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Important Ethnomedicinal plants used by the Muria Tribes of Bastar for the treatment of snake bite

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Abstract

Ethnomedicinal study have received desired attention during last 2-3 decades. A large number of tribal population of Bastar is living in forest pockets. The tribal of Bastar depend on their traditional healing system for there health care. The tribals are the main source of information on ethnomedicinal plants. This indigeneous knowledge is being transferred from geeneration to generation in the tribal community. During last few decades, several new drugs have been discovered from the sources of aboriginal societies. the information abour medicinal plants among the tribal people must be tapped before it disappear. Bastar the biggest district of Chhattisgarh is peopled by many tribes. The present study deals with some ethnomedicinal plants used for the treatment of snake bite by Muria tribe Bastar, Chhattisgarh.

Key words : Ethnomedicinal plants, snake bite, Muria tribe.

The tribal belt of India is rich in ethnomedicinal wealth and local tribes mainly depend for their livelyhood in those plants. Over the last few decades, a large number of ethnobotanical investigation has been conducted in the region and information has been collected on the local use of a large number of plants. India is one of the great emporium of ethnobotanical wealth. Janki Ammal (1955) was first who ventured on the ethnobotanical study of subsistent foood plants of certain tribe of South India. Like wise wealth of India : A dictionary of India Raw materials and Industrial Product (CSIR 1948 - 1976) has also become a reference source of ethnobotanical informations. Jain and his associate carried out organised studies among the tribes of Central Indial Jain[7,8,9]. The earliest written record of the preparation and use of medicine from plants is in the 'Rigveda' the earliest scripture of the Hindus (4500-1600 BC). The vedic Aryans were familier with abour 100 medicinal plants. The Charak Samhita, an encyclopedia of Indian medicines, published at Varanasi between 1000 B.C. and 100 A.D., is a comprehensive record of medicinal plants and their uses. Over 7000 different species of plants found in different

ecosystems are said to be used for medicinal purposes in our country. Tribal belt of India is rich in these plant and local tribes mainly depend for their livelihood over the last few decades, a large number of ethnobitanical investigation has been conducted in the region and information has been collected on the local use of a large number of plants. Excellent work on herbal remedies among the tribals of Madhya Pradesh was carried out by Jain[7], Chaghtai *et al*.[3], Jain and Singh[9] Dwivedi *et al.*[5], Verma *et al*.[10]. The knowledge of herbal drugs, used in snake bite is scanty and hence discrete[6]. Snake bite is an important cause of morbidity and mortility[2] is one of the major health problem in India. Conservative sources estimate that the number of accidents globally reach one million, resulting in 6,00,000 envenomations and more than 2,00,000 cases are reported and an estimated 35,000 to 50,000 people die each year[1]. The present study is based on the plant species used for the treatment of snake bite.

Bastar district lies at the extreme south east corner of chhatishgarh between 17.46 and 20.14" north 180.1" east. It area according to survey oflndia is 13,725 square miles. Verrier Elwin concludes the word Muria used in bastar to mean generally an aboriginal. In this sense it has long been applied by district officials to all the primitive tribes except . The Muria of the Abujhmar. The Muria is not gondy word. It has been suggested that the name Muria' has been derived from 'mur' the palas tree, or from 'mur' root, the term meaning aboriginal. Mur may also mean 'Permanent' as in Mur poder, a permanent or regular name as opposed to nick name. The Muria in contrast to the hill Maria have permanent settlements and dwelling. .'

The Jagdalpur Muria or raja Muria don't' attract people attention as they have lost most of their aboriginal nature. They are now most civilized amongst tribes of Bastar. The Ghotuls around Jagdalpur are not prevalent perhap due to the fact they might be considering themselves superior over other.

Jhoria Muria are localiz,ed around kondagaon and Antagarh. Records indicate their percentage from Mariaof the Abujhmar. Maria of the Abujhmar are still wandering tribes but Jhoria have settled in plains. Their dressing is same as other Murias.

Ghotul Muria name after their tradition of Ghotuls, have settled around north Kondagoun and A tagarh. Ghotul are -the clubs of their social customs to train they young Murias which still exists.

To prosecute the studies in a systematic and logical manner a methodology was evolved to prepare the primary notes and then to keep the information on its right place. A number of places very often and were visited. Though a number of folk claims related with plants are common but in this paper only those information's are included whose medicinal validity was confirmed at various intervals and at various places. The transparencies and the records of the personal interviews of the persons concerned were made and the herbarium record of the species was also maintained.

Enumeration of Plants

1. *Clemetis triloba* Heyne ex Roth
   Local Name - Jangali Bhoda
   Bendar Siti
   Habit - Herb
   Family - Ranunculaceae
   Flowering - September - November
   Fruiting - November - January
   Local Uses - Root is used in snake bite.

2. *Cissampelos pariera* Linn.
   Local Name - Patha
   Habit - Herb
   Flowering - July - September
   Fruiting - October - December
   Local Uses - Root is used in snake bite.

3. *Clitoria ternatea* Linn.
   Local Name - Aparajita
   Habit - Herb
   Family - Papilionaceae
   Flowering - July - October
   Fruiting - September - December
   Local Uses - Root is used in snake bite.

4. *Cassia tora* Linn.
   Local Name - Chokora, Chakunda
   Habit - Herb
   Family - Ranunculaceae
   Flowering - September - November
   Fruiting - November - January
   Local Uses - Root is used in snake bite.

5. *Elephantopus scaber* Linn.
   Local Name - Bajrang Buti
   Habit - Herb
   Family - Compositae
   Flowering - September - November
   Fruiting - October - December
   Local Uses - Root is used in snake bite.

6. *Heliotropium strigosum* Willd.
   Local Name - Muta
   Habit - Herb
   Family - Boragenaceae
   Flowering - throughout the year
   Fruiting -
   Local Uses - Plant dicoction is used in snake bite.

7. *Oroxylum indicum* Linn.
   Local Name - Nagphani
   Habit - tree
   Family - Bignoniaceae
   Flowering - June and August
   Fruiting - December - March
   Local Uses - Seed is used in snake bite.

8. *Boerhaavia diffusa* Linn.
   Local Name - Punarnava, Dabbal bhaji
   Habit - Herb
   Family - Nucataginaceae
   Flowering - in rainy season
   Fruiting - September
   Local Uses - Root is used in snake bite.

9. *Dioscorea oppositifolia* Linn.
   Local Name - Kirchi Kanda, Kirchmoti
   Habit - Herb
   Family - Hypoxidaceae
   Flowering - August - October
   Fruiting - November - Decembe
   Local Uses - Timber is used in snake bite.

10. *Plasmonium margaritiforum* Schott
    Local Name - Muchodi kanda
    Habit - Herb
    Family - Araceal
    Flowering - May - June
    Fruiting -
    Local Uses - Tuber is used in snake bite.

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