



Review Article

ETHNOMEDICINAL PLANTS USED FOR TREATING SCORPION STING AND SNAKE BITE POISON BY THE TRIBES OF RAHATGAON, HARDA

C Sreelatha Kutty¹

¹Dept of Botany, Govt. Degree College Timarni, India

Correspondence should be addressed to C Sreelatha Kutty

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ABSTRACT

The present study mainly focuses on the study of Indigenous Herbal Remedies used for treating poison of scorpion sting and snake bite by tribal communities of Rahatgaon of District Harda, in Madhya Pradesh. The present study is based upon the ethno botanical studies on two tribal communities of Gond and Korku. Tribal healers utilize several local available plants in ethno-medicinal practices. Present paper reports the use of 23 species of plants used by the tribal communities remedy for animal poison.

KEY WORDS: Medicinal plants, tribes, scorpion sting, snake bite

INTRODUCTION

Madhya Pradesh, the home of many tribal harbors a large number of indigenous plant species. Nearly one fourth of the total population of the state is tribal. However, a number of these tribal are giving up old customs, beliefs, traditional medicine, food habits, rituals and folklores as consequences of modern development. They rely on herbal remedies as a principal means of preventing and curing illnesses and following traditional system of medicine. There are several advantages to such systems, the plants involved are readily available, easy to transport, and do not spoil quickly. This work concentrates on potential ethno medicinal value of plants commonly used by the tribal residing in and around Rahatgaon of the area surveyed. The area of exploration lies in the Central part of Madhya Pradesh at Harda district at 22°14'N to 22°24'N latitude and 77°13'E to 77°23'E longitude.

Rahatgaonis a small town in Harda District of Madhya Pradesh. It lies about 22 km south of Harda and about 50 km east of Harsud. In the south hill region of Rahatgaon we can find the Tribal, 'Gond' and 'Korku' people. Previously in the south region there was 'Makdai' rule and the 'Gond' king was the ruler. The 'Bihola' village was the developed

'Rajaswa' center in 'Mugal'. Although ethnobotanically this region is under exploration, but still a vast area remains untouched due to the displacement of the original population. A perusal of literature revealed that some work has been done on ethnomedicinal plants of Madhya Pradesh Rai and Shukla (2004 a,b&c), Pandey (2000), Rai *et al.* (2000) and Arjariya and Chaurasia (2008). The present study aims to identify and prepare an inventory of various medicinal plants used for scorpion sting and snake bite.

MATERIALS & METHODS

A survey was carried out during 2014 to 2015 to collect information on the medicinal uses of plants found in the Korku and Gond inhabited villages of Rahatgaon. While collecting information on ethno medicinal plants special attention was paid to record information from local Vaidyas, Ojhas and Guniyas and traditional herbal healers. The information was documented involving field study by contacting and interviewing vaidas, ojhas for plants used to cure scorpion sting and snake bite. Information was gathered through semi-structured interviews that were held with selected knowledgeable elders. At the end of each interview, plant specimens were collected, dried, identified

and preserved (Jain and Rao 1977). Samples of recorded herbs, shrubs and trees were identified with the help of local floras and previous literature (Naik 1998 a & b). Plant based remedies were presented with botanical name of species followed by local name, parts used and ethno medical uses. A total of 15 knowledgeable traditional medicine practitioners (between 32-70 yrs) were chosen with the assistance of local administrators and community leaders served as key informants.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The present study also revealed that the tribal communities living in the same region have their own traditional ethnobotanical knowledge. The methods used for curing diseases have been found to be different from one community to other. This is because of their socio-economic structure, ancient traditional knowledge and beliefs. Their livelihood is totally dependent on ecological surroundings and they use simple technology to sustain their life, which seems totally conservative. In the present investigation total 23 plant species belonging to 20 families are used as herbal medicine for the detoxicating scorpion sting and snake bite.

- *Achyranthes aspera* Linn., Syn. *A. porphyristachya* Wall. ex Moquin. (Latjira) Amaranthaceae: Paste of root is applied externally in snake bite
- *Acanthospermum hispidum* (Bichiya Kanta) Asteraceae: Plant is used in scorpion sting.
- *Allium cepa* Linn. (Kanda) Liliaceae: Crushed bulb paste is used with salt to relief from poison of scorpion.
- *Allium sativum* Linn. (Lasun) Alliaceae: Oil is applied on scorpion sting.
- *Annona squamosa* Linn. (Sitaphal) Annonaceae : Bark juice is given as an antidote for snakebite.
- *Butea monosperma* (Lamk.) Tolbert., Syn. *B. frondosa* Koenig. ex Roxb. (Palas) Fabaceae: Seed powder is applied in scorpion sting.
- *Cissampelos pariera* L., Syn. *C. hirsuta* Buch. Ham. ex DC. (Karu Pahad) Menispermaceae: The root of the plant is used in snakebite.
- *Clematis triloba* Linn. (Badarsiti) Ranunculaceae: Crushed leaves applied on snake bite wounds.
- *Diospyros melanoxylon* Roxb., Syn. *D. exculpta* Buch-Ham. (Tendu) Ebenaceae: Paste of the root is applied externally in scorpion sting. The fruits are used orally also in scorpion sting. *Embelia ribes* (Baividang) Myrsinaceae: Seeds are used as antidote to snake bite.
- *Emblica officinalis* Gaertn., Syn. *E. phyllanthus* Linn. (Amla) Euphorbiaceae: Juice of leaves is given to cure scorpion stings
- *Gloriosa superba* (Kalihari) Colchicaceae: The rhizome of the plants is used in scorpion sting and snake bite.
- *Gymnema sylvestris* (Retz.) R. Br. ex Roem. and Schult. (Gurmar) Asclepiadaceae: The root is held in repute as a remedy for snake bite.
- *Hoiarrhena pubescens* Buch. Ham. Wall. ex G. Don (Pandhara Kula) Apocynaceae: Seeds are eaten in snake bite.
- *Leucas aspera* Link., Syn. *L. plukenetii* (Roth.) Spreng. (Gopha) Lamiaceae: The decoction of

crushed leaves is given through nostrils to cure snake bite.

- *Mitragyna parviflora* (Roxb.) Korth., Syn. *Stephegyne parvifolia* Korth. (Mundi) Rubiaceae: Root grind with water and extract given orally in the treatment of snake bite.
- *Oroxylum indicum* L. Venten. (Motha nagdawna) Bignoniaceae: A piece of pod is alexeritic to snake bite.
- *Rauvolfia serpentina* (Sarpagandha) Apocynaceae: Leaves are used for the treatment of snakebite.
- *Ruta graveolens* (Sitab) Rutaceae: The herb is planted near the houses to repel snakes.
- *Sansevieria verginianum* L. (Dorali) Solanaceae: Leaf powder is alexeritic to snake bite.
- *Sida rhombifolia* (Atibala): Malvaceae: Bark paste is used as antidote to snake venom.
- *Solanum indicum* Linn. (Kushmi) Solanaceae: The leaf paste is applied on the wound inflicted by a black snake.
- *Tamarindus indica* Linn. (Jamun) Caesalpiniaceae: Seed paste applied on site of scorpion bite.

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