

Studies on the Plants of Ethno-Medicinal Importance from Radhanagari Taluka of Kolhapur District, Maharashtra

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Nat. Env. Poll. Tech.
ISSN: 0972-6268
www.neptjournal.com

Key Words:

Medicinal plants
Radhanagari taluka
Ailments and diseases

ABSTRACT

Radhanagari taluka from Kolhapur district of Maharashtra is situated in the Western Ghats region and covered with semi-evergreen forests. The hilly areas from the taluka do not have sufficient medical facilities, hence the rural population is dependant on various plants to cure different ailments and diseases. The rural and tribal populations from the taluka have the knowledge of various medicinal plants, and use different plants and their parts for the treatment of various disorders like skin diseases, diarrhoea, gynaecological disorders, etc. The present paper deals with the studies regarding forty plant species from the taluka with potential medicinal importance.

The rural and tribal populations from Radhanagari taluka use various plants and their parts for the treatment of diverse diseases and ailments since a long time. Lack of medical facilities in the rural areas of the taluka have led to use of the plants for treatment of various diseases and disorders. An attempt has been made to find out the plant species with potential importance from ethnomedicinal view point during the present investigation.

Radhanagari is a western taluka from Kolhapur district. The taluka is situated in and along the ranges of Sahyadri and lying on the boundary of Kolhapur and Sindhudurga district of Maharashtra state. The prominent land forms of the taluka are hills, hillocks and plains. The hilly areas and the plains of the taluka are covered by semi-evergreen forests.

Various places from the taluka were visited during 2006-2008. The tribal medicinal practitioners, local informers and rural populations were interviewed by the use of questionnaire. The plants were observed in the field, collected and identified scientifically with the help of floras and other texts (Cooke 1901, Kirtikar & Basu 1993, Prajapati & Kumar 2003, Mahajan & Divan 1969, Yadav & Sardesai 2002) and information regarding them was noted. Seven villages from the taluka were visited during the study period. The information regarding the plants of ethnomedicinal importance was noted in alphabetical order, indicating their botanical names, family, plant part used and the disease or disorder treated. Forty plant species belonging to twenty seven families were noted during the present study (Table 1).

The earlier records about the vegetation of Radhanagari taluka are floristic accounts (Mahajan & Divan 1969, Yadav & Sardesai 2002). The study of vegetation of the taluka from ethnomedicinal view point is necessary. In future cultivation practices for some plants of ethnomedicinal importance can be suggested for the local people. There is a need for phytochemical screening of some plants of ethnomedicinal importance from the taluka.

Table 1: Plants of ethnomedicinal importance from Radhanagari taluka of Kolhapur district.

Sr. No.	Botanical Name	Family	Plant part used	Disease/Disorder treated
1.	<i>Acacia concinna</i> DC.	Mimosaceae	Fruit	Toothache
2.	<i>Achyranthus aspera</i> L. var <i>aspera</i>	Amaranthaceae	Leaves, Stem	Digestive tract and urinary disorders
3.	<i>Allophylus cobbe</i> (L.)	Sapindaceae	Leaves	Bone fractures
4.	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i> (L.) R.Br.	Apocynaceae	Bark	Jaundice
5.	<i>Cajanus lineatus</i> (Wight & Arn.)	Fabaceae	Leaves	Toothache
6.	<i>Careya arborea</i> Roxb	Lecythidaceae	Leaves	Wound healing
7.	<i>Caryota urens</i> L..	Arecaceae	Seeds	Migraine
8.	<i>Carissa carandas</i> Garh.	Apocynaceae	Roots	Snake, rat-bite
9.	<i>Cassia fistula</i> L.	Caesalpinaceae	Seeds	Constipation
10.	<i>Catunaregam spinosa</i> (Thumb.) Tirveng.	Rubiaceae	Fruit	Healing of wounds
11.	<i>Celosia argentea</i> L.var <i>argentea</i>	Amaranthaceae	Seeds	Urine stone
12.	<i>Centella asiatica</i> (L.) Urb.	Apiaceae	Leaves	Skin diseases
13.	<i>Clerodendrum viscosum</i> Vent.	Verbenaceae	Roots	Asthma
14.	<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (L.) Theob.	Menispermaceae	roots	Fever
15.	<i>Cyclea peltata</i> (Lamk.) Hook.f.& Thomas	Menispermaceae	Leaves	Skin diseases
16.	<i>Eclipta prostrata</i> (L.) L. Mant.	Asteraceae	Leaves	Jaundice, skin disease
17.	<i>Erythrina stricta</i> Roxb.	Fabaceae	Stem	Scabies
18.	<i>Euphorbia antiquorum</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Latex	Haemmorides, joint pain
19.	<i>Ficus exasperata</i> Vahl.	Moraceae	Leaves	Jaundice
20.	<i>Ficus racemosa</i> L.	Moraceae	Bark	Menorrhoea, dysentery
21.	<i>Garcinia indica</i> (Thou.) Chois.	Clusiaceae	Seed-butter	Cracks in feet
22.	<i>Gymnema sylvestre</i> (Retz.) R. Br.& S.	Asclepiadaceae	Leaves	Diabetes
23.	<i>Helicterus isora</i> L.	Sterculiaceae	Fruits	Dysentery
24.	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> (L) R.Br.	Periploccaceae	Roots	Skin diseases
25.	<i>Hygrophila schulli</i> (Buch.-Ham.)	Acanthaceae	Leaves	Tuberculosis
26.	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i> L.	Acanthaceae	Leaves	Cough and cold
27.	<i>Leucas aspera</i> (willd.) Link.	Lamiaceae	Leaves	Fever
28.	<i>Leucas stelligera</i> Wall.ex.Benth.	Lamiaceae	Leaves	Skin diseases
29.	<i>Mallotus philippensis</i> (Lam.) Muell.-Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Fruits	Antihelmenthetic
30.	<i>Mammea suriga</i> (Buch.-Ham. ex.Roxb.) Koest.	Clusiaceae	Flowers	Bleeding piles, menstrual disorders
31.	<i>Moullava spicata</i> (Dalz.) Nicols	Caesalpinaceae	Roots	Diabetes
32.	<i>Phyllanthus reticulatus</i> Poir.	Euphorbiaceae	Stem	Strengthening of teeth & gums
33.	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> L.	Plumbaginaceae	Roots	Bleeding piles, digestive tract disorders
34.	<i>Smilax zeylanica</i> L.	Smilacaceae	Bulb	Skin diseases
35.	<i>Solanum anguivi</i> Lam	Solanaceae	Fruit	Respiratory tract disorders
36.	<i>Solena amplexicaulis</i> (Lam.) Gandhi	Cucurbitaceae	Leaves	Diabetes
37.	<i>Terminalia bellerica</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb.	Combretaceae	Fruits	Respiratory tract disorders
38.	<i>Terminalia paniculata</i> Roth.	Combretaceae	Inner bark	Stomachache
39.	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L. var. <i>incisa</i> (Lam.) Cl.	Verbenaceae	Leaves	Migraine
40.	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> (L.) Kurz.	Lythraceae	Flowers Young leaves	Burns, Diarrhoea

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