PLANTS OF MEDICO - ETHNOLOGICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL IMPORTANCE FROM THE FLORA OF ETAWAH DISTRICT (U. P.)

D. S. CHAUHAN

Department of Botany, Har Sahai Degree College, Kanpur - 208012, India.

The paper presents the study of flora of Etawah district (U.P.) which includes informations regarding Medico - Ethnological and Pharmaceutical importance of Plants. These informations were gathered at the time of field study from various local inhabitants, *vaidyas* and *Haquims*. Further these informations regarding medicinal uses of plants were confirmed by consulting important references. It has been revealed that many plants of these localities were commonly utilized by Indian Pharmaceutical and Drug Industries.

Keywords: Flora Etawah; Medico - Ethnological.

At the time of field study, informations regarding medicinal uses of plants were gathered from local inhabitants, *Vaidyas* and *Haquims*. These informations were later verified by consulting important references on the subject¹⁻¹². Afurther perusal of

literature^{13,14} has revealed that many plants of these localities are commonly utilized by Indian Pharmaceutical and Drug Industries, plants with such value have been asterisked in the proceeding enumeration.

- 1. Abrus precatorius Root extract : abortion, fever, white eyes of cattle; Seeds : Contraceptive.
- 2. Abutilon hirtum Roots: fever; Leaves: soothing effect, Bark: diuretic, bleeding and secretion; Seeds: laxative.
- 3. A. indicum Root with other ingredients: paralysis and fever; Leaf: skin soothing; Bark: diuretic, bleeding and secretion.
- 4. Acalypha indica Root: Cathartic; Plant extract: muscular pain, gout and asthma: Leaves: laxative, scabies, snake bite.
- 5. Achyranthes aspera var. aspera Root: snake bite, scorpion sting, wounds and boils; Plant: vomiting, bronchitis, piles and heart disease; Leaves stomach pain, bleeding after abortion, ease delivery.
- 6. Adhatoda zeylanica Leaves and flower: cough.
- 7. Aegle marmelos Paste of root and pepper: rabies attack; Leaves: eye disease; Fruit pulp: dysentery, constipation.
- 8. Aerva lanata Plant: headache, cutaneous infection, diabetes.
- 9. Ageratum conyzoides Leaves : cuts, sores, malarial fever, as antiseptic with oil of neem (Azadirachta indica).
- 10. Ailanthus excelsa Leaves and bark : tonic for debility after delivery.
- 11. Amaranthus spinosus Root : excessive menstruation; Plant : snake bite; Leaves : cooling, diuretic, stomach pain.
- 12. A. tricolar Root: inflammatory discharge from genital organs, eczema.
- 13. A. viridis Root: diuretic, soothing of skin and mucous membrane.
- 14. *Anagalis arvensis* Plant extract: gout, cerebral affections, leprosy, snake bite, chronic nervous disorders, yields fist poison.
- 15. *Andrographis paniculata* Plant : impure blood, asthma, swelling piles, fever, liver disorder, headache.
- 16. Annona squamosa Root : purgative, Leaves, fruits & seeds : poisons for fish, insects and headache; Seeds : promote abortion.
- 17. Argemone mexicana Root extract : skin disease; Plant juice : jaundice, cutaneous affection.

- 18. Artocarpus heterophyllus Leaves : skin diseases, antidote to snake bite; Roots : diarrhoea; Ripe fruits : laxative.
- 19. Averrhoa carambola Dry fruits; cooling, used in fever; Ripe fruits bleeding piles.
- 20. Azadirachta indica Leaf: poultice, boils; Water boiled with leaves: antiseptic; Bark; bitter tonic for periodic attack; Seeds: neem oil.
- 21. Barleria prionitis Roots: Boils & glandular swelling; Leaves: catarrhal infection in children; Bark: cough.
- 22. Bauhinia purpurea Bark : sores of small pox.
 B. variegata Flowers : laxative; Buds : diarrhoea & worms.
- 23. Blumea lacera Whole plant dried in shade + 25% tobaco, together smoked twice daily: piles.
- 24. Boerhavia diffusa Leaves & Root: blood purifier, cough, asthma, diarrhoea, dropsy, muscular pains, gout, chest pain, piles, snake bite, body or headache & jaundice.
- 25. Butea monosperma Bark: snake bite; Leaves: tonic, bleeding & secretion; Flower: diuretic, sexual diseases, bleeding & secretion; Crushed seeds with curdled milk: ascaris.
- 26. Calotropis gigantea Root bark: dysentery, induces copious perspiration & vomiting; Root powder and wine of Madhuca Longifolia ssp. latifolia: leprosy; Latex with Euphorbia neriifolia: purgative; Leaf preparation: scorpion sting; Flower powder: cold, cough & asthma.
- 27. *C. procera* Root : fever; Leaf : fever; Sap; blistering agent; Flower powder : cold, cough & asthma.
- 28. Cannabis sativa Plant: tonic, intoxicant, narcotic.
- 29. Capparis decidua Root bark : paw oedema in rats.
- 30. Carissa opaca Root: contraceptive, sores of animals.
- 31. Cassia fistula Leaf apices: constipation, skin disease; Fruit: bowels, snake bite, muscular & joints pains.
- 32. C. tora Leaves & seeds: ringworm & itches.
- 33. Centella asiatica Leaves, stem, root & seeds : tuberculosis.
- 34. Chenopodium album Plant; laxative, intestinal worms, contains vitamin 'C'.
- 35. Cissampelos pareira Roots : bitter diuretic, diarrhoea, cough, urinary trouble and snake bite.
- 36. *Cocculus hirsutus* Root: laxative, alternative & veneral disorders, excessive urination & bed wetting; Leaf: headache.
- 37. Coldenia procumbens Leaves : swelling of muscles & joints, pains; Fine powder of plant & fresh green seeds : boils.
- 38. Corchorus capsularis Root & unripe fruits : diarrhoea; Leaf : laxative, stimulant tonic used in liver disorder.
- 39. *C. olitorius* Leaf : tonic preparation (useful in chronic inflammation of urinary bladder & veneral diseases); Seed : purgative.
- 40. C. trilocularis Seed: fever & obstruction of abdominal viscera, mucilage demulecent.
- 41. *Cordia dichotoma* Plant : snake bite; Bark : indigestion. syphiles & fever; Fruit : bleeding, intestinal worms, soothing effect on skin & mucous membrane of urinary passage.
- 42. *Crateva nurvala* Fresh leaf & root bark : irritation; Bark : diuretic, antipyrretic, snake bite.
- 43. Cuscuta reflexa Stem: wounds, reddening of eyes.
- 44. *Cynodon dactylon Leaves: urinary irritation, dropsy, internal haemorrhage.
- 45. Datura metel Leaf: fever with catarrhal & cerebral complications; antiseptic;

- Flower: asthma.
- 46. *Digera muricata* Plant : laxative; Flowers & seeds : excessive urinary discharge.
- 47. *Echinochloa crus galli Plants : used in spleen disorder for counteracting haemorrhage.
- 48. *Eclipta alba* Plant: wound of cattle; with mustard oil: itches caused by excessive contact of skin with water; Leaf: scorpion sting, sores of shoulders caused by carrying heavy load and ear swelling in cattle.
- 49. *Emblica officinalis* Fruits : headache; with other ingredients : fever constipation; Seed : madness.
- 50. Euphorbia dracunculoides Fruit : skin diseases like warts.
- 51. E. hirta Plant : children disease, worms, cough, dysentary & colotis, bronchial infections and asthma, warts and reddening of eyes in children.
- 52. E. hypericifolia Leaf: bleeding, dysentery diarrhoea, excessive menstruation.
- 53. E. thymifolia Root: excessive menstruation, snake bite.
- 54. Evolvulas alsinoides Plant and other ingredients : scorpion sting.
- 55. Ficus benghalensis Apices & adventitious roots with other ingredients: diarrhoea, snake bite.
- 56. Fumaria indica Plant : diuretic, induces copious perspiration.
- 57. Glinus lotoides Plant : diarrhoea, constipation, boils, wounds and pain of limbs.
- 58. Gnaphalium luteo album Leaf: bleeding & wounds.
- 59. Heteropogon contortus Oil extracted by distillation of awn with betel leaf: asthma.
- 60. Hygrophila auriculata Leaf: body pain swelling of body, jaundice; Seeds: tonic.
- 61. *Indigofera linifolia* Plant : fever, abnormal suppression of menses.
- 62. *I. tinctoria* Root : hepatitis, scorpion sting; Plant : bronchitis, nervous disorders; Leaf : hydrophobia.
- 63. *Ipomoea aquatica* Filterate of crushed flowers : inflammed eyes.
- 64. I. pes tigridis Leaf: reddening of eyes.
- 65. * Kickxia ramosissima Plants: remedy for diabetes.
- 66. *Lantana camera Bark : abortifacient, contraceptive.
- 67. Launaea procumbens: Leaf: fever in children, headache.
- 68. *Leptadenia reticulata Plant stimulant, restrorative; used in ear and nose trouble; Leaves and roots: antiseptic, also used in abortion.
- 69. Leucas aspera Root juice : 'Ardhashish' (Pain of half skull); Leaf juice : burning sensation & redness of eyes.
- 70. Limonia elephantum Root : body pain
- 71. *Mangifera indica Leaf: Scropion sting; Ripe fruits: laxative, diuretic, bleeding & secretion.
- 72. *Martynia annua Seed oil : Sores & ring worms.
- 73. *Meliotus indica* Plant : tumours, coagulation of fluids in body, swellings.
- 74. *Michelia champaca* Root: purgative, menstruation irregularities; Bark: abortifacient up to 2-3 month old pregnancy; Flowers & fruits: antiseptic, tonic, renal diseases; Fruits & seeds: cracks in feet.
- 75. *Mimosa pudica* Root : diuretic, snake bite.
- 76. *Momordica dioica* Root : swollen breasts, piles, bleeding, scorpion sting; Fruit : pain in breasts.
- *Moringa oleifera Root: paralysis, intermittent fever, cardiac and circulatory tonic; Bark: abortifacient; Flowers: stimulant to promote sexual desire.
- 78. *Mukia maderaspatana Leaf juice given in catarrhal affection; Roots masticated in toothache.

- 79. *Murraya paniculata* Root : bodyache; Leaf : bleeding, secretion, diarrhoea & dysentry.
- 80. *Nyctanthes abrortristis Leaf: fever; Bark with bark of Terminalia arjuna: internal injuries; Inflorescence and young fruits: cough.
- 81. *Nymphaea nouchali Root : diarrhoea, piles; Flower : heart.
- 82. *N. pubescence Root : piles, dysentry; Flowers : Cardiac tonic.
- 83. *Ocimum basilicum Ripe seeds soaked in water : bring out foreign particles from eyes.
- *Oldenlandia corymbosa Plant : temperature fluctuations & nervous depressions, jaundice & other liver diseases; Leaf : burning of soles and palms.
- 85. *Oxalis corniculata Plant : scurvy disease; Leaf : cooling effect.
- 86. *Pergularia daemia Leaf juice : catarrhal affection and infantile diarrhoea, uterine tonic, expectorant and emetic.
- 87. *Phragmites karka Roots : fractured bones.
- 88. *Phyla nodiflora* Plant : diuretic, fever, indigestion in children and women after delivery.
- 89. Phyllanthus fraternus Leaf with other ingredients: eruption due to allergy.
- 90. *Plumbago zeylanica* Root : skin disease, diarrhoea, irritation of skin, swellings & pain.
- 91. P. plebeium Root: bowels; Plant; pneumonia, diarrhoea & amoebiosis.
- 92. Potentila supina Root: tonic, fever.
- 93. Pulicaria crispa Plant : wounds; Leaf : headache.
- 94. Rumex dentatus ssp. klotzchianus Root : bleeding, cutaneous disorders.
- 95. *Salvia plebeia Seeds: diarrhoea, gonorrhoea, menorrhagia and haemorrhoids.
- 96. Scoparia dulcis Root: excessive menstruation; Plant: digestive, malarial fever, Leaf: weakness of siemens.
- 97. *Sida cordifolia Root: wounds; with ginger: fever; Plant: spermatorrhoea; Seed: promote sexual desire, veneral disease.
- 98. *S. spinosa Root: tonic, fever, induce copious perspiration; with bark: irritability of the urinary bladder and genital disorder; Leaf: chronic discharge from urethra.
- 99. *Solanum nigrum Plant : cathartic, diuretic, hydragogus, chronic enlargement of liver, blood splilting, piles, dysentery; Young plants : skin disease; Berries : Fever, diarrhoea, eye & heart diseases.
- 100. *Solanum surattense Root : cough, asthma, caterrhal fever, pain in chest; Plant : diuretic, dropsy, gonorrhoea; Leaf : bites; Buds and flowers : watery eyes.
- 101. *Sonchus oleraceus Root and leaf: tonic, fever.
- 102. *Spergula fallax Plant : diuretic; Seed oil : pulmonary tuberculosis.
- 103. *Stellaria media Plant: intestinal, renal, respiratory and reproductive tract inflammation, soothing action on dermoid surface.
- 104. Tecoma stans Root : snake bite & scorpion sting.
- 105. *Tectona grandis Wood oil: eczema & ring worms.
- 106. Tephrosia purpurea Root : dyspepsia, colic pain, stomachache.
- 107. T. villosa Root with pepper: scrotal pain; Leaf: diabetes.
- 108. *Terminalia arjuna Bark : wounds.
- 109. *Tinospora cordifolia* Plant : diuretic, veneral disease & inflammatory discharge from the genital organs.
- 110. Trianthema portulacastrum Root: bowels, suppression of menses, abortifacient; Leaf of white variety: diuretic, oedema and dropsy in case of ascites, especially due to early liver partition and Kidney condition.

- 111. *Tribulus terrestris Fruit : cooling tonic, diuretic, promotes sexual desire, painful urination, calculus affection, urinary & Kidney diseases.
- 112. Tridex procumbens Root: fever & skin disease; Leaf: scorpion sting.
- 113. * Urginea indica Bulb : Cardiac stimulant, diuretic, expectorant.
- 114. *Withania somnifera Root: tonic, emancipation of children, debility from old age, narcotic & diuretic.
- 115. *Vetiveria zizanioides Roots diaphoretic, stimulant, refrigerant, febrifuge.
- 116. *Vitex negundo Leaves : asthma, baldness, bladder irritation, boils, colic, dandruff, diarrhoea; Leaf-smoke; mosquito repellent.
- 117. *Xanthiun indicum Roots: cancer and strumous diseases.
- 118. *Zizyphus nummularia Leaves : scabies and boils; Smoke of dried leaves inhaled : cold and cough.

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to Dr. B. K. Mishra, Reader in Department of Botany, B.N.D. College, Kanpur for his deep concern and encouragement of present work.

References

- Kirtikar K R and Basu B D 1918, Indian Medicinal Plants, 4 Vols., Allahabad.
- Dastur J F 1951, Useful Plants of India & Pakistan, Bombay.
- Verma G S 1955, Miracles of Indian Herbs, Delhi
- 4. Chopra R N 1956, Glossary of Indian Medicinal Plants, New Delhi.
- 5. Jain S K 1968, Medicinal Plants, New Delhi.
- 6. Chopra R N and Verma G S 1969, Supplement

- to Glossary of Indian Medicinal Plants, New Delhi.
- 7. Anonymous 1948-1972, *The Wealth of India*, 11 Vols., New Delhi.
- Singh U 1983, Dictionary of Economic Palms, New Delhi.
- Bose K C 1984, Pharmacopoeia India, Dehradun.
- 10. Nema K G 1988, Phytomedicine A Treatise on Plant disease, New Delhi.
- 11. Pandey B P 1989, Sacred Plants of India, New Delhi.
- Srivastava R C 1989, Drug Plant Resources of Central India, New Delhi.
- 13. Kapoor S L and Mitra R 1979, Herbal Drugs of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry, Lucknow.
- Rastogi R P and Mahrotra B N 1993 1995, Compendium of Indian Medicinal Plants, 4
 Vols., New Delhi.