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UNREPORTED MEDICINAL USES OF SOME PLANTS RECORDED FROM THE TRIBALS OF KORAPUT (ORISSA)

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ABSTRACT

Koraput (Orissa) is located between 18°48'N latitude and 82°44' E longitude. An ethnobotanical survey during the month of November-December, 1984 among the tribals namely Kondh and Paroja residing in Sunki, Metabalsa, Sitaguda, Pansumangudi, Lauri of Potangi block, Dayanidhiguda of Koraput block, Lakhimpur, Narayanpatna of Narayanpatna block resulted in gathering many unreported uses of Medicinal plants. These are presented here.

In order to make an on the spot study of the plants used by the tribals extensive field work has been done in remote areas of the Koraput district mentioned above. The information was gathered only from the selected local inhabitants and 'Disharis', the tribal medicine men. These informants were identified with the help of Forest Department officials and village heads and were taken to the forest as guide-cum-informants for collection of voucher specimens. Repeated queries were made to get the information confirmed. The informations not recorded in Watt (1889-96), Kirtikar & Basu (1935), Bal (1942), Dastur (1951), Chopra *et al.* (1956, 1969), Wealth of India (1948-1976) and recent ethnobotanical works on Orissa (Panigrahi 1963, Jain 1971, Pal & Banerjee 1971, 1974, Chaudhuri *et al.* 1975, Mudgal & Pal 1980, Saxena *et al.*, Tribedi *et al.*) are presented here. Voucher specimens are deposited in the Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India (CAL).

The species are arranged alphabetically followed by their family names in bracket, local names in Kui (K) or Paroja (P) language wherever available, uses and collection number.

Abrus precatorius L. (Papilionaceae). *Ganjau-Kai* (K).

Seeds are pounded with black gram (*Vigna mungo*) and stem pith of *Sida acuta* (1 : 1 : 1), the paste so made is diluted with water and used as an ointment for eye troubles. *Paul* 1460.

Abutilon indicum Sw. (Malvaceae). *Tikimaru* (K).

About 10 gm of fresh leaves and seven black peppers (*Piper nigrum*) are crushed with water and given to the patient of jaundice. It is said that the single dose causes vomiting after half an hour of oral consumption and cures the disease. In case of failure of vomiting, the same dose is repeated on the following day. Half of the dose is generally prescribed to the children. *Paul* 1467.

Alstonia scholaris R. Br. (Apocynaceae). *Gamalam-roda* (K).

About 0.5 kg of leaves of this species are boiled in sufficient water with an equal amount of bamboo leaves (*Dendrocalamus* sp.) and the extract is used 2-3 times daily in taking bath for reducing the swelling of the body. *Paul* 1436.

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Arisaema leschenaultii DC. (Araceae). *Pamdanda* (P).

The tuberous root of this species is pounded and applied externally on wounds caused by snake-bite. After sometimes some coloured juice is exuded from the wound. It is believed that the colour of this juice tally with the colour of that snake. *Paul* 1442.

Bombax ceiba Linn. (Bombacaceae). *Piraroda* (P).

The thorns of the trunk are crushed with water and the paste is applied externally on the face to remove the pimples. *Paul* 1428.

Byettneria herbacea Roxb. (Sterculiaceae). *Idel-Sanga* (K).

About 100 gm of root is pounded with little water and the paste so made is rubbed on the legs for reducing the swellings. *Paul* 1480.

Calotropis procera Br. (Asclepiadaceae). *Zelari* (K).

Latex of the stem is mixed with soil from the plant base and smeared on the belly for checking stomach pain. *Paul* 1406.

Cocculus hirsutus (L.) Diels. (Menispermaceae). *Karva-bada* (K).

About 50 gm of root is crushed with little water and given orally in case of anaemia. Generally each dose is given to the patient with an interval of 2 days, 3-4 dose is sufficient to cure. *Paul* 1455.

Costus speciosus (Koen.) Sm. (Zingiberaceae). *Bonkacha-Dumpa* (K).

Root is crushed and the juice is applied on the remaining portion of the placental cord of the new born baby for its quick drying. Root of this species is pounded with the fruit stalk of *Cucurbita maxima* and sandal wood, now the paste so made is applied on the ear lobes of the children for skin diseases. *Paul* 1443.

Elephantopus scaber L. (Compositae). *Podamandu* (K).

About 50 gm of root is pounded with water and given orally to the mother just after delivery to increase her appetite. *Paul* 1462.

Grewia rothii DC. (Tiliaceae). *Bursu* (K).

About 10 gm of dried flowers of this species is pounded with honey and given to the young boys to check excessive night emission. *Paul* 1440.

Lawsonia inermis L. (Lythraceae).

A mixture containing one table spoon of root paste and 21 table spoons of unboiled rice water is given to cure jaundice. This dose is repeated depending upon the acuteness of the disease. *Paul* 1474.

Leea latifolia Wall. (Vitaceae). *Gori-manda* (K).

About 10 gm of root is crushed with water and given orally to the patient of hydrocele once in a day for three days. *Paul* 1461.

Mangifera indica L. (Anacardiaceae). *Maha-Paje* (K).

Consumption of ripe fruit juice in sufficient amount is considered to be a preventive measure for Malaria. *Paul* 1470.

Nymphaea stellata Willd. (Nymphaeaceae).

Flower is pounded with water and given orally to the insane for temporary relief. Generally one flower is sufficient for one dose. *Paul* 1482.

Pedialanthus tithymaloides Poit. (Euphorbiaceae). *Chitramul* (K).

The roots are pounded with water. The paste so made is gently heated and is rubbed externally for muscular pain. *Paul* 1463.

Pueraria tuberosa DC. (Papilionaceae). *Pordha-mara* (K).

Pounded root is given orally to the insane, it acts as mild sedative. *Paul* 1464.

Scoparia dulcis L. (Scrophulariaceae). *Piraroda* (D).

About 50 gm of seeds are crushed with water and the paste is rubbed throughout the body of the children to check high fever. *Paul* 1428.

Solanum torvum Swartz. (Solanaceae)

The dried or raw fruits are cooked with other vegetables and eaten by woman after each menstrual cycle for 5 days. It is said to check conception and thus serves the purpose of family planning. Generally 3-4 fruits are taken at a time. *Paul* 1469.

Strobilanthus jeyporensis Bedd. (Acanthaceae). *Chitrika* (P).

Root-paste is applied on the forehead for checking headache. *Paul* 1427.

Triumfetta rhomboidea Jacq. (Tiliaceae). *Morsa* (P).

About 10 gm of root is pounded with an equal amount of 'Murcha-mandu' root (*Helicteres isora*), the paste so made is diluted with water and about half cup of it is given to the infant orally for checking convulsion. Generally this dose is given once in a day for 3 days. *Paul* 1429.

Tylophora indica (Burm. f.) Merr. (Asclepiadaceae). *Sit-cum* (P).

About 10 gm of root is pounded with an equal amount of 'Kharjur' root (*Phoenix* sp.), the paste so made is diluted with water and given to women for drinking to facilitate in delivery. *Paul* 1444.

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