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ETHNO-MEDICINAL PLANTS USED BY BHIL TRIBE OF MATRUNDA, DISTRICT RATLAM, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

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Ratlam District is situated on Malwa plateau at 493.62 m above the mean sea level. Matrunda is situated at Sailana road about 15 km away from Ratlam. Bhils are the main inhabitants of the village, these villagers still practice herbal medicines. The knowledge of these medicines is age old. For them, use of herbs is the cheapest way to cure various common health disorders. So far, there is no government clinic in the village. A review of literature revealed that much work has been done on ethno-medicinal plants in India, but still there are some tribal pockets which could be surveyed for the search of new traditional medicines. A brief report on the ethno-medicinal plants of village Matrunda is being presented. Periodical surveys were made for search of new traditional herbal medicines in village Matrunda. Interviews and collection of medicinal plants used in different diseases were made. The villager Phulji Bhil was interviewed and the local uses of enigmatic specimens were confirmed with more than two senior people having knowledge of local herbs. The plants were identified in Botany Department of Govt. Arts and Science College, Ratlam (M.P.). In the following alphabetical list, information about 40 species belonging to 38 genera of 28 families used for the treatment of different types of diseases by Bhil tribe of village Matrunda has been provided. Each botanical name is followed by local name, uses and part used.

Acacia leucophloea Willd. (Mimosaceae)
Local name: Khejdo.
Use : Extract of root is taken with water to cure dysentery.

A. nilotica (L) Willd. subsp. **indica** (Benth.) Brenan (Mimosaceae)
Local name: Bambool.
Use : Leaves are used to cure eye diseases.

Adina cordifolia Hook. (Willd. ex Roxb.) Hook. f. ex Brandis (Rubiaceae)
Local name: Haldu.
Use : Powder of stem bark is used for prevention of miscarriages.

Ailanthus excelsa Desf. (Simaroubaceae)
Local name: Aydu.
Use : Extract of stem bark is used to cure typhoid.

Aloe vera (L.) Burm.f. (Liliaceae)
Local name: Gwarpatho.

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Use : Juice of leaves is applied on boils.

Anogeissus latifolia Wall. (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Guill. & Perro. (Combretaceae)
Local name: Dhavda.
Use : Gum is useful in the post delivery cases.

Argemon mexicana L. (Papavaraceae)
Local name: Pilo daturo.
Use : Paste of seeds is applied on boils.

Asparagus racemosus Willd. (Liliaceae)
Local name: Hemuri.
Use : Extract of root is used to cure typhoid.

Azadirachta indica A.Juss. (Meliaceae)
Local name: Lemdi.
Use : Juice of leaves is used to cure stomach trouble.

Barleria prionitis L. (Acanthaceae)
Local name: Dantudi.
Use : Extract of root is used to removing thorn from body.

Bombax ceiba L. (Bombacaceae)
Local name: Semlo.
Use: Stem bark is used to cure dysentery.

Butea monosperma (Lam.) Taub. (Papilionaceae)
Local name: Khankra.
Use : Powder of seeds is used to cure ascariasis.

Calotropis procera (Ait.) Ait. f. (Asclepiadaceae)
Local name: Ankra.
Use : Latex of leaves is applied on boils.

Carica papaya L. (Caricaceae)
Local name: Papito.
Use : Unripe fruit is used to cure obesity.

Ceasalpinia bonduc (L.) Roxb. (Caesalpiniaceae)
Local name: Ghatar.
Use : For the preparation of the powder for digestion.

Cicer arietinium L. (Papilionaceae)
Local name: Chana.
Use : Roasted seeds are taken with jaggery to cure jaundice

Cocculus hirustus (L.) Diels (Menispermaceae)
Local name: Kankadvel.
Use : Extract of root is used to cure snake-bite.

Corchorus capsularis L. (Tiliaceae)
Local name: Rajan.

Use : Powder of seeds is taken with water to cure dysentery.

Cuscuta reflexa Roxb. (Convolvulaceae)
Local name: Amarbel.
Use : Extract of stem is used to cure bodyache.

Datura stramonium L. (Solanaceae)
Local name: Daturo.
Use : Leaves are heated a bit and tied on boils.

Echinops echinatus DC. (Asteraceae)
Local name: Onkata.
Use : Extract of root is used to cure cough and cold.

Eclipta prostrata (L.) L. (Asteraceae)
Local name: Kalio.
Use : Leaves are used to cure wound.

Enicostemma axillare (Lam.) Raynal. (Gentianaceae)
Local name: Nau.
Use : Extract of leaves is useful in malaria fever.

Euphorbia neriifolia L. (Euphorbiaceae)
Local name: Ghotla Thuwar.
Use : Leaves are used as paste on boils.

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis L. (Malvaceae)
Local name: Jasur.
Use : Buds are chewed to cure leucorrhoea.

Ipomoea carnea Jacq. subsp. **fistulosa** (Mart. ex Choisy) Austin. (Convolvulaceae)
Local name: Nashedi.
Use : Leaves are tied on boils.

Jasminum arborescens Roxb. (Oleaceae)
Local name: Chemeli.
Use : Leaves are chewed to cure mouth ulcer.

Jatropha curcas L. (Euphorbiaceae)
Local name: Ratan Jot.
Use : Leaves are tide on boils

Madhuca indica J.F. Gmel. (Sapotaceae)
Local name: Mawdo.
Use : Boiled flowers are used to cure fracture.

Mangifera indica L. (Anacardiaceae)
Local name: Aam.
Use : Gum is used to cure toothache.

Medicago sativa L. (Papilionaceae)
Local name: Rizkor.
Use : Leaves are used to cure night blindness.

Nyctanthes arbor-tristis L. (Oleaceae)
Local name: Simhali.
Use : Extract of root is used to cure malaria fever.

Ocimum tenuiflorum L. (Lamiaceae)
Local name: Tusli.
Use : Extract of leaves is used to cure cough and cold.

Plumbago zeylanica L. (Plumbaginaceae)
Local name: Chitawel.
Use : Extract of root is used to cure pneumonia.

Ricinus communis L. (Euphorbiaceae)
Local name: Arandi.
Use : Leaves are tied on boils.

Senna tora (L.) Roxb. (Caesalpiniaceae)
Local name: Phuadio.
Use : Leaves are used to cure skin itching.

Solanum virginianum L. (Solanaceae)
Local name: Bhuri -ringdi.
Use : Seeds are used to cure toothache.

Syzygium cumini (L.) Skeels (Myrtaceae)
Local name: Jambu.
Use : Extract of stem-bark is used to cure dysentery.

Ziziphus mauritiana Lam. (Rhamnaceae)
Local name: Bor.
Use : Powder of roots is taken with water to cure loose motion.

Z. nummularia (Burm.f.) Wight & Arn. (Rhamnaceae)
Local name: Boorzari.
Use : Powder of roots is taken with water to cure loose motion.

The survey provides on evidence that the Bhil tribe of Matrunda uses about 40 plants for various ailments. The tribal people depend totally on herbal medicines of the suburbs as there is no clinic in the village. The plants are generally used for stomach disorders, fever, snake-bite, leucorrhoea, eye-disease, cough, cold, toothache, night blindness, jaundice, headache, skin itching, obesity, boils, tumor, ascariasis, fracture, dysentery, typhoid and some female diseases. The benefit of indigenous knowledge can be harnessed and improved upon by its appropriate use, establishing validity of such knowledge and integrating it with health care programmes.

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