

PLANTS USED AS ANTIDOTES BY THE TRIBALS OF BIHAR**KAUSHAL KUMAR, A.R. MURTHY AND O.P. UPADHYAY**Department of Dravyaguna, Institute of Medical sciences, Banaras Hindu University,
Varanasi – 221 005.**Received: 3 October, 1996****Accepted: 4 June, 1998****ABSTRACT:** *The paper deals some ethnomedicinal plants of Bihar which used as antidote in traditional phytotherapy.***INTRODUCTION**

The medicinal plant-lore of the tribal communities of Bihar is much interesting. The principal tribes of this area, are santhal, paharia (Sauria, kunwar-bhag and Mal), oraon, Munda, Ho Kol, Asur, Kharwar and Baiga. The tribal population of Bihar is 66,16,614 which is approximately 10% of the total tribal population of India. Indeed Bihar is a place where ethnobotanist gets inspiration for work, santhal is one of the largest tribes of India especially concentrated in santhal pargana region of Bihar. Santhal and paharia both associate in t santhal pargana while other tribal are concentrated in chotanagpur. Studies on ethnomedicinal plants of the tribal communities of Bihar were, initiated by Bodding (1925, 1927) followed by Jain and Tarafder (1973). Some other contributors are Gupta (1963, 1981), Pal (1972). Pal and srivastva (1976) and Goel et al. 1984, 1988). Recently survey on ethnomedicinal plants of santhal pargana were published by kaushal and Upadhyay (1996).

The present communication reports some ethnomedicinal plants which are used as antidote for insect bite, scorpion sting and snake bite. The tribal people always use their own ethnomedicinal plants when they suffer with this victim. Here it may be noted it that the suffering person refuses to take any kind of food when bitten by scorpions or

snakes. The refuse to take meal for 8-24 hours. It was also obvious in case of snake bite that they take excess bath with water. Other people help in his bath. When the suffering person feels extremely cold after bat then it is assumed that he is cured.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study is based on intensive survey of tribal communities of Bihar. Contact was made with tribal medicine men, Manjhi, Janguru, Head of the tribal village (s) of multiple tribes. Method of fields work was the one followed by Jain (1965, 1981). The details of information like tribal name, locality and mode of use etc. Were noted. Specimens were deposited and identified in the Divisions of Pharmacognosy, Department of Dravyaguna, Institute of Medical sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. Abbreviations used in the enumeration as santhal = S, Sauria paharia = SP, Mal paharia = MP, Mundari = M, Urang = U, Kharwar = KW and Kol = K.

Enumeration**1. *Achyranthes aspera* Linn.**

Family: Amaranthaceae

Locality: Abundant

Tribal name: S- Chipchirit, Kakralatha, SP- Alirpo, MP Chirchiri, M- Sitirkad, UR- Chirchiti, K- Chirchiriya.

Ayurvedic name: Apamarga

Mode of use: The crushed fresh root extract of the plant is taken and paste of leaf applied locally in scorpion sting. It ma again repeated.

2. *Alangium salvifolium* (L.F.) Wang

Family: Alangiaceae

Locality: Rural area and forest of Bihar.

Tribal name: LS- dhela, MP – Dhela, M- Huring bita Bororo, K- Dhelkata, UR- Ankol

Ayurvedic name: Ankola

Mode of use: The fresh bark extract is applied in insect bite.

3. *Aristolochia indica* Linn.

Family: Aristolociaceae

Locality: Dominant North Santhal Pargana and Chotanagpur

Tribal name: S-Jhunka god, Nanri god, SP- God, MP- Gad, M- Nanri Nagbail, KW – Ishrol, K- Ishrol.

Ayurvedic name: Eashwari

Mode of use: The fresh root extract of *Aristolochia indica* mix wit the root of *Rauvolfia serpentine* (L) Nenlt. And croton rozburghii Balak. Is taken is snake bite

4. *Azadirachta indica* Juss

Family: Meliaceae

Locality: Abundant

Tribal name: S-Nim dare, SP- Nib, MP – Nim, Kh – Nimo, UR – Nim, M- Nim daru.

Ayurvedic name: Nimba

Mode of use: The fresh leaf extract is applied in insect bite.

5. *Calotropis procera* Br.

Family: Asclepiadaceae

Locality: Abundant

Tribal name: S-Akaoan, SP- Barangobali, MP – Akwan, Kh – Akoan, UR – Akuna, M- Parlati.

Ayurvedic name: Arka

Mode of use: The latex is applied in insect bite (It is not applied in face or near eye).

6. *Carica papaya* Linn

Family: Caricaceae

Locality: Cultivated for vegetables

Tribal name: S, MP, SP, M, UR- Papita, Pabita

Ayurvedic name: Eranda Karkati

Mode of use: Latex applied in insect bite (It is not applied in face or near eye)

7. *Clerodendron infortunatum* Auct

Family: Verbenaceae

Locality: Abundant

Tribal name: S, MP-Titbhatin, M-Bir chamgar, Ur- Bakaspati, Kw- Gokhol.

Ayurvedic name: Bhandier

Mode of use: Fresh leaf extract applied in insect bite.

8. *Clitoria ternatea* Linn.

Family: Fabaceae

Locality: Growing for holy flower and ornamental plant.

Tribal name: S- Ruhu tuhu, MP- Ankh phool, M- Saank ba.

Ayurvedic name: Aparajita

Mode of use: The root extract is taken with the root of aristolochia indica and Rauwolfia serpentina in snake bite.

9. *Costus speciosus* (Koen) sm

Family: Costaceae

Locality: Forest region and now growing as ornamental plant in garden

Tribal name: S- Orop, Ur- Keon Kanda, M- Ote Kita muti.

Ayurvedic name: Kebuk

Mode of use: The fresh root extract is taken with root of aristolochia indica in snake bite

10. *Curculigo orchioides* Gaertn

Family: Hypoxidaceae

Locality: Forest region and now also cultivated

Tribal name: S- Turum sanga, Jom raja, SP- Ertalmi, M- Turam, MP- Kari musli.

Ayurvedic name: Talmulie

Mode of use: The crushed fresh root is applied in scorpion sting

11. *Cyperus kyllinga* Endl

Family: Cyperaceae

Locality: Abundant in grass field.

Tribal name: S- Nirbishi, M- Nirbis.

Ayurvedic name: Mustaka (type)

Mode of use: This plant tuber is taken freshly as antidote 3-4 dose.

12. *Drypetes roxburghii* (Wall) Huru

Family: Dryopteridaceae

Locality: Forest region

Tribal name: S- Pitonj, MP- Pitinjia, M- Pitaunji

Ayurvedic name: Putranjiva

Mode of use: The crushed seed is applied in insect bite

13. *Fimbristylis spathacea* Roth

Family: Cyperaceae

Locality: In grass field of mountain and hill area

Tribal name: D- Bhidimutha, MP- Hathya ghas, Kw- Hathia, K- Hathia.

Mode of use: The fresh root is taken in snake bite.

14. *Gmelina arborea Roxb*

Family: L Verbinaceae

Locality: Abundant

Tribal name: S- Kasmar, MP-Gamar, M- Kasombar, Ur- Gamhair

Ayurvedic name: Gambharie

Mode of use: The crushed bark is applied in insect bite.

15. *Gloriosa superba Linn*

Family: Liliaceae

Locality: Forest region of santhal pargana and chotanagpur.

Tribal name: S- Sinic samanom, M- Bunum Kichung, Bulung chukuru, Kw – Karihari.

Ayurvedic name: Langalie

Mode of use: The fresh root is applied in scorpion sting.

16. *Murraya paniculata (L.) Jack*

Family: Rutaceae

Locality: Abundant

Tribal name: S, M – Kari sakan

Ayurvedic name: Kaitary

Mode of use: Root is taken in snake bite.

17. *Tamarindus indica Linn*

Family: Caesal pinaceae

Locality: Abundant

Tribal name: S- Jojo, MP- Tetur, M- Jojo, Ur – Tetuki.

Ayurvedic name: Amlika

Mode of use: Some crushed seed taken with water in snake bite. It is also applied locality

18. *Typhonium trilobatum schott.*

Family: Araceae

Locality: Almost in tribal village because they always protect this plant and also cultivate.

Tribal name: S- Nirbisi, SP- Alalao, M- Najom pichki.

Mode of use: The tuber is crushed and taken in snake bite

19. *Vitex peduncularis Wall*

Family: Verbenaceae

Locality: Abundant in forest of santhal pargana and chotanagpur

Tribal name: S- Bhadu, Mara Kata, SP- Kerkedo, M- Simkata, Simjanga.

Ayurvedic name: Kakajangha

Mode of use: Fresh leaf extract is taken in snake bite

DISCUSSION

It is obvious in the survey of traditional phytotherapy of Bihar that tribal communities have staunch belief in ethno-plant medicine. In the case of insect and snake bite it may be possible the species of insect and snake are poisonous or non-poisonous. But they definitely use their own ethnomedicinal plants for the treatment. One of the authors (KK) found that sometimes santhals eat non-poisonous snakes. Tribals are usually forest dwellers so

they have easily available plants for the therapy.

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