BULL. BOT. SURV. INDIA
Vol. 46, Nos. 1-4 : pp. 273-279, 2004

ETHNOBOTANICAL OBSERVATION ON TRIBAL AREAS OF VIDISHA DISTRICT, MADHYA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

The Saharias and Bhil-Mina tribal communities living in Vidisha district of Madhaya Pradesh mostly depend on the forests for medicine, food and fiber. Ethnobotanical exploration of Gyaraspur Tehsil of Vidisha has received little attention. This paper deals with an ethnobotanical information of 58 plants collected from tribal dominating area

INTRODUCTION

Vidisha district is one of the most important and centrally located district of Madhaya Pradesh The total area of the district is about 7,433 sq.km which lies between 23°21 and 24°22′N latitude and 77°15.30′ and 78 °18′E longitude forming eastern part of Malwa region.The Betwa is the main river of the district, which takes its birth in extremes south west (23°02′N 77°22′E) corner of Raisen district .The forest cover is about two-fifth of the total area in the district. The forests mostly occupy the hill ranges. The area receives on average rain fall of 1230 mm per annum. May is the hottest month of the year when the temperature shoots up to 45° C while the December is the coldest month. The climate can be classed as sub-humid with scrub type of vegetation. Saharias are the principle tribe in Basoda, Kurwai tehsils where as Bhil and Bhil-Mina are found dominating in Sironj sub-division. Most of the tribals are illiterate.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Frequent visits were made at regular intervals to 9 villages of Vidisha district Lateri, Sironj, Kurwai, Pathari, Gyaraspur, Haidergarh, Teonda, Naulash and Ahmadpur. To have detailed information one of the authors stayed with the tribals and medicinemen for 1-2 days in each village. After detailed discussions, information of local names of the plants and the uses of different plant parts was recorded. The plants were identified and preserved as voucher herbarium specimens in the herbarium of Botany department of Dr. H.S. Gaur University, Sagar.

OBSERVATIONS

The details are given as per following sequence. The name of family followed by local names and place of collection of plants. The medicinal uses of plants are given on the basis of information provided by the tribals. This is followed by voucher number of the specimens.

All plants have been categorised under two groups.

I. Plants used as medicine.
II. Plants used as vegetables.

Plants used as Medicine

1. **Achyranthes aspera** L. (Amaranthaceae)
   Local name: Chirchita; Locality: Gyaraspur.
   Uses: Twigs are used as a brush for healthy teeth.(VSN-129).
2. **Adhatoda vasica** Nees (Acanthaceae)
   Local name: Adusa ; Locality: Ahmadpur.
   Uses: Leaves are boiled along with water and the extract is used to cure asthma (VSN-158).
3. **Aegle marmelos** (L.) Corr. (Rutaceae)
   Local name: Bel; Locality:Ahmadpur.
   Uses: Slightly warm pulp of it along with turmeric powder is applied on swelling.(VSN-159).
4. **Aloe barbadensis** Mill. (Liliaceae)
   Local name: Gwar patha; Locality: Haidergarh.
   Uses: Pulp of the fruit is used as a treatment to diarrohea. Juice of its pulp with water and sugars is used for stomach problems(VSN -138)
5. **Abelmoschus moschatus** (L.) Medic. (Malvaceae)
   Local name : Jungli bhindi; Locality:Gyaraspur.
   Uses: Fruits are eaten to cure cough. (VSN-167).
6. **Balanites aegyptiaca** L. (Balanitaceae)
   Local name: Hingota; Locality: Pathari.
   Uses: Seed extract is used to cure skin desease. (VSN-120).
7. **Bombax ceiba** L. (Bombacaceae)
   Local name: Semal; Locality: Gyaraspur.
   Uses: Seeds are eaten to cure typhoid.(VSN-130).
8. **Barleria cristata** L. (Acanthaceae)
   Local name: Piyabansa; Locality: Ahmadpur.
   Uses: Paste of leaves is used to remove the thorn from the body.(VSN-163).
9. **Cassia angustifolia** Vahl (Caesalpiniaceae)
   Local name: Silamri, Locality: Pathari.
   Uses: pods are used as vegetable and seeds are eaten to get relief from joint pain (VSN-116).

10. **Calotropis procera** R. Br. (Asclepidaceae)
Local name: Aak; Locality: Haidergarh.
Uses: Latex of the plant is used for the treatment of ringworm. It is applied on the infected skin twice a day. (VSN- 140).
11. **Cassia tora** L. (Caesalpiniaceae)
Local name: Pawar; Locality: Teonda.
Uses: Tender leaves are used as vegetable. The seeds of the plant (burnt and mixed with raw sugar) are used to cure asthmatic problem. (VSN-142).
12. **Chlorophytum arundinaceum** Baker (Liliaceae)
Local name: Safed musli; Locality: Gyaraspur.
Uses: Root powder is used as a tonic for good health. It is also given to the women who have recently delivered a baby. (VSN-132).
13. **Cymbopogon martinii** (Roxb.) Watson (Poaceae)
Local name: Ronsa grass; Locality: Naulash.
Uses: Flowers of the plants are boiled with water and taken to cure severe cold. (VSN -156).
14. **Crateva religiosa** Hook.f. & Thomson (Capparidaceae)
Local name: Varuna; Locality : Haidergarh.
Uses: The fruit and bark are used as an embrocation in rheumatism. (VSN-135).
15. **Curculigo orchioides** Gaertn. (Hypoxidaceae)
Local name: Kalimusli; Locality : Pathari.
Uses : Tuberous roots are eaten as a tonic. (VSN -122).
16. **Costus speciosus** Smith (Zingiberaceae)
Local name: Keokand; Locality: Gyaraspur.
Uses: Tuberous root are used as a purgative. (VSN-165).
17. **Datura metel** L. (Solanaceae)
Local name: Kala datura; Locality: Haidergarh.
Uses: Leaves along with water are boiled and the extract is taken as a treatment of asthma. (VSN -134).
18. **Gardenia resinifera** Roth. (Rubiaceae).
Local name: Dikamali; Locality: Ahmedpur.
Uses : The gum of the plant along with water made solution is given to cure diarrohoea among children. (VSN-161).
19. **Helicteres isora** L. (Sterculiaceae)
Local name: Marorphali; Locality: Teonda.
Uses: Powdered pods are taken as a treatment of stomach pain. (VSN-147).
20. **Ipomoea carnea** Jacq. (Convolvulaceae)
Local name: Beshrum; Locality: Teonda.
Uses: Leaves are used on swelling. Leaves are made a little warm before use (VSN -143).

21. **Jasminum sambac** (L.) Ait. (Oleaceae)
Local name: Mogra; Locality: Gyaraspur.
Uses: Leaves are made a little warm and coating ghee before use on boil. (VSN-125).
22. **Linum usitatissimum** L. (Linaceae)
Local name: Alsi ; Locality: Ahmedpur.
Uses: Paste of its seed is applied on boils.(VSN-157)
23. **Mucuna prurita** Hook. (Papilionaceae)
Local name: Kavanch; Locality: Naulash.
Uses: Burnt seeds are used as an effective cure of cough. (VSN-148)
24. **Ocimum basilicum** L. (Lamiaceae)
Local name: Marua; Locality: Teonda.
Uses: Juice of its leaves is used as a treatment of earache. Two or four drops are poured in the ear, twice a day. (VSN -144).
25. **Psoralea corylifolia** L. (Papilionaceae)
Local name: Bavchi; Locality: Gyaraspur.
Uses: Paste of seeds is applied for treating leprosy. (VSN- 128).
26. **Ricinus communis** L. (Euphorbiaceae)
Local name: Arandi; Locality: Gyaraspur.
Uses: Leaves (hot leaves) are used on swelling of the body and on the joints of knee to get relief from pain and swelling.(VSN-131).
27. **Rauvolfia serpentina** (L.) Benth. ex Kurz. (Apocynaceae)
Local name : Sarpgandha; Locality: Ahmadpur.
Uses: Root are used for curing blood pressure. (VSN-164).
28. **Sapindus mukorossi** Gaertn. (Sapindaceae)
Local name: Ritha; Locality: Naulash.
Uses: Seed coat along with water is used as a treatment of sunstroke.(VSN-151).
29. **Solanum surattense** Burm.f. (Solanaceae)
Local name: Bhatkatai; Locality: Naulash.
Uses: Roots boiled with water and the extract is taken to cure skin disease. Stamens are used against cough. (VSN-152).
30. **Sphaeranthus indicus** L. (Asteraceae)
Local name: Gorakh mundi; Locality: Ahmadpur.
Uses: The whole plant is burnt and the smoke is taken in to cure severe cold. (VSN-160).
31. **Typha angusta** Bory. & Chaub. (Typhaceae)
Local name: Patera; Locality: Lateri.
Uses: Spike is used to heal the wounds. (VSN-115).
32. **Withania somnifera** Dunal (Solanaceae)
Local name: Ashwagandha; Locality; Naulash.
Uses: Root powder is used to remove weakness. (VSN-149).

33. **Wrightia tomentosa** (Roxb.) Roem & Schult.(Apocynaceae)
Local name: Dudhi; Locality: Pathari.
Uses: Seed powder is given twice a day as an anthelmintic and dysentery of children (VSN124).
34. **Ziziphus mauritiana** Lam. (Rhamnaceae)
Local name: Ber; Locality: Naulash.
Uses: The paste of the leaves along with the leaves of *Acacia arabica* is applied on boils to cure them. (VSN-155).

Plants used as food and fibres:

35. **Amorphophallus campanulatus** Roxb. (Araceae)
Local name: Jamikand; Locality: Haidergarh.
Uses: Underground corms are used as vegetables. (VSN-112).
36. **Amaranthus blitum** L. (Amaranthaceae)
Local name: Chaulai; Locality: Naulash.
Uses: Leaves are used as vegetables. (VSN-153).
37. **Basella alba** L. (Chenopodiaceae)
Local name: Poi; Locality: Sironj.
Uses: Its leaves are used as a vegetable and for making pakoras. (VSN-137).
38. **Commelina benghalensis** L. (Commelinaceae)
Local name: Kankooua; Locality:Gyaraspur.
Uses : Leaves are used to make vegetables. (VSN-127).
39. **Cordia dichotoma** Forst.f. (Boraginaceae)
Local name: Lassora; Locality : Gyaraspur.
Uses : Fruits are used to make pickles and leaves are eaten as a substitute of beetle leaf. (VSN-171).
40. **Cucumis melo var. momordica** Duth. and Full. (Cucurbitaceae)
Local name: Phunt kachra; Locality: Naulash.
Uses Fruits are eaten and also used as vegetables. (VSN-150).
41. **Chenopodium album** L. (Chenopodiaceae)
Local name :Bathua; Locality: Naulash.
Uses: Leaves are used as vegetables. (VSN-166).
42. **Carissa carandas** L.(Apocynaceae)
Local name : Karaunda; Locality: Gyaraspur.
Uses : Fruits are used to make pickles and vegetables. (VSN-168).
43. **Dioscorea bulbifera** L.(Dioscoreaceae)
Local name : Gathora; Locality: Gyaraspur.
Uses : Bulbil are used as a vegetable. (VSN-170)

44. **Ficus glomerata** Roxb. (Moraceae)
Local name :Oomar; Locality : Haidergarh.
Uses: Fruits are eaten. (VSN-133).
45. **Momordica cochinchinensis** Spreng (Cucurbitaeae)
Local name : Kakora; Locality: Teonda.
Uses: Fruits are used as vegetables (VSN-145).
46. **Moringa pterigosperma** Gaertn. (Moringaceae)
Local name : Munuga; Locality: Haidergarh.
Uses: Flower and pods are used as vegetables. (VSN-139).
47. **Nelumbo nucifera** Gaertn. (Nymphaeceae)
Local name : Kamal; Locality : Gyaraspur.
Uses : Leaf petioles and pedicels are used as vegetables.(VSN-169).
48. **Physalis peruviana** L. (Solanacaeae)
Local name: Chirpota: Locality : Pathari.
Uses : Fruits are eaten. (VSN-118).
49. **Portulaca oleracea** L. (Portulacaceae)
Local name: Nonia; Locality : Ahmadpur.
Uses: Leaves are used as vegetables.(VSN-162).
50. **Solanum nigrum** L. (Solanaceae)
Local name: Makoi; Locality: Teonda.
Uses:Leaves are used as vegetables. (VSN-146).
51. **Randia dumetorum** Lam. (Rubiaceae).
Local name : Main phal; Locality : Haidergarh.
Uses : Fruits are used as vegetables and also eaten raw as a cure for Diarrohoea. (VSN-137).
52. **Bauhinia vahlii** Wight & Arn. (Caesalpiniaceae).
Local name :Mahul; Locality Gyaraspur.
Uses :The fibres are used to make rope.(VSN-126).
53. **Butea monosperma** (Lamk.) Taubert. (Papilionaceae)
Local name : Palas; Locality : Pathari.
Uses: Its roots are used to make rope and brush. Flower are used in treatment of sunstroke. (VSN-123).
54. **Crotalaria juncea** L. (Papilionaceae)
Local name : San; Locality : Pathari.
Uses : Fibres are used to make rope. (VSN-121).
55. **Corchorus capsularis** L. (Tiliaceae).
Local name : Jute; Locality : Pathari.
Uses : Fibres are used to make rope. (VSN-117).
56. **Phoenix sylvestris** (L.) Roxb (Arecaceae).
Local name : Khajur; Locality : Naulash.
Uses: Leaf petioles are used to make rope. Pith of young stem is called "gava"and

used as vegetable. (VSN-154).

57. **Saccharum munja** Roxb. (Poaceae)
Local name: "Moiaa"; Locality: Lateri.
Uses: The leaves are used to make rope and brush. (VSN-172).

58. **S. spontaneum** L. (Poaceae).
Local name : Kans; Locality : Kurwai.
Uses : Its fibres are used to make rope and brush. (VSN-113).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are thankful to Dr. R.K. Jain, Prof. & Head, Department of Botany, S.S.L. Jain, P.G. College, Vidisha, who helped in the survey and visit to tribal villages and in the forest areas.