local practitioners of Marathwada region.

Sr. No.	Name of Taxa	Local Names	Medicinal application
	<i>Acalypha indica</i> Linn.	Khokali	The paste of the whole plant is applied externally on ulcers, cuts and burns. The decoction of the plant mixed with jaggery is used for cold and cough and also in rheumatic complaints
	<i>Acalypha malabarica</i> Muell.Arg		Purgative property
	<i>Acalypha wilkesiana</i> Muell.Arg		Purgative property
	<i>Baliospermum montanum</i> (Willd.) Muell.-Arg.	Danti, Nakli Jamal Ghota	The decoction of leaves is given at bedtime in the treatment of whooping cough and asthma. The seeds are purgative.
	<i>Bridelia airyshawli</i> P.T.Li	Asan, Katka	Khaja - Bark is useful in rheumatism. The decoction of tender leaves and twigs is administered along with cow milk for rapid calcification of fractured bone.
	<i>Chrozophora rotleri</i> (Geis) A. Juss.ex Spreng	Suryakanti, Pathar phod	Root ashes-is given to children in cold and cough. Seeds are used in Constipation. The plant is used in the treatment of paralysis. Roots used in Tooth ache.
	<i>Croton bonplandianum</i> Baill		Latex is used to cure nail diseases. Leaves are used for sprain in the form of poultice.
	<i>Emblica officinalis</i> Gaertn.	Avla, Amla	The dried fruit is useful in the treatment of diarrhoea, dysentery, jaundice, haemorrhage, asthma, rheumatism, bronchitis and tuberculosis
	<i>Euphorbia antiquorum</i> L.		Latex of the branches is purgative, used in rheumatism, toothache, dropsy and deafness
	<i>Euphorbia dracunculoides</i> Lanmk.	Pisola	Fruits paste applied externally to cure warts. • The seed oil is used externally in the treatment of gout, rheumatism, ophthalmia. • The seed oil is externally used for ophthalmia and internally for digestive disorder.
	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> Linn.	Dudhani, Dudhnali	The root is considered as an anti-dote to snake venom. • Whole plant is used for the treatment of jaundice. • The latex of the plant is regarded anti-cancerous.
	<i>Euphorbia neriifolia</i> Linn.		Latex is useful in the treatment of asthma.
	<i>Euphorbia thymifolia</i> Linn.	Chhoti Dudhi	The paste of the leaves is bandaged on wounds for quick healing. The powder of entire plant is an effective medicine in the treatment of gonorrhoea.

			Root and leaves are also antidysentric.
<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i> Willd	Lall Patta		Latex is used as Purgative.
<i>Euphorbia tirucalli</i> L.	Sher		Latex used in injuries.
<i>Jatropha curcas</i> Linn.	Mogali erand		Seed oil is a good laxative. The seed oil is also used externally in the treatment of rheumatism.
<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> Linn.			Juice of the leaves is used to cure sores on the tongue of babies. Leaves powder is used as purgative. Latex is beneficially applied externally on burns.
<i>Jatropha multifida</i> L.	Chini erand		Treatment of Mice and wounds
<i>Mallotus philippinensis</i> Muell-Arg.	Shendri, Kapila		Powder found on the fruit is used for drying wounds. Fruit Juice along with goat milk is given once daily for three days to lessen the sugar content in urine.
<i>Mallotus nudiflorus</i> (L.) Kulju & Welzen (<i>Trewia nudiflora</i> L.)	Petari		Poultice in gout and rheumatism.
<i>Phyllanthus maderaspatensis</i> Linn.			Leaves are used in headache. Seeds are carminative, diuretic and laxative.
<i>Phyllanthus acidus</i> (L)Skeels	Rai Awala		Roots purgative Fruits astringent
<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i> Schumach. & Thonn.	Bhui Awla		Anti-septic, diuretic, treatment of jaundice, diarrhoea, dysentery, wound and ulcers
<i>Ricinus communis</i> Linn.	Arand, Rendi.		The leaves are used in the treatment of jaundice. A poultice of the root is applied externally in tonsillitis. A poultice of seeds is applied with beneficial result to gouty and rheumatic swellings. Castor oil is highly purgative. Root - externally applied for memory abscesses

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