

## Ethnobotanical study of traditional medicinal plants used by Mawasi tribe of Chitrakoot region Distt.

Satna (M.P.) India

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### Abstract

Ethno-botanical study on traditional medicinal plants was conducted between 2014-2015 in Chitrakoot district Satna of Madhya Pradesh, India and documented different types of traditional medicinal plants used by the indigenous peoples. The study was focused on identifying medicinal plants, disease treated, part of the plant used, methods of preparation, route of administration, ingredients added etc. The data was collected using interview and questionnaires by selecting 16 healers using purposive sampling method. A total of 32 medicinal plant species were collected and identified from the study area for treating various human ailments. The paper enumerates these medicinal plant species belonging to 26 genera and 18 families.

**Keywords:** Ethnobotany, medicinal plants, Tribes, Chitrakoot district

### 1. Introduction

The main aim of the present study is to collect information on plants used traditionally by Mawasi, a primitive tribal community of Chitrakoot region District Satna, Madhya Pradesh. Plants have been used in traditional medicine for several thousand years. India is a repository of medicinal plants. The herbal treasure of nation is rich in its floristic wealth.

Ethno-botany accounts for the study of relationship between people and plants for their use as medicines, food, shelter, clothing, fuel, fodder and other household purposes (Balick, 1996) <sup>[1]</sup>. It deals with the interaction of indigenous plants and the local inhabitants of the area. The aim of ethnobotanists is to explore how these plants are used as food, clothing, shelter, fodder, fuel, furniture and how medicinal use of such plants is associated to other characteristics of the plant species. They understand and collect the knowledge of valuable plants by the use of anthropological methods (Ram *et al.*, 2004) <sup>[2]</sup>.

Central India is one of those region in India where the tribal population and forest dwellers from a considerable part of the population (Jain, 2010; Mishra *et al.*, 2010) <sup>[3, 4]</sup>. Their studies brought to light numerous less known uses of plants and interesting data on about ethnomedicinal plants. In many parts of the Madhya Pradesh especially in the Chitrakoot region, there is a rich tradition in the use of plants as an herbal medicine for the treatment of many diseases. Therefore, an ethno-medicinal study was undertaken to collect information proposed to be useful for research on medicinal plants of the Chitrakoot region district Satna of Madhya Pradesh.

### 2. Material and Methods

Ethno-botanical survey was conducted in different tribal inhabited areas of Chitrakoot district Satna during 2014-2015. Extensive field trips were organized for collecting the plant species and data. The method adopted for collection of data was about medicinal uses of plants in the treatment of various diseases.

Ethno-botanical information was collected by standard method of (Jain and Rao, 1977) <sup>[5]</sup>. A questionnaire was prepared to gather data for this purpose, the collected plant specimens were identified by using flora and others standard literature (Varma *et al.*, 1993; Singh *et al.*, 2001) <sup>[6, 7]</sup>. Information on plants used for other than medicinal purpose is also given. Information on ailments, plant part used, formulation along with dose and duration etc. gathered from tribal have been enumerated.

### 3. Results and Discussion

In the enumeration all the plant species are arranged with their family, local name, parts used and various uses for the treatment of illness and diseases (Table 1). A total of 32 plant species belonging to 26 genera and 18 families were reported for different therapeutic uses. Ethnomedicinal uses have been reported and investigation on the medicinal plants among the Mawasi tribe of the district. Fabaceae is the dominant family with 8 species followed by Combretaceae with four species, Caesalpiniaceae, Lythraceae, Moraceae, Rhamnaceae each with two species and others Annonaceae, Apiaceae, Apocynaceae, Bombacaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Meliaceae, Myrtaceae, Papaveraceae, Poaceae, Rutaceae, Sapotaceae and Verbenaceae with one species each.

Although considerable research work is being done in India (Murthy 2012; Kumar *et al.*, 2010) <sup>[8, 9]</sup> a lot of important information and indigenous knowledge base have already been lost as knowledge hold with older generation could not be transmitted to younger generations and remains unrecorded. Although the literature is replete with general references to ethno-botany for the country as a whole, efforts to document specific details of this knowledge have been still limited and several workers are being made their efforts on this direction.

A review of literature reveals that though much work has been done on ethno- medicinal plants in India (Samar *et al.*, 2012 and Jain and Vairale 2007) <sup>[10, 11]</sup> still there are some interior areas which need to be surveyed intensively like Chitrakoot region district Satna for searching new traditional medicines.

Based on the initial reconnaissance survey and group discussion, it was found that information on the medicinal use of plant is mostly confined to elder people. Younger generation is ignorant about the vast medicinal resources available in their surrounding and is more inclined towards the conventional medicines. It was also found that the tribal practitioners are hesitant to disclose their knowledge. The

indigenous knowledge system of herbal practice is still very rich and available among tribal community of Chitrakoot region district Satna of Madhya Pradesh. Hence it is necessary to document the traditional knowledge of useful plants and their therapeutic uses before being lost forever from the community.

**Table1:** List of plant species used by the Mawasi tribes of Chitrakoot district

S. No.	Botanical name and Family	Local name	Part used	Disease
1.	<i>Acacia nilotica</i> Linn. (Fabaceae)	Babool	Stem, Bark	Tooth Problem, Skin Diseases
2.	<i>Acacia catechu</i> (L.f.) Willd. (Fabaceae)	Khair	Bark	Skin disease especially eczema
3.	<i>Acacia leucophloea</i> Willd. (Fabaceae)	Reunjha	Bark	diarrhea
4.	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> Linn. (Rutaceae)	Bel	Roots, Leaves and Fruit	Digestive problem
5.	<i>Albizia lebbek</i> (Linn.) Benth (Fabaceae)	Kala Siris	Whole plant	Asthma, reduces enlargement of cervical gland, cough and colds, ulcer, snake-bite wounds and in leucoderma.
6.	<i>Annona squamosa</i> Linn. (Annonaceae)	Sitaphal	Bark	Wound Healing, Diabetes.
7.	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> Wall. (Combretaceae)	Dhawa	Root, Leaves and Fruit	Antiseptic, used in wound healing, Treatment of tumor and cancer, Rheumatism and burning sensation.
8.	<i>Argemone mexicana</i> L. (Papaveraceae)	Pili kateeli	Root, Latex	Gout, Dysentery, Liquid film in the eye
9.	<i>Azadirachata indica</i> A. Juss. (Meliaceae)	Neem	Whole plant	Insecticidal, liver tonic and urinary astringent, leprosy, skin diseases, leucoderma, dyspepsia, ulcers, tuberculosis, eczema, malarial and intermittent fever.
10.	<i>Bombax ceiba</i> L. (Bombacaceae)	Semal	Root	Used for surgical dressing in the case of wounds and to increase sexual vigor
11.	<i>Buchanania lanzan</i> Spreng. (Fabaceae)	Achar, Chironji	Bark and Seeds	Used in cut and wounds, skin diseases, snake bite and Rheumatism.
12.	<i>Butea monosperma</i> Lamk. (Fabaceae)	Dhak, Palas	Flower and Seeds	Scorpion bite. The flowers are the source of a dye.
13.	<i>Carissa spinarum</i> L. (Apocynaceae)	Karaunda	Fruits and Roots	Rheumatic pain, fever and wound healing.
14.	<i>Cassia fistula</i> Linn. (Caesalpinaceae)	Amaltas	Leaves, Stem and Roots	Leprosy, diseases of heart and is applied externally in rheumatism and snake bite.
15.	<i>Centella asiatica</i> L. Urb. (Apiaceae)	Brahmi	Leaf	To increase memory
16.	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers. (Poaceae)	Dub	Leaves	Arthritis
17.	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> Roxb. (Fabaceae)	Sheesham	Leaves, Bark and Roots	Eye diseases and gonorrhoea, scabies, leprosy, diarrhea and dysentery.
18.	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae)	Dudh Ghas	Leaves	Arthritis
19.	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L. (Moraceae)	Bargad	Whole plant	Diabetes, gout, diarrhoea, leucorrhoea, dysentery, sores, ulcers, rheumatism, lumbago, pains, cracked and inflamed soles and toothache.
20.	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> Linn. (Moraceae)	Pipal	Whole plant	Gonorrhoea, scabies and snake bite. Its juice relieves toothache and strengthens the gums. Powder of seeds taken for three days during menses sterilizes women for long time.
21.	<i>Lagerstromiaparviflora</i> Roxb. (Lythraceae)	Seja	Stem, bark	Leucorrhoea
22.	<i>Madhuca longifolia</i> var. <i>latifolia</i> (Roxb.) (Sapotaceae)	Mahua	Fruit	Gout and rheumatism.
23.	<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels. (Myrtaceae)	Jamun	Seed	Diabetes
24.	<i>Tamarindus indica</i> Linn. (Caesalpinaceae)	Imli	Leaves, Bark and Fruits	Destroying worms in children and for jaundice. Gastropathy, bilious vomiting.
25.	<i>Tectona grandis</i> Linn. f. (Fabaceae)	Sagon	Bark, flowers, seeds and oil	Headache, toothache, and to subdue inflammation and irritation of skin.

26.	<i>Terminalia arjuna</i> Roxb. Wight & Arn. (Combretaceae)	Kahwa	Bark, Leaves	Hypertension, pimples and other minor skin eruptions, cardio tonic, rickets in children, Skin diseases.
27.	<i>Terminalia bellerica</i> Roxb. (Combretaceae)	Baherha	Bark, Seeds and Fruits	Wound healing and sore throat, diarrhea and dysentery, gonorrhoea, piles and in chronic constipation.
28.	<i>Terminalia chebula</i> Retz. (Combretaceae)	Harra	Fruits	Astringent, digestive, laxative, cardio tonic, aphrodisiac and febrifuge.
29.	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L. (Verbenaceae)	Nirgudi	Leaves	Rheumatism
30.	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> (L.) Kurz (Lytharaceae)	Dhawai	Leaves	Arthritis
31.	<i>Zizyphus mauritiana</i> Lamk. (Rhamnaceae)	Ber, Beri	Fruits	Cold and Cough
32.	<i>Zizyphus xylopyrus</i> (Retz.) Willd. (Rhamnaceae)	Ghotohar	Fruits, Leaves	Skin eruptions and dye is used in tanning of lather.

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