

RESEARCH REPORT**Some medicinal plants of Panhala taluka used as Antidotes****Soman Gauri***Dept of Botany, Maharshi Dayanand College, Parel, Mumbai 400012, India.**Address for correspondence Email id: drgssoman@rediffmail.com***Manuscript details:**

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ABSTRACT

Panhala taluka lies in the Sahyadri ranges of Western Ghats of Maharashtra state 16°48'o" N and 78°8'o" E. It is characterized by black rocky basalt to reddish yellow coloured soil, with dense dry semi evergreen to moist deciduous type of forest. It is enriched with lush green hills, diversified flora and fauna. There are 130 villages situated within the taluka, most of them in remote rural areas. The local people dwelling there make use of traditional knowledge to cure local ailments. The paper deals with medicinal plants used by these locals for treatment of snakebites and scorpionbites. The data on ethnomedicinal plants is on the verge of extinction and special efforts are required for documentation, conservation and sustainable utilization of these plants. So a survey was carried out to collect valuable information on traditional medicinal plants. The information regarding use of plants, their botanical names and local names is described in this paper.

Keywords: Panhala, Western Ghats, Ethno-medicinal plants, Antidotes.

INTRODUCTION

Ethnobotany is a branch of economic botany which deals with the role of plants in the life of tribal people. A number of tribal communities live in the remote areas of our country (Gadgil and Vartak, 1981). In the dense forest pockets nature has been so kind that for thousands of years it has been possible for these tribals to live and rely on plants and plant products (Vartak, 1982) They are dependent on plants for their basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing and essential amenity including medicines (Vartak and Gadgil, 1980) The tribals are using traditional medicine system for centuries. This branch of ethnobotany is termed as Ethnomedicine (Vartak *et al.*, 1987).

Ethnomedicine has become an interdisciplinary science. Ethnomedicinal claims may aid in finding novel lead molecules for welfare of mankind and the data can be useful for further scientific investigations (Jain *et al.*, 1989). Scientists are now well convinced that ethnomedicinal claims can be successfully utilized as focal points for development of new resources in medical sciences (Jain *et al.*, 1989).

India is endowed with rich wealth of medicinal plants. The indigenous traditional knowledge transmitted orally for generations is rapidly disappearing due to advent of modern technology and transformation of traditional culture botany in the process of urbanization (Mohan and Singh, 1996). Ethnomedicinal botany has become a well recognized subject in European and American Universities (Gadgil and Vartak, 1981) Research institutes are encouraging various exploration in this institutes are encouraging various exploration in his field. However in India not much efforts have been made to develop these studies despite the fact that ethnomedicinal wealth in India is nearly four times more than these countries (Gaikwad and Bhanu *et al.*, 1990). That is the significant reason why research in this field should be undertaken, otherwise there is every possibility that the valuable data on ethnomedicine will be lost in near future.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area : Panhala is a famous hill fort village taluka/ town 3127 ft above sea level in the Sahyadri ranges. It is located 16° 48' North and 74° 8' East, 20 km from Kolhapur, in Maharashtra, India (Upadhye *et al.*, 1986). It is characterized by dense dry semi evergreen to moist deciduous type of forest. The average rainfall is 75" to 80" per year. The temperature ranges from 34.4°C maximum to 18°C minimum in winter. It is enriched with lush green hills, beautiful landscape, fauna and flora. There are more than three thousand trees including fruits, flower, foliage, ornamental garden plants, grasses and medicinal plants. Panhala has not only been gifted with lush green cool nature, birds, fresh air and calm atmosphere but a place with great history blessed by Shivaji Maharaj. It is endowed by natural beauty with

many lakes like Someshwar, Sadhoba, Shivtirth, Nimajaja and gardens like Mayur Garden, Gopaltirth Garden, Tabak Van Udayan Teen Darwaja Udyan etc. Its historical importance coupled with being a hill station made it to be established and a taluka place. There are 130 villages situated within this taluka with a total area of 56,867.35 sq.kms. It includes many rural areas and many villages are impassable and remote (Shimpale, 2004). Because of rich fertile soil and good rainfall farming is the main occupation. Not only for food but they (local villagers) rely heavily on plants for their health care. Most of the local people make use of traditional knowledge and use different parts and products of the medicinal plants to cure local ailments such as cold, cough fever, jaundice, snake and scorpion bites, cuts wounds, burns, feminine problems etc. The following paper deals with plants used as antidotes.

Several surveys were conducted through regular field trips in different villages and padas in the area under study. A prior consent was obtained from the knowledge providers at each location. The information on medicinal plants was collected through frequent interviews with the local physician practicing indigenous medicine (Vaidus) villagers and local elderly folk.

The field observations included local names, uses, habitats and supportive specimens of folklore claims. The data obtained during these excursions is documented and compiled in a systematic study (Chopra *et al.*, 1969)

RESULTS

The list of ethnomedicinal plants with their local name, botanical name habit, part used, family and medicinal uses are given table 1.

Table 1: List of Ornamentals and weeds from Brahmala Lake Garden, Thane

Sr. no.	Plant Name	Family	Habit	Parts use
1	<i>Tamarindus indica</i> Linn (Chinch)	Fabaceae	Medium bushy tree	Seed, Bark : Seed is rubbed on a stone in a few drops of water till the skin comes off. This part of the seed is applied on scorpion sting
2	<i>Mangifera indica</i> Linn (Aamba)	Anacardiaceae	Evergreen tree	Bark, Gum oozing out from the tree is applied on scorpion bite.
3	<i>Alangium salvifolium</i> (L.F.) Wang (Ankol)	Alangiaceae	Tall thorny tree	Root: Infusion of root mixed with ghee is given in the treatment of dog bites. Decoction of root is used as antidote against various poisons (Snakebite, Scorpion Bite etc.)
4	<i>Aristolochia bracteata</i> Linn (Kidamari)	Aristolochiaceae	Herbaceous Vine	Root, Leaves: Pinch of root powder in water used for snake bite (Cobra)

Table 1: Continues...

Sr. No.	Plant Name	Family	Habit	Part use
5	Pongamia pinnata Pierre (Karanj)	Fabaceae	Deciduous tree	Roots, Seeds: Decoction of the roots applied on dog bite.
6	Uraria Picta Desv (Pithvan)	Fabaceae	Tall herb	Root: 2 inches long root crushed in one cup of water-strained. One cup of strained water is given once on all snake bites.
7	Bryonopsis laciniosa Linn (Shivlangi)	Cucurbitaceae	Herbaceous climber	Seeds: Powder of the seeds in water is given in treatment of snake-bite (saw scaled viper – phonsom)
8	Moringa concanensis Nimo (Kadu Shevga)	Moringaceae	Deciduous tree	Gum: Paste of the gum in water is applied locally on scorpion sting
9	Operculina trupethum Linn (Nishotar)	Convolvulaceae	Herbaceous vine	Extract of the roots one cup water – given in treatment of snake bite.
10	Rungia repens Nees (Ghatipitt)	Acanthaceae	Herbaceous Creeper	Whole Plant: One whole plant is crushed - kept in water for 15 mins, One cup followed by another cup after one hour – given for any snakebite.
11	Corchorus capsularis Linn (Chaunchan)	Tiliaceae	Tall Annual Herb	Seeds: Pinch of seeds eaten – for 5 mins- till person vomits the poison- for any snake bite.

CONCLUSION

The rapid intrusion of modern civilization into forest areas due to urbanization is leading to deforestation. Therefore special efforts should be made to collect, record and store the valuable data on Ethnomedicine before its extinction

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