

LESS KNOWN USES OF SOME PLANTS FROM THE TRIBAL AREAS OF ORISSA

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ABSTRACT

Ethnobotanical studies of Orissa revealed that most of the uses of plants by the tribals are not usually known to the other people. The present paper therefore deals with such uses of thirty eight plants collected during ethnobotanical tours in Orissa State.

INTRODUCTION

Orissa is one of the important States of India. The topography, climate and rainfall are quite favourable for rich vegetation. On one side there are sea coasts with temperate climate, while a large portion of the State is covered with hills and forests which yield a large number of plants of economic importance.

The State occupies second position among the States of India from the point of tribal concentration. There are sixty scheduled tribes in this State, out of which Kondh is the largest group. They occupy the seventh place in population amongst the scheduled tribes in India. This State has therefore been chosen for ethnobotanical studies. Several field trips were undertaken which revealed that the tribals are using the plant wealth of their surroundings for various purposes, but their mode of uses is restricted to their community only and not much known to others. The present paper therefore envisages the uses of thirty-eight plant materials by Kondh, Saora and Bhumij of Orissa from medicinal and food points of view—most of which are not reported earlier.

The plants are arranged alphabetically by their botanical names which follows the families, local names and locality from where

these informations were collected and noted. In most cases local "Kui" and 'Kuvi' names of the plant species were cited. It is a special dialect of the Kondh community, having Dravidian origin. But Saora and Bhumij use mixed Oriya and Mundari language.

The abbreviations used in this paper are as follows: K=Kondh (Kui & Kuvi); S=Saora, B=Bhumij.

Achyranthes aspera Linn. (Amaranthaceae)

K—*Rusabadui*.

Rupkona, Koraput.

The root paste with cold water is given to stop bleeding after abortion. It is prescribed for three days from the date of abortion. The root paste is also given for easy delivery.

Ageratum conyzoides Linn. (Compositae)

K—*Boksu-hasel*.

Rupkona, Koraput.

The leaf juice with the "Nim oil"—*Azadirachta indica* (K—*Nim-daru*) is externally applied in skin diseases. Leaf paste is applied in fresh cuts to stop bleeding. It also acts as an antiseptic.

Alangium salvifolium (Linn. f.) Wang (Alangiaceae)

K—*Dhala*; *Ankola*.

Bipariguda, Koraput.

The juice of the leaf mixed with common salt is applied in eye sore.

Amorphophalus campanulatus Blume (Ara-
ceae)

K—*Olaka*; *Godagaria*.

Panigunda, Orissa.

Wild corm is scraped on the prickled branch of *Erythrina ovalifolia* (K—*Hari-palas*). The scraped material is washed in salted water and dried in sun. The powder made out of it is taken with boiled rice as food.

Anogeissus acuminata Wall. (Combretaceae)

K—*Gora-hasel*; *Dhora*.

Jeypore, Koraput.

The bark of the plant is used orally with the fruit of *Terminalia chebula* (K—*Hara*) and common salt to increase appetite.

Antidesma diandrum Roth (Euphorbiaceae)

K—*Mata-sura*; *Cellkani*.

Rupkona, Koraput.

The mixture of leaf and root paste is prescribed orally to the patient suffering from blood dysentery.

Argyrea nervosa Burm. f. Boj.

K—*Gagudi*; *Fudrimal*.

Ramgiri, Orissa.

The plant paste is prescribed orally for easy and safe delivery of cow. Ashram school boys reported that the leaves are eaten.

Asparagus racemosus Willd. (Liliaceae)

K—*Painasaperi*; *Painajapri*.

Malkangiri, Orissa.

The fresh root is used for the preparation of "Ranu" (Tablet for fermentation). The juice from the fresh root is given orally in dysentery. The root is pounded with superficial red root of *Smilax proliifera* (K—*Rai-pan*) and is prescribed as drink to cure urinary disorder as well as discharge of blood in the urine. Externally the root paste is applied to the wound in feet caused by snail's shell.

Hygrophila auriculata (Schumae) Heine

K—*Kikiri-gacha*,

Tanguli-guda, Orissa.

The leaf paste is applied externally in body pain. The fresh twigs are eaten as sag. The leaf extract is given orally in swellings of the body. It is also used in jaundice.

Barleria cristata Linn. (Acanthaceae)

B—*Morani*.

Baipariguda, Koraput.

The paste of the root is applied in the tooth-pain. The plant is pasted with the oil of *Pongamia glabra* (K—*Karanjo* oil) and applied to the swellings in legs. A mixture of plant paste and the oil of *Ricinus communis* (K—*Kasra* oil) is applied in body pain.

Bauhinia retusa Ham. (Caesalpiniaceae)

K—*Bagvera*; *Sabidanka*.

Ladrimi, Mohana, Orissa.

The seeds are fried with the flowers of *Madhuca indica* (K—*Mohul*). The cake prepared out of it is roasted after wrapping in the leaves of *Bauhinia vahlii* (K—*Vahali*). It is presented as a token of love by the spinisters to the boy friends after dance and at the time of disperse.

Bridelia retusa Spreng (Euphorbiaceae)

K—*Manga*.

Ladrimi, Orissa.

The pounded bark is mixed with the decoction of the plant gum and the mixture is prescribed orally for 2-3 days after menstruation for complete infertility.

Caesalpinia pulcherrima (Linn.) Swartz. (Caesalpiniaceae)

K—*Puraiphul*.

Sipai-pur, Potangi, Orissa.

The decoction of the fresh seeds is given in pain due to gum inflammation. The seed paste with common salt is also applied in ring worm. The pasted flower is orally prescribed as febrifuge and in body pain.

Calotropis gigantea (Linn.) Br. (Asclepiada-
ceae)

K—*Palta-dudhe*, *Araliha*.

Srikona, Koraput.

The root is pounded in water and wine is prepared from *Madhuca indica* (K—*Mohul*)

flowers. The mixture is applied externally in wounds of the patients suffering from leprosy. It is also prescribed in leprosy.

Careya arborea Roxb. (Lecythidaceae)

K—*Kumbi*.

Sinkulipadar, Orissa.

The paste from the bark is applied in cuts and in sores.

Cocculus hirsutus (Linn.) Diels (Menispermaceae)

K—*Kamana-maradari*.

Srikona, Orissa.

The leaf extract with cold water is applied on head for its cooling effect. The juice of the leaf is also used in leucorrhoea.

Crotalaria linifolia Linn. (Papilionaceae)

K—*Korsa*.

Devadola, Rayagada, Orissa.

The plant is pasted with common salt and is applied externally to the wounds of the cattle to remove the maggot from the wounds.

Croton oblongifolius Roxb. (Euphorbiaceae)

K—*Asoka*.

B—*Tora-haser*; *Kuli-haser*.

Sriguda, Koraput.

The paste of the old leaves are externally applied twice daily for boils. The root of the plant is pasted with the bark of *Calotropis gigantea* (K—*Araliha*) and applied to the legs for getting relief from pain due to sprain.

Cryptolepis buchanani Roem. & Schult. (Periplocaceae)

K—*Andatia*.

Ladrimi, Mohana, Orissa.

The latex is applied with cold water to cure rheumatic pain in knees. Small pieces of root are kept in the juice of *Caryota urens* (K—*Salpa*) for fermentation and country liquor is prepared from it.

Dalbergia lanceolaris Linn. f. (Papilionaceae)

K—*Kuralada*.

Sriguda, Orissa.

The branches are used as tooth brush.

Dendrophthoe falcata (Linn. f.) Etting (Loranthaceae). (*Loranthus longiflorus* Desr.)

K—*Vahalia-banda*; *Madang*.

Srikona, Orissa.

The decoction of the epiphyte with *Se-mecarpus anacardium* (K—*Sosa-daru*) is used in rheumatism. The powder of the stem is applied in wounds.

Dioscorea pentaphylla Linn. (Dioscoreaceae)

K—*Kauda*.

Sriguda, Orissa.

The paste of the tuber is applied in bone fracture. After application the affected portion is wrapped by the leaves of *Bauhinia vahlii* (K—*Vahali*) and is tied with the bark of the same plant. Every three days the paste is changed.

Eclipta prostrata (Linn.) Linn. (Compositae)

K—*Banda Kanda*; *Kamri*.

Mohana, Orissa.

The juice from the fresh leaf is mixed with "Nim oil"—*Azadirachta indica* (K—*Nim-daru*) and is applied to promote the growth of hairs. The juice of the leaf with common salt is used in eye trouble.

Elephantopus scaber Linn. (Compositae)

S—*Dailu-di-hager*; *Phudua-hast*.

Simkulipadar, Rupkona, Koraput, Orissa.

Dugria, an old man of 65 years reported that the decoction of roots along with the roots of *Hemidesmus indicus* (K—*Tajamala*) and of *Piper nigrum* (K—*Marich*) is given in gonorrhoea.

The plant pasted with *Athyrium filix-femina* (K—*Elundhari*) and mixed with sugar is prescribed twice daily to the patients suffering from tetanus. The paste without sugar is applied externally in rheumatism.

Eragrostis gangetica (Roxb.) Steud. (Poaceae)

K—*Panighas*.

Srikona, Orissa.

The root after washing is pounded with mustard oil (*Brassica nigra*) (K—*Kobi*) and the mixture is applied after warming in cases of rheumatism of the legs.

Eupatorium odoratum Linn. (Compositae)K—*Zamlu*.

Mohana, Orissa.

The green leaf juice is applied in fresh cuts.

Glycosmis pentaphylla (Retz.) DC. (Rutaceae)K—*Rasgundi*.

Mohana, Orissa.

The root paste with water is applied externally 2-3 times daily to women in post-delivery pain.

Gnaphalium luteo-album Linn. (Compositae)B—*Dudhi*.

Baipariguda, Orissa.

The whole plant or root is pasted and applied on the breast for lactation. The root is also tied in neck for same purpose.

Hibiscus mutabilis Linn. (Malvaceae)K—*Podama*.

Rupkona, Orissa.

The flowers are eaten as blood purifier.

Hyptis suaveolens (Linn.) Poit. (Labiatae)K—*Gandhu-phul*.

Panigunda, Orissa.

The juice of the leaf is applied in cuts to stop bleeding and for healing wounds. The branches repel bed bugs. The stem is used as tooth brush.

Jatropha curcas Linn.K—*Jaradumba*.

Dhamanguda, Orissa.

In pain of joints, young branches, warmed in fire act as a foment. The joint is also covered with the leaves of *Calotropis gigantea* (K—*Araliha*).

Ludwigia octovalvis (Jacq.) Ravea subsp. *sessiliflora* (Mlch.) Romer. (Onagraceae)K—*Datiju*.

Rupkona, Orissa.

The whole plant is pounded with *Trichodesma indicum* (K—*Jordhakoda*) and is applied in wound on toes and feet.

Leucus lavandulaefolia Sm. (Labiatae)K—*Tumbi*.

Devadola, Raygoda, Orissa.

The mucilage of the seeds (2-3) removes foreign particles from the eyes. In dyspepsia the paste of the plant is applied externally. The flowers mixed with alum and kept in a clean cloth is prescribed for inhalation to cure "Adhkapala" (one sided headache).

Limonia acidissima Linn. (Rutaceae)K—*Bimut*.

Baipariguda, Orissa.

Pounded root is applied in body pain. After heating, the stem is cut into pieces and put in drinks of *Caryota urens* (K—*Salpa*), to increase fermentation.

Mucuna prurita Hook. (Papilionaceae)K—*Sell-kani*.

Rupakona, Orissa.

The root paste of the plant is prescribed orally to patients suffering from blood dysentery.

Phyllanthus fraternus Webster (Euphorbiaceae)Syn. *Phyllanthus niruri* Linn.K—*Bhumalati*.

Devaloda, Rayagoda, Orissa.

The leaf juice is mixed with the fermented liquor from the seeds of *Eleusine corocana* (K—*Mankia*) and is applied in eruptions due to allergy.

Thespesia lampas Dalz & Gibs. (Malvaceae)K—*Khuti-gach*.

Rayagada, Orissa.

The stem of the plant is mixed with dried powder of green mango (*Mangifera indica*) (K—*Amo*) and is prescribed with slight sugarcandy to cure acidity.

Thunbergia grandiflora (Roxb. ex Rottl.)

Roxb. (Acanthaceae)

K—*Chota-ganti*.

Kashimpur, Orissa.

The plant is pasted with the oil of *Sesamum indicum* (K—*Pitilme*) and is applied externally to cure septic wound.

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