



Utility of Asteraceae Family Plants of Mahur Taluka, Nanded District, Maharashtra, India

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Abstract

Since long time, plants are being used for treating different diseases in different parts of world by different communities. The Utility of Asteraceae family plant explorations conducted in forest areas of Mahur Taluka resulted in the information on the plants used in treating many diseases. For which about 07 plants species belonging to 07 Genera of Asteraceae family are used. Of these. Information gathered from Mahur taluka indicates that the indigenous and other village people of this region have good knowledge of plants in treating different ailments, but their continuous and progressive exposure to modernization may result in extinction of the rich heritage of knowledge in the course of time. Majority of preparation are from Leaves and Flower.

INTRODUCTION

Mahur taluka is located in northern part of Nanded district. It is bounded North by Yavatmal district, South by Kinwat taluka of Nanded district East part by Adilabad district of Telangana and West by Pusad taluka of Yavatmal district of Vidarbha region. Geographically the Mahur taluka is situated between 19°49' to 19°08' North latitude and 77° 91' to 77°55' East longitude. The total geographical area of taluka is 52,160 hectares of which 14397.39 hectares area covered with forest and 37762.61 hectares are non-forested area and its population is 86782 (Census-2001), out of this 15.5 percent is inhabited by tribal population of aborigines like Andh, Kolam, Gond, Naikede and Pradhan. Mahur taluka is a thick forested area of Nanded District. The main river is Penganga which flows from the South to North direction.

Materials and Methodology:

For documentation of ethno-botanical information

and collection of plant material, several tours were undertaken during the period 2020-24. Data presented here is based on personal observations and interviews with traditional healers (Viz. medicine men, hakims and old aged people) and methodology used is based on the methods available in literature (Jain 1989) and (Jain and Mudgal 1999). Ethno medico botanical information gathered was documented in datasheets prepared. For collection of plant material, local informer accompanied to authors. Plant identification was done by using regional flora and flora of adjoining districts (Naik 1998), (Cooke 1958).

Medicinal uses of plants were compared with major published literature (Ambasta 1992), (Chopra et al. 1956 & 1969), (Jain 1991), (Jain 1996), (Jain 1999), (Kapur 2001), (Kirtikar & Basu 1933), (Sharma & Singh 2001), (Varsha 2011) (Vijigiri & Sharma 2010) and (Vijigiri & Himalaya 2017).

Enumeration: The present The Utility of Asteraceae family plant explorations conducted in forest areas of Mahur taluka resulted in the traditional plant uses of 07 plants species belonging to 07 genera. Following data includes botanical name of species, family, local name and uses.

***Acmella oleracea* (L.) R. K. Jansen.** ‘Akkal kada’

Uses: Med: Dry Cough: Flower taken orally daily twice for three days.



Acmella oleracea

***Blumea mollis* (D. Don) Merr.** ‘Rantambaku’

Uses: Med: Cough in children: leaf juice four drops taken orally once only.

Misc: Fish Poison: leaves used as a fish poison.



Blumea mollis

***Echinops echinatus* Roxb.** ‘Katechabuk’.
‘Uchkateri’

Uses: Med: Tonic: 5 gm powder of flower with 100 ml milk taken as a tonic.



Echinops echinatus

***Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L.** ‘Maka’ ‘Brungaraj’

Uses: Med: Hair fall: Handful leaves boil in coconut oil and apply externally till cure.

***Sphaeranthus indicus* L.** ‘Gorakmun’

Uses: Med: Expel lice: Whole plant keep on hen nest to expel lice.

Misc: Fish Poison: Whole plant used as a fish poison.



Eclipta prostrata

***Tridax procumbens* L.** ‘Tاكلani’

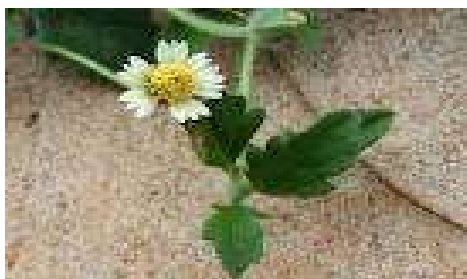
Use: Med: Wounds: Leaves crush with ‘Jagreen’ and past apply externally till cure.

***Xanthium indicum* Koen. in Roxb.** ‘Dutandi’

Use: Med: Piles: Two leaves crush with ‘Jagreen’ and take orally daily twice for three times. Tooth decay: leaves juice pore in opposite ear daily once for two days.



Sphaeranthus indicus



Tridax procumbens



Xanthium indicum

Results and Discussion

Information gathered from Mahur Taluka of Nanded district indicates that the tribals, and other village people of this region possess good knowledge of herbal drugs, but their continuous and progressive exposure to modernization may result in extinction of such rich heritage of knowledge in the course of time. The collective efforts of ethno-botanists, phytochemists, pharmacognostists, and pharmacologists are needed to document and evaluate the efficacy and safety of the claims. Majority of preparation are From Leaves (05) and Flower (02). Two plants are used as a Fish poison. To test the scientific validity of the herbal preparations or drugs, clinical studies are required, which can establish therapeutic properties of these preparations for safe use.

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