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ETHNO-MEDICINAL PLANT LORE AROUND BISALPUR DAM AREA, TONK DISTRCT, RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

This paper deals with medicinal plant lore of the ethnic societies around the Bisalpur dam area of Tonk district, Rajasthan. Many herbal plants are used for folk remedies by local people and tribes. Various uses of plants for medicinal purposes were noted in area. Eleven ethno-medicinal species have been enumerated in this study.

KEYWORDS: Aravali, Bronchitis, Deciduous, Ethnobotany, Scorpion stings.

INTRODUCTION

The branch of botany dealing with the natural relationship between plants and people known as ethnobotany. This is the study of how people of a particular region and culture make the uses of indigenous plants. Bisalpur dam is located in Deoli tehsil of Tonk district in Rajasthan. This dam lies between 25º 55' 28" N latitude and 75º 27' 20" E longitude. The dam is built across the Banas River between thick forests containing two mountains of Aravali range. The dam was constructed near Bisalpur village of Deoli tehsil.

This area is rich in vegetation point of view. Dense forests and a large number of wild animals are salient features of this region. In such conditions many local and tribals reside in area. The area is inhabited by ethnic people namely Meena, Bhils, Gurjar, Banjaras, Gadoliya Lohar and Kalbelias. They are dispersed in small pockets in some parts of this region. The local communities of the area are mainly depended on the herbal medicines for their primarily treatment.

The forest vegetation of the area is tropical dry deciduous to mixed deciduous type. *Anogeissus pendula* consisting forms pure stands in some places or mixed with other predominant tree species at many places. The major arboreal species in these localities are *Acacia nilotica, Acacia catechu, Acacia leucophloea, Mitragyna parvifolia, Anogeissus pendula, Butea monosperma, Holoptelea integrifolia, Wrightia tinctoria* and *Balanites aegyptiaca*.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Notable contributions in floristic and ethnobotanical studies in India are those of Agarwal (1971), Sharma and Tiagi (1979), Shetty and Singh (1987-92), Sharma, Shringi and Tiagi (1989), Jain (1995), Joshi (1995), Meena (2012), Gautam and Sharma (2013), Bhatia, Mukherjee and Singh (2014), Dadhich, (2016) and Srivastava, Pandey, Mishra, Dikshit, and Shukla, (2020). Related amount of work in this area has been neglected till now.

Ethnic people of area have deep knowledge of plant-based medicine of their surroundings. They utilized wild angiosperm plants for cure of various diseases. To know the medicinal properties of plants, meetings with knowledgeable local persons were arranged. The studies are based on field survey, collection tours and discussions with folk people of area. To record the ethno-medicinal knowledge, area was visited during 2012 to 2014 and recent revised survey during 2019 to 2021. Observed data and information are described in present paper.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The indigenous people have to depend upon several medicinal wild plant species for treatment of various diseases. Some medicinal plants are being threatened due to over exploitation and adverse environmental conditions. Various medicinal uses of plants in tribal life were recorded in the area. Ethno-medicinal uses of plants with their botanical names, local names, habit and habitats and family are given below. Eleven medicinal plant species are enumerated in present communication. Enumerated plant species are arranged alphabetically.

1 *Achyranthus aspera* L.
(a) Local name: Aandhi Jhada
(b) Family: Amaranthaceae

(c) Habit and Habitat: Herbs, open and waste places.
(d) Ethno-medicinal uses: In Seasonal fevers

2 *Adhatoda zeylanica* Medic.
(a) Local name: Adusa
(b) Family: Acanthaceae
(c) Habit and Habitat: Herbs, open, undisturbed areas and foot hills
(d) Ethno-medicinal uses: In Bronchitis, cold and cough

3 *Asparagus racemous* Willd.
(a) Local name: Shatawari
(b) Family: Liliaceae
(c) Habit and Habitat: Climbers, open and dry forests places.
(d) Ethno-medicinal uses: In Abdominal pains

4 *Blumea lacera* (Burm. f.) DC.
(a) Local name: Kharenti
(b) Family: Asteraceae
(c) Habit and Habitat: Herbs, open and crops fields
(d) Ethno-medicinal uses: In Healing wounds

5 *Convolvulus pluricaulis* Choisy
(a) Local name: Shankpushpi
(b) Family: Convolvulaceae
(c) Habit and Habitat: Herbs, open, dry and rocky places
(d) Ethno-medicinal uses: Relieves headache

6 *Enicostema axillare* (Lam.) Raynal
(a) Local name: Navri
(b) Family: Gentianaceae
(c) Habit and Habitat: Herbs, open, wet and cultivated fields
(d) Ethno-medicinal uses: General and malarial fever

7 *Pergularia daemia* (Forsk.) Chiov.
(a) Local name: Dudhi bel
(b) Family: Asclepiadaceae
(c) Habit and Habitat: Climbers, open and waste places
(d) Ethno-medicinal uses: Relief wounds and swelling

8 *Sida cordifolia* L.
(a) Local name: Kharenti
(b) Family: Malvaceae
(c) Habit and Habitat: Herbs, open, waste, dry and sandy places
(d) Ethno-medicinal uses: In Snake bites

9 *Solanum surattense* Burm. f.
(a) Local name: Bangan Kateli
(b) Family: Solanaceae
(c) Habit and Habitat: Herbs, open and waste places
(d) Ethno-medicinal uses: In Snake bite and scorpion stings

10 *Tinospora cordifolia* (Willd.) Miers.
(a) Local name: Giloy
(b) Family: Menispermaceae
(c) Habit and Habitat: Climbers, open places
(d) Ethno-medicinal uses: In seasonal fevers

11 *Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal.
(a) Local name: Asgandh
(b) Family: Solanaceae
(c) Habit and Habitat: Herbs, open, waste and dry places
(d) Ethno-medicinal uses: Bones strengthens

CONCLUSION

The forest vegetation of the area is mainly tropical dry deciduous. Once upon a time these areas supported dense forest but at present time, many vegetations becomes rare and threatened. The ethnic people of the area are primarily depended on the herbal medicines for their treatment. Eleven ethno-medicinal plant species around the Bisalpur dam area are enumerated in present communication.

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