

TRADITIONAL TREATMENT OF GASTROINTESTINAL PROBLEMS IN MIRZAPUR DISTRICT (U.P.)

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The present paper deals with 18 species of plants used by the natives of Mirzapur district for the cure of gastrointestinal diseases.

Keywords : Ethnobotany; Gastrointestinal diseases; Mirzapur district U.P.; Tribals.

During the course of ethnobotanical survey on tribals and rural inhabitants of Mirzapur district, valuable information was collected about the medicinal uses of certain plants by adivasis like *Kol*, *Gond*, *Musahar* and rurals. A number of adivasis like *Saharia*, *Agaria*, *Bhuiya*, *Panika*, *Baiga*, *Pashaiya*, *Kharwar* etc. also living in remote and inaccessible parts of the district. The present endeavour is a part of ethnobotanical survey and collection of folklore concerning gastrointestinal problems related to human beings.

The district Mirzapur is lying on the out skirts of Varanasi division of Uttar Pradesh between the parallels of 23° 52' - 25° 32' north latitude and 82° 7' - 83° 33' east longitude. It is bound on the east by Chandoli and north by Varanasi district, on the north-west by Bhadohi and Allahabad, on the south by Sonbhadra and the state Madhya Pradesh. The total area of the district is 4952sq. kms.

The rich forest flora and tribal population in the district have attracted a number of workers for ethnobotanical studies in the past. The Mirzapur district has been surveyed ethnobotanically by a number of workers¹⁻¹⁰. Based on these published accounts and our own collections of plants from different localities, new information about 18 species from Mirzapur district has been collected which help to cure the gastrointestinal problems.

The ethnomedicinal data was collected through interviews, discussions and observations in the following ways. Many remote villages were visited to interact with tribals living there. Informations were recorded specially from native people, who were familiar with herbal medicines in villages namely *Basedha*, *Haldighat*, *Dhari*, *Rampur Kamta*, *Rampurwasidali*, *Ranibari*, *Kushihara* etc. These informations were compared from the published literature. The specimens were identified with the help of authentic herbarium specimens of B.S.I. Central Circle, Allahabad and Duthie herbarium, Department of Botany, University of Allahabad, Allahabad (U.P.). Specimens were deposited in Duthie herbarium, Department of Botany, University of

Allahabad, Allahabad (UP).

In Table-1 the plant species are arranged alphabetically with their botanical names followed by family, local names, locality, part used and methods of preparation with doses, if available.

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Table 1. Informations on gastrointestinal problems.

Botanical name, family, local name and locality	Part used	Diseases	Method of preparation and use with dose
1. <i>Bauhinia racemosa</i> Lam. (Caesalpiniaceae) 'Kathmaul', Lalganj.	Gum	Stomachache Diarrhoea	About 5 gm gum mixed with water is taken orally as medicine twice a day to cure stomach pain and diarrhoea.
2. <i>Cannabis sativa</i> L. (Cannabinaceae) 'Bhang', Basedha.	Flower	Stomachache	Decoction of flower is taken 1-2 times to cure stomach pain and flatulence.
3. <i>Cassia fistula</i> L. (Caesalpiniaceae) 'Amaltas', Patehrakala.	Bark	Dysentery	About 10 ml bark decoction taken orally 2 times a day to cure dysentery.
4. <i>Catharanthus roseus</i> (L.) G. Don. (Apocynaceae) 'Sadabahar, Dhari.	Leaves	Dysentery	About 10 ml leaf decoction taken orally to cure dysentery.
5. <i>Cyperus scariosus</i> R. Br. (Cyperaceae) 'Nagarmotha', Haldighat.	Seed	Anthelmintic	About 5 gm powder given with water in expelling worm.
6. <i>Cassine glauca</i> (Rottb.) Kuntze (Celastraceae) 'Mamri, Kushihara.	Fruit	Diarrhoea, Dysentery	About 2-5 gm fruit powder taken orally with water to cure blood dysentery and diarrhoea.
7. <i>Flacourtia indica</i> (Burm. f.) Merr. (Flacourtiaceae) 'Katar, Basedha.	Fruit	Dysentery	About 5 gm fruit powder with water is given in the treatment of dysentery.
8. <i>Ficus racemosa</i> L. (Moraceae) 'Gular', Rampur Kamta.	Leaf	Dysentery, Piles	About two spoonful decoction of leaves is given in the cure of dysentery and piles.
9. <i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i> (Roxb.) Planch. (Ulmaceae), Basedha.	Leaves	Stomach heat	About two spoonful decoction of leaves given during stomach heat.
10. <i>Jatropha curcas</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae), Haldighat.	Fruit, seed	Dysentery	5-6 gm seed powder given with water twice a day to cure dysentery.
11. <i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae), Basedha.	Whole plant	Piles	About 5 gm plant paste is given in the treatment of piles.
12. <i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L. (Linaceae), Kushihara.	Seed	Stomach heat	Seed powder taken with water to cure stomach heat.
13. <i>Morus alba</i> L. (Moraceae), Ranibari.	Leaf	Dysentery	About 5-7 gm young leaf paste is taken orally to cure dysentery.
14. <i>Melia azedarach</i> L. (Meliaceae) 'Bakain', Lalganj.	Leaf	Anthelmintic, Piles	About 5 gm leaf paste is given in expelling worms and Piles.

15. <i>Saraca asoca</i> (Roxb.) deWilde (Caesalpiniaceae), Basedha.	Bark	Anthelmintic, Piles	One spoonful of bark powder with water is given to cure piles and to expelling worm.
16. <i>Sida cordifolia</i> L. (Malvaceae), Rampur wasidali.	Leaf and root	Dysentery	The mixture of leaf and root paste and the gum powder of Karai (<i>Sterculia urens</i> Roxb.) is given two times a day to cure dysentery.
17. <i>Tridax procumbans</i> L. (Asteraceae) 'Gorakhmundi', Ranibari.	Leaf	Piles	5 to 7 gm leaf paste given two times daily with water to cure piles.
18. <i>Zizyphus nummularia</i> (Burm.f.) Wt. & Arn. (Rhamnaceae) 'Jharberi', Dhari	Gum	Bowel complaint, Bloodydysentery Colic pain	About 5-7 gm gum powder with water taken in the cure of dysentery, colic pain and Bowel complaint.

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