



Ethno-Veterinary Herbal Practice in Kalakote Range, Rajouri (J&K), India

Jagbir Singh Jamwal and Shashi Kant

Department of Botany, University of Jammu, Jammu-180 006, J&K, India

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ABSTRACT

The present survey gives an account of the medicinal plants curing the diseases of ruminants. The study area is a rich repository of economically important plants. Twenty one species have been found to be useful veterinary herbal medicines for various diseases of animals in the area. There is an urgent need to document and monitor the area for more such species and it became imperative to find some conservation strategies and management practices to save this useful bio-resource of the area.

INTRODUCTION

Man has always been dependent on plants for his various needs. Plants are one of the most important sources of medicines. The rural population of India is still dependent on traditional medicines for their health care and treatment of diseases. Some ethno-veterinary studies have been made in India by Sebastian & Bhandari (1984), Jain (1991), Buch et al. (1973), Varghese (1996) and Bhat (2001) Dhandapani et al. (2007 a &b). The knowledge about the curative properties of plants might have occurred to early human quite instinctively and by experience and trial method.

Kalakote range lies between 33°10'N latitude and 74°45'E longitude in district Rajouri of Jammu & Kashmir. The area mainly constitutes inner Shivaliks. The area is undulating with moderately sloped hills. Altitude of area range from 600 m to 1070 m.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During course of the present study many local inhabitants and tribals were questioned during several field trips. In consultation with people important ethno-veterinary medicinal plants, mostly used by natives, were recorded from the area. Medicinal plants from the area have been collected, pressed dried and identified from herbaria and literature.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The list of ethno-veterinary plants of the area with their therapeutic value, plant part used, mode of drug preparation and disease cured are given in Table 1. The knowledge of traditional medicines is still intact in the region and the locals use their knowledge mostly for their requirement of medicines from plants of the area due to lack of modern health care facilities. As in traditional systems, plants have enjoyed a place of pride in the development of modern drugs and they would continue to do so for a foreseeable future, because plants are complex chemical storehouses that contain many undiscovered biodynamic compounds with unrealized potential for use in modern medicine. Similar observations were observed by Plotkin (1991).

Kalakote range is under gradual depletion of resources due to uncontrolled biotic interference. The major biotic interferences responsible for damage are coal mining, unregulated grazing and

Table 1: List of ethno-veterinary plants of the area with their uses.

Sl.	Name of plant	Parts used	Utility
1.	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Shoots and leaves	Paste (250g) given orally twice a day for four days for urinary disorders in cattle.
2.	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Whole plant	Paste (200g) given orally for treatment of swellings in cattle.
3.	<i>Allium cepa</i>		Paste (100g) given orally for swelling in cattle.
4.	<i>Allium sativum</i>	Bulb	Paste (3 kg) of bulb and curd is given to female buffalos and is aphrodisiac.
5.	<i>Calotropis procera</i>	Leaves	Two and half leaves given orally and two half leaves tied on mouth of affected side to treat anorexia and muscle pain in legs (chilang) in cattle.
6.	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	Leaves	Paste (100g) given orally for two days for anorexia in cattle.
7.	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i>	Leaves	Paste applied externally on fractured bones in cattle and goat.
8.	<i>Cissampelos pareira</i>	Leaves	Paste (250g) given orally twice a day for three days for digestive disorders in sheep and cattle.
9.	<i>Diplocyclos patmatus</i>	Fruit	Fruit given orally for snake bite in cattle.
10.	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i>	Whole plant	Juice of whole plant (250mL) given twice a day for haemorrhagic enteritis to cattle.
11.	<i>Euphorbia royaleana</i>	Latex	Applied on two or three spots for healing of fractured bones in cattle.
12.	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	Leaves	Paste is applied externally on fractured bones to cattle.
13.	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	Leaves	Applied externally to treat swelling in cattle.
14.	<i>Prinsepia utilis</i>	Shoot apex	Paste (100g) given orally twice a day for three days for digestive disorders in cattle.
15.	<i>Punica granatum</i>	Fruit	Paste (200g) given orally for haemorrhagic enteritis and urinary problem in cattle.
16.	<i>Pyrus pashia</i>	Fruit	Juice is applied for three days to treat eye diseases in cattle.
17.	<i>Sesamum indicum</i>	Leaves	Juice (500mL) given twice a day during retention of placenta to goat.
18.	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Whole plant	Paste (500g) of whole plant mixed with butter (500g) given orally in digestive disorder to cattle.
19.	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Leaves	Leaves (4kg) used to increase milk yield.
20.	<i>Vitex negundo</i>	Leaves	Decoction (400mL) is given twice a day for cough and body pain in cattle.
21.	<i>Zanthoxylum alatum</i>	Fruit	Paste (100g) given orally once a day for three days in digestive disorder.

browsing by the livestock of nomads and local inhabitants, encroachments, forest fires and over exploitation of resources. There is an urgent need for extensive investigation of the medicinal plant resources because with the rapid changes in the ecology, the herbal wealth is dwindling very fast, and it becomes imperative to find sound conservation strategies and management practices to save this useful bio-resource of the area.

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