

OBSERVATIONS OF MEDICINAL PLANTS USED BY KUKNA TRIBES OF JHAVADA VILLAGES OF WAGHAI FOREST, DANGS DT, GUJARAT, INDIA.

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ABSTRACT: Ethnobotanical survey was carried out among the Kukna tribes in Jhavada villages of Dangs district, Gujarat located in Waghai forest. There are 46 plant species belonging to 30 families were identified from the study site based on the information collected from herbal healers to cure diseases such as diarrhoea, skin disease, cough, cold, ulcer, diabetes, constipation and Jaundice. Study of indigenous knowledge and herbal medical practices has very much welcoming by modern drug designers due to their positive results. The goal is to preserve, manage and use the biodiversity and the tribal knowledge for their welfare and others.

Key words: *Kukna tribes * Jhavada * Herbal healers* Dangs dt Waghai forest.

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays the indigenous knowledge of traditional medicine is widely appreciated in developing countries due to their positive effects but no side effects. This herbal treatment is part of their culture practiced as one of the healing therapy which is dominated all other therapies. These herbal remedies, is accepted by the society because of its less cost.¹ Traditionally plants plays a crucial role all over the world in remedial measures for diseases and to keep good health.²

Study area:

The study has been done among the Kukna tribes living in Jhavada villages which is located near the border of Surat city the northwestern part of Dangs dt. Waghai Tk. The living place of Kuknas are covered by plenty of Bamboo and teak trees. Among 25 districts, Dangs is one of the highly tribal populated districts of south Gujarat.³ It is located between 20° 39'-21° 50' N and 72° 29'-73° 5' E which is filled with 93% of tribals.⁴ The indigenous knowledge about the plant species has been collected from the local tribes those who are living in the forest ecosystems.⁵ Kuknas are the tribal groups, called by other names Kokni or Kukna or Kukna and they are migrated from Konkan western coastal area of Maharashtra.⁷

Methodology

Observations have done for three years by repeated field visits in this tribal hamlet reveal the ethnomedical practices of Kukna tribes. Different mode of medical preparation and treatments to cure various diseases were learned through villagers. Local names of the plants sps were identified by the help of herbal healers and village head man. These tribal people believe in healing through prayers firstly and secondly by herbals.



Fig-1 Dangsdt



Fig-2 Jhavda villages WaghaiTk

Table-1 List of medicinal plants used by Kukna tribes of Dangs dt, Gujarat, India

S.No	Name of the plant	Local name	Illness	Mode of medical preparation and treatment to cure diseases
1.	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> (Fabaceae)	Chanothi	Sore throat	Chew the leaves and swallow the essence.
2.	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> (Malvaceae)	Dabli	Swelling of liver, Yellowish urine	Dry the plant and powder it, mix with water drink then, yellowish urine will change to normal.
3.	<i>Acalypha indica</i> (Euphorbiaceae)	Dadari	Itching	Grind the leaves and make a paste apply on the itching part of skin will cure the disease.
4.	<i>Aconitum heterophyllum</i> (Ranunculaceae)	Atavasa	Ulcer, Diabetes	Stir root powder with water and drink.
5.	<i>Adenanthera pavonia</i> (Fabaceae)	Badigumchi	Health improvement	Crush leaves and put it in water and apply on head drink that water.
6.	<i>Allium sativum</i> (Amaryllidaceae)	Lasan	Ear ache	Crush garlic and cooked with a spoon of oil strained and cooled then put in to both the ears 2 times for 2 days.
7.	<i>Aloe barbadensis</i> (Liliaceae)	Kanvar pathu	Burns ,wounds	Break the stem and take out the gel, apply it on the wound and tie it by cloth belt till it cure.
8.	<i>Artemisia annua</i> (Asteraceae)	Nagdamani	Fever, Vomit, Giddiness	Cut the root and clean it by water and tie small bits and make a chain then hang it around the neck till the roots dry.
9.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> (Meliaceae)	Limda	Snake bite	(To test the venom) Leaves crushed and soaked in water for 15 min, drink it will tastes bitter there is no venom, if it is sweet or no taste there is venom in a body and patient has to take to hospital.
10.	<i>Bambusa arundinaceae</i> (Poaceae)	Vansha	Constipation	Bamboo shoots rich in fibre content, boiled and taken with meals to set right constipation.
11.	<i>Butea superba</i> (Fabaceae)	Khakhar-velo	Poisonous insect bite,Snake bite and Scorpion sting.	Drink extract of the plant gives remedy from poisonous bites.
12.	<i>Cajanus cajan</i> (Fabaceae)	Tohar	Loose teeth	A hand full of raw dhal is chewed for twice for two days.
13.	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (Asclepiadaceae)	Rooya	Scabies	Burst out the pustules and the latex taken from the leaves, apply on the them for twice a day.
14.	<i>Carica papaya</i> (Caricaceae)	Popaye	Ring worm	Latex is applied after taking bath two times in a day for 4 days.
15.	<i>Chlorophytum borivillianum</i> (Lilliaceae)	Dhouli Musli	Antifertility	Tubers are boiled and used for treatment of fertility.
16.	<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> (Vitaceae)	peraal	Bone fractures	The whole plant is ground then the paste was applied on fractured area and tied, paste has to changed for every 3 days for 2 weeks.
17.	<i>Clerodendron phlomidis</i> (Verbenaceae)	Pokal Arandi	Scabies	Fistful of leaves taken twice and crushed and juice of ¼ a cup has taken in empty stomach.
18.	<i>Coleus aromaticus</i>	Pan ova	Headache	Leaves rubbed on the fore head and smelt on nostrils 2 -3 times gives relief.
19.	<i>Curcuma longa</i> (Zingiberaceae)	Kohla	Nostril block	Dry tubers burnt and inhale the smoke will give relief.
19.	<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i> (Poaceae)	Govathichaha	Fever, Cold	A fistful of leaves taken boiled and the one cup is taken with a little sugar twice a day.
20.	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (Poaceae)	Devada	Mensuration problems	Whole plant is crushed and the extract taken 3 times a day for recovery.

21.	<i>Emblica officinalis</i> (Euphorbiaceae)	Ambala	Anaemia, Weak child	Two fresh fruits eaten daily for 3 months to improve health.
22.	<i>Eleusine coracana</i> (Poaceae)	Nagli	Fever	Seeds grained and mixed with water then the paste is applied on whole body morning and evening for 2-3 days.
23.	<i>Euphorbia caducifolia</i> (Euphorbiaceae)	Thuar	Skin infections, cuts and wounds	Applying latex to cure skin allergy.
24.	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> (Myrtaceae)	Haritparan	Headache, Cold	Oil of the leaf is applied on fore head, leaves boiled in hot water and used for bathing
25.	<i>Ficus racemosa</i> (Moraceae)	Pipal	Diarrhoea	Ripe fruits eaten to control problem.
26.	<i>Gloriosa superba</i> (Liliaceae)	Kankasani	Snake bite	Root extract has taken and it acts against snake bite.
27.	<i>Holarrhena antidysenterica</i> (Apocynaceae)	Indrajav	Fever	Seeds are roasted and powered 5 grms stirred with a cup of tea and drunk two times a day.
28.	<i>Madhuca indica</i> (Sapotaceae)	Mahudo	Amenorrhoea	Bark is boiled with water till one cup then stained extract taken ½ a cup morning and evening up to menstrual day.
29.	<i>Mangifera indica</i> (Anacardiaceae)	Aamba	Wounds	Bark is dried in the shade, burnt ash mixed with coconut oil, the mixture paste applied on wounds till recovery.
30.	<i>Melia azadirach</i> (Meliaceae)	Bakan limdo	Swelling	Leaves are ground and the paste is warmed and tied on the swelling area every day until cured.
31.	<i>Momordica charantia</i> (Cucurbitaceae)	Karela	Diabetics	Raw fruit juice taken ½ a cup daily to control diabetics.
32.	<i>Moringa concanensis</i> (Moringaceae)	Shegu	Scorpion sting	Gum is rubbed with a drop of water and applied on the place of scorpion bite will take out poison and gives relief from pain.
33.	<i>Musa paradisiaca</i> (Musaceae)	Keli	Irregular mensusturation	Stem is crushed and ½ cup of juice as taken 7 days before menstruation for 7 days.
34.	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i> (Lamiaceae)	Kalitulsi	Fever and shivering	Leaves crushed and ½ a cup of juice taken with a pinch of pepper powder 2-3 days, thrice in a day.
35.	<i>Phyllanthus niruri</i> (Phyllanthaceae)	Muiasaan	Jauindice	Whole plant is crushed and extract has taken in empty stomach for a week or till cured.
36.	<i>Piper nigrum</i> (Piperaceae)	Kolamirich	Cough	Five pepper corns chewed at the time of cough gives recovery.
37.	<i>Psidium guayava</i> (Myrtaceae)	Jaov	Vomiting and Diarrhoea	Two fistful of young leaves crushed and put it in cups of water, kept for 5 min then the essence stained and taken for days morning and evening.
38.	<i>Punica granatum</i> (Lythraceae)	Dalimb	Worms in stomach	Skin of fruit is dried in shade and make fine powder and sieved in a cloth then taken a teaspoon with water for 3 days
39.	<i>Sorghum vulgare</i> (Poaceae)	Juwar	Constipation	Flour of grain has prepared as roaty (bread) and has eaten as meals for 4 days gives relief.
40.	<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (Myrtaceae)	Jamun	Menstrual problems	Bark has powered and decoction is taken morning and evening till the recovery.
41.	<i>Terminalia catapa</i> (Combretaceae)	Deshi Badam	Body Strength	Seeds crushed and mixed with a cup of milk and drink with sugar needed to get strength.
42.	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> (Zygophyllaceae)	Gokhru	Urinary infections	Root powder used as cooling agent to cure urinary nicturition.
43.	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> (Asteraceae)	Unhalya	Jaundice	Entire plant has crushed and extract taken for 7 days ½ a cup.
44.	<i>Zingiber officinale</i> (Zingiberaceae)	Aala	Cough	Rhizome is roasted inflame and chewed and extract is swallowed for 3 days

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Ethano- medical uses with family name, local name and tribal names of plant species were presented in Table 1. This present investigation revealed 43 plant species used among the tribal community and its mode of preparation for the treatment of various diseases. Plant parts were used as fresh leaves or various kinds of preparations like decoction, powder, paste, oil, and chains (made by tied stem bits of medicinal plants) etc. In almost all parts of the globe there was a sudden rush to the acquisition of the ethnic and tribal knowledge. Pharmaceutical investigations of these plant species will lead to the preparation of modern drug.



A. Cultural Dangi dance of Kukna tribes

B. Medicinal plants used by Kukna tribes. (i) *Ficus racemosa* (ii) *Momordica charantia*
(iii) *Holarrhena antidysenterica* (iv) *Tribulus terrestris*

C. Names of medicinal plants referred with a herbal healer

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