

Ethnic remedies against Scorpion bite used by Thakar tribes

Naikade SM

B. N. ASC College, Pen-Raigad, MS, India

Email: naikade.s@gmail.com

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Abstract

An Ethnomedicinal plants survey was undertaken to collect the information of use of ethnobotanical plants for the treatment of Scorpion bite of Thakker in tribal Karjat Tahsil in Maharashtra during the year 2017-18. The indigenous knowledge of traditional healers about the local plants used medicinal purposes was collected through a questionnaire by taking interviews during field survey. During the visit to the field work with the healers enabled plants collection and documentation relating to the remedial information of plants used against Scorpion bite. In the survey of investigation 10 plant species belonging to different families used by the tribal community against scorpion bite are documented. The current study showed that the local or tribal people of this area still depend on medicinal plants for their Scorpion bites. The medicinal plants of this area are wealth of Thakar tribes for their health care. Their traditional knowledge needs to be collected and preserved for future generation which can use to understand remedial plant metabolites for preparation of herbal medicines.

Keywords: Thakar tribe, Remedies, Scorpion bite, Karjat

Introduction

Tribal men have been dependents on forest and forests plants product for their traditional medicines since time immemorial. This knowledge of ethnomedicinal plants has been accumulated past several centuries forming basis of systems of Medicines such as Ayurveda, Unani and siddha [1]. In past few decades it was found that an increasing interest in inventory of traditional uses of ethnomedicinal plants has been witnessed in different regions of the world mainly because of several problems associated with synthetic drugs coming forth of multi drugs resistant pathogens.

Traditionally the treatment of medicinal plants to cure diseases is economically benefits. Hence, Traditional knowledge in this regard has been conserved for next generations in tribal communities of the world and western region of India which is a hot-spot of traditional medicines [2]. The modern method of Scorpion bite treatment requires application of antivenoms and these remain mostly in accessible to rural people. The symptoms of scorpion bite were pain at sting site swelling, Redness, Numbness, fever, vomiting, Headache etc. Tribal people live away in forests due to the difficulties in transportation and an aware about these treatments and facilities. So, they are depending on local people remedies [3]. During the present study a detailed medicinal plants survey was carried out in Karjat Tahsil of Konkan region of Maharashtra, India to collect information about the traditional medicines used to treat Scorpion bite in tribal areas, where local Thakar community depends mostly on forests products for their basic day to day needs [4].

Tribal:

The tribal population in Maharashtra is 9.19 % of the total population according to 1991 census. Out of the major tribal communities in Maharashtra, Thakar is one of the major tribes of Maharashtra and their habitations are so read in the remote area of Karjat where population is dominant [5]. Tribal are mainly dependent

on forests and Agricultural produced. Major occupations are collection of plants parts such as fruit, edible tubers, gum, nuts and leafy vegetables from forests. In hilly area, Agriculture is completely depending on rainfall whereas irrigated crops are also cultivated in plains. Study area: Karjat is a Tahsil of Raigad district of Konkan region of Maharashtra state of India. The Tahsil had a population of 2,12,051 of which 24.8% people lives in Urban and 75.2% people lives in Rural area as per census 2011 [6]. Thakar tribes resides in the Forests region of Tahsil.

Methodology

The ethnomedicinal information was collected from Thakar tribe of Karjat Tahsil during 2017-18 in different seasons of flowering or fruiting conditions with the help of well-designed questionnaire. The questionnaire information consists of Medicinal application, Parts used, dosage and location of plants were collected from tribal heads, local vaidu and mukhida and plants specimens herbaria were prepared according the methods [4]. All the plants specimens were identified using different flora and their identification was confirmed with the help of qualified taxonomists [7]. The collected specimens were kept for student's reference.

Table: List of Plants Remedies against Scorpion bite

Sr. no.	Family Name	Botanical Name	Vernacular name	Parts used	Medicinal uses
1	Fabaceae	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L. Wall.	Gulganji	Root	Root powder along with milk is taken orally.
2	Amaranthaceae	<i>Achyranthus aspera</i> L.	Aghada	Root	Roots with two seeds of <i>Caesalpinia cristata</i> paste applied externally.
3	Caesalpinaceae	<i>Bauhinia racemosa</i> Lamk.	Apta	Leaves, fruit	Paste of leaves and fruit is applied externally.
4	Brassicaceae	<i>Brassica juncea</i> (L.) Czen. & Coss	Mohari	Leaf, stem	Warm juice of stem, leaf & Branches applied on externally.
5	Apocynaceae	<i>Carissa congesta</i> Wight.	Karvand	Root	A root piece is kept in molar tooth, chewed and its remnant is applied.
6	Cyperaceae	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.	Motha	Tuber	Dried powder paste tuber is applied externally.
7	Liliaceae	<i>Gloriosa superba</i> L.	Karlavi	Root	Leaf juice is applied externally.
8	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Luffa Acutangula</i> Roxb.	Kadu-dodka	Leaves	Juice of the leaf is applied on stung part.
9	Sapotaceae	<i>Referenc Madhuca latifolia</i> Roxb.	Mahua	Fruit& leaves	Paste of dried fruits with leaves of <i>Ipomoea stramonium</i> applied externally.
10	Martyniaceae	<i>Martynia annuuu</i> L.	Vinchucha jhar	Seed	4 gm seeds soaked in water and made paste, applied 2-3 times externally

Results and Discussions

The survey of tribal area showed that people use 10 plants species belonging to 10 families and 10 genera to treat scorpion bite. Among reported plants application 04 roots, 02 leaves and fruit, 01 application with leaves, 01 with Tuber, 01 with seed and 01 application with leaf and stem are being used.

The current visit survey showed that Thakar tribal of this area use 10 medicinal plant species to treat Scorpion bite. Among the reported specimens plant parts like Roots, Leaves, Fruits, Barks, Tubers, Stem, Branches etc. are used in the form of paste, along with milk, water which are used for treating Scorpion bite as per table.

Plants Remedies against Scorpion bite:

In case of Scorpion bite, the parts of plants such as seed, leaves, bark, tuber, leaf and stem are used in the form of powder, paste, juice and applied externally on the infected bite part to cure Scorpion bite.

Conclusion

The present study has revealed that tribal in study area still depends on the traditional medicines for the treatment of several ailments. 10 plants are being used by tribal people for scorpion-bite.

This hot-spot of traditional knowledge has wide applications, considering the large number of Scorpion bite cases and most of the medicines originated from traditional knowledge reported each year in konkan region and in Maharashtra. [8-9]. Due to the increase in industrialization, pollution, Global warming this traditional knowledge is at the verge of extinction hence, it is necessary to preserve this for future generations [10].

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