

PLANTS USED BY THE RURAL COMMUNITIES OF VILLAGE EKA, DISTRICT FIROZABAD, UTTAR PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

The traditional knowledge system has gained prime importance in context with conservation, sustainable development and new utilization patterns of plant resources. In this context, ethno medicinal studies contributed a heap of knowledge on various indigenous traditional medicine systems, which are still prevailing in various societies. Considering the importance of herbal medicines, the paper pertains to the study conducted in the Village Eka, District Firozabad. The study is based on extensive surveys, plant collection and interviews with the local folks particularly the vaidyas, women folks and the local banjaras. About 52 plant species belonging to 34 families have been reported in this manuscript which is used for various diseases used by locales and *vaidhyas*.

Key words: ethnomedicine, medicinal plants, firozabad

INTRODUCTION

Plants have been used as source of medicine throughout the world for more than five thousand years ago and still continue to occupy an important place in traditional as well as modern systems of medicine. India is a rich source of medicinal and aromatic plants. It has been estimated that out of 15,000 higher plants occurring in India, 9,000 are commonly useful, of which 7,500 are medicinal, 3,900 are culturally important, 525 are used for fiber, 400 are for fodder, 300 for pesticide and insecticide, 300 for gum and resin, and 100 for incense and perfumes¹. The traditional system of medicine dealing plants as a source have acquired greater impetus in the last three decades as excessive use of synthetic drugs and antibiotics have been found to cause number of side effects². In terms of

the plant materials used for traditional medicine, it is estimated that local communities have used over 7,500 plant species. Indian flora have innumerable medicinal plants, which are collected from the forest by the tribal villagers. This practice of using plants in medicine is still prevailing among not only the tribal but also others living in the rural areas³. The present survey was conducted in village Eka, area of district Firozabad which occupies between 27°00' and 27°24' north latitude and 77°66' and 70°04' east longitude. It is bounded in north by Etah district, in east by Etawah and Mainpuri, in the south by Yamuna River and in the west by Agra district. The climate of Eka is characterized by hot summer, pleasant winter and general dryness except during rainy season.

METHODOLOGY

Extensive field surveys and plant collection were made from various localities of the area and the information was recorded on various aspects of medicinal plants through questionnaire with the people residing in that area. The plant specimens were identi-

fied and deposited in the Department of Botany, S.R.K.K. Degree College, Morcha, Firozabad. Botanical names are arranged alphabetically followed by local names, family, plant part used and medicinal uses are listed in

Table 1.

S. No	Botanical Name	Local Name	Family	Part used	Medicinal uses
1.	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> Linn.	Kanghi	Malvaceae	Leaf, Root	Diuretic, leucorrhoea
2.	<i>Acacia arabica</i> Willd.	Babul	Mimosaceae	All five parts	Weakness, toothbrush
3.	<i>Acacia catechu</i> Willd.	Kattha	Mimosaceae	Leaves	Wounds, bleeding, Piles
4.	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> Linn.	Latzeera	Amaranthaceae	Leaves	Dysentery, fever
5.	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> Linn.	Bel	Rutaceae	Stem, fruit	Dysentery
6.	<i>Allium cepa</i> Linn.	Pyaj	Liliaceae	Fruit	Sunstroke, blood Purifier, Fever
7.	<i>Allium sativum</i> Lam.	Lahsun	Liliaceae	Leaves, buds	Acidity, Joint Pain
8.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Neem	Meliaceae	Leaves, stem	Skin diseases, tooth problem, Dandruff
9.	<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i> Linn.	Kachnar	Caesalpiniaceae	Fruit	Nodular glands
10.	<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i> Linn.	Ssandha	Nyctaginaceae	Root	Short-sight ness
11.	<i>Brassica campestris</i> Linn.	Sarson	Brassicaceae	Seed	Suffering from fever, body massage
12.	<i>Carica papaya</i> Linn.	Papita	Caricaceae	Unripen fruit	Termination of pregnancy
13.	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> Linn.	Madar	Asclepidaceae	Leaves	Easy Delivery
14.	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (ait) r. br	Aak	Asclepidaceae	Latex	Insect bite, jaundice, toothache
15.	<i>Cannabis sativa</i> Linn.	Bhang	Cannabinaceae	Seeds	Cough, insomnia
16.	<i>Cassia fistula</i> Linn.	Amaltas	Caesalpiniaceae	fruit	Skin diseases, fever
17.	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> Linn.	Karonda	Caesalpiniaceae	Leaves	Tonsils
18.	<i>Cassia tora</i> Linn.	Pawar	Caesalpiniaceae	Seeds	Cold, Cough
19.	<i>Citrus limon</i> (christm)	Nimboo	Rutaceae	Fruit	Acidity, Sunstroke
20.	<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> Linn.	Vasan	Menispermaceae	Leaves	Jaundice
21.	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i> Linn.	Dhania	Apiaceae	Fruit, Leaves	Diarrhoea
22.	<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i> Lam	Amerbel	Cuscutaceae	Stem	Joint pain, dandruff
23.	<i>Cynodactylon</i> Linn.)	Doob	Poaceae	Leaves	Blood clotting
24.	<i>Emblica officinalis</i> . Gaertn	Ambla	Euphorbiaceae	Fruit	Hair problems
25.	<i>Erythrina variegata</i> Linn.	Pangara	Papilionaceae	Stem, Leaf-bark	Fever, To relieve pain of joints
26.	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> Linn.	Barged	Moraceae	Leaf, Latex	Rheumatism

27.	<i>Ficus glomerta</i> Roxb.	Bark Gular	Moraceae	Fruit, Bark	Diabetes, Dyspepsia
28.	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> Linn.	Pipal	Moraceae	Fruit, Leaves	fertility, wounds
29.	<i>Holoptelaintegrifolia</i> Roxb.	Chilbil	Ulmaceae	Bark	Hydroceal
30.	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> Linn.	Chandryjoc	Euphorbiaceae	Whole plant	Piles, Burn
31.	<i>Jatropha curcus</i> Linn.	Ratanjyot	Euphorbiaceae	Seed, Fruit	Dysentery
32.	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i> Linn.	Mehandi	Lythraceae	Leaf	Boils and Burns, Scabies
33.	<i>Launaeaprocumbens</i> Roxb.	Bangobhi	Asteraceae	Leaf	Fever
34.	<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> Linn.	Alsi	Linaceae	Flower, Oil	Heart diseases, Skin diseases
35.	<i>Luffa cylindrica</i> Linn.	Ghiatorai	Cucurbitaceae	Leaf	Body swelling
36.	<i>Mangifera indica</i> Linn. Bark	Aam	Anacardiaceae	Bark, Seed	Diarrhea Cough
37.	<i>Melia azedarach</i> Linn.	Bakin	Meliaceae	Leaf	Anthelmintic, Piles
38.	<i>Morus alba</i> Linn.	shahtoot	Moraceae	Leaf	Dysentery
39.	<i>Musa paradisiaca</i> Linn.	Kela	Musaceae	Fruit	Dysentery
40.	<i>Nyctanthes arboristis</i> Linn.	Harsinghar	Oleaceae	Leaf	Fever
41.	<i>Ocimum sanctum</i> Linn.	Tulsi	Labiatae	Leave	Cough
42.	<i>Phyllanthus amarus</i> Schumach. & Thonn.	Bhui Amla	Euphorbiaceae	Fruit	Jaundice
43.	<i>Psidium guajava</i> Linn.	Amrood	Myrtaceae	Fruit	Jaundice, Acidity, Diabetes
44.	<i>Ricinus communis</i> Linn.	Arandi	Euphoraceae	Oil	Pneumonia, Body pain
45.	<i>Rosa centifolia</i> Linn.	Gulab	Rosaceae	Flower	Eye infection, Syphiles
46.	<i>Sidacordifolia</i> Linn.	Khaente	Malvaceae	Root, Leaf	Dysentery
47.	<i>Solanum indicum</i> Linn.	Badi Kateri	Solanaceae	Fruit, Root	Bronchitis, skin disease
48.	<i>Syzigium cumini</i> keel	Jamun	Myrataceae	Fruit	Diabetes
49.	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i> Linn	Sharfunkha	Fabaceae	Leaves, Juice	Diarrhoea
50.	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> (Willd)	Gurch	Menispermaceae	Root	Jaundice, Snake bite
51.	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> Linn.	Gokhuru	Zygophylaceae	Root, Fruit	Diuretic
52.	<i>Withania somnifera</i> Dunakl	Aswagandha	Solanaceae	Root	Weakness

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The survey indicated that the folk medicines are quite prevalent in the rural communities of this area. These 52 species of 34 families are being used by most of the local people and vaidyas for the treatment of common diseases. The majority of plant species belong to families Mimosaceae, Liliaceae, Papaveraceae,

Brassicaceae, Apocynaceae, Poaceae, Asteraceae, Euphorbiaceae, Papilionaceae and Myrtaceae. The dose is prepared by using juice, leaf, bark extracts and other parts of the plant ^{4 5 6 7 8 9 10}.

From earlier times people made use of plants for their basic needs Medicare and livelihood. Some plants used by people are cultivated

while others grow in wild conditions. The tribal depends predominantly on plants for food, clothing, medicine, oil, agricultural implements, art, crafts, huts and for other requirements. Plant species were also used to prevent abortion, achieve easy delivery, eye, gastric, respiratory problems, fever, antidote for snake and scorpion bites, sunstroke, arthritis, hydrocele, toothache, cough, dysentery, jaundice and sexual power.^{11 12 13 14 15}

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