

SOME ECONOMIC AND MEDICINAL PLANTS USED BY TRIBALS IN ASHOK NAGAR AND GUNA DISTRICTS OF M.P.

G.L. SHARMA^a, R.P. SINGH^{b1}, A.K.S. CHAUHAN^c AND J. K. MISHRA^d

Department of Botany, Govt. P.G. College, Morena, M.P., India

^aE-mail: drglsharma@ymail.com

^bE-mail: rpsingh.aga@gmail.com

^cE-mail: amitsinghgw123@gmail.com

^dE-mail: j_mishra70@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Plants diversity of Ashok Nagar and Guna district is quite rich. These plants are used by tribals people specially Saheriya for curing so many human ailment. During the survey of the two districts 19 plant species were identified which are economically and medicinally very important and these plant species belong to 17 families of Angiosperm.

KEYWORDS: Economic, medicinal, diversity, tribals

Ashok Nagar and Guna are the gateway of Malwa and Chambal region which are located on northern-eastern part of Malwa plateau between Parvati and Betawa river. These districts are situated between the 23°53' N and 25°6'55' N and 76.48°30'E and 78°16'70'E and western boundary of these districts is well defined by the rivers named Parvati which is flowing along the western boundary touching Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh and Jhalawarh and Kota districts of Rajasthan.

Ashok Nagar and Guna district are dominated by tribal people, nearly 50% people of the total population are dependents for their livelihood on economic and medicinal plants. This region is very rich by medicinally and economically important plants. The average Temperature and annual rainfall of this areas range from 35°C to 45°C and annual rainfall is 856 mm respectively.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

For present investigation survey and tribal people contact procedure was adopted. The survey was carried out during the year 2011 in Ashok Nagar and Guna district. Plants species were collected from different areas and were identified with the help of flora. Economic importance and medicinal use of plants was gathered mainly from tribal communities specially Saharia of the region. Bennet, 1987; Verma et al., 1993; Singh, 2001; Pathak and Mishra, 2011; Duthie, 1903-1922.; Mudgal et al., 1997 and Maheshwari, 1963 have reported on ethnomedicinal uses of many plants.

Enumeration of PLants

In the enumeration, the species are arranged alphabetically with name of the family, local name, brief description and uses.

1. *Acorus calamus* L.

Family - Araceae; Local Name - Bach.

A perennial herb, stem glabrous, leaves linear, flower densely arranged.

Uses- Rhizomes are used in medicines in fever, cough and for improve memory.

2. *Asparagus racemosus* Willd.

Family - Liliaceae; Local Name - Satavari.

Branched shrub, roots tuberous, stem woody spiny, cladodes in clusters, flowers in solitary.

Uses- Powder of roots is used for the treatment of urinary disease and impotency.

3. *Butea monosperma* (Lamk.) Taub.

Family - Papilionaceae; Local Name - Palash.

A medium sized deciduous tree, leaves long ovate or rhomboid, flowers in fascicles.

Uses- Flowers used for making plates and bowls, stem yields gum, flowers yield a yellow dye which used in HOLI.

4. *Cassia fistula* L.

Family - Caesalpinaceae; Local Name - Amaltas

A small branched tree, leaves ovate-oblong, flowers yellow in racemes.

Uses- It is used for the treatment stomach, fever etc.

5. *Convolvulus prostrates* Forssk.

Family - Convolvulaceae; Local Name - Shankhapushpi.

A perennial prostrate herb, leaves oblong, flowers in

¹Corresponding author

axillary heads.

Uses- it is used for brain related disease, improve memory, skin disease and other disease.

6. *Curculigo orchioides* Gaerth.

Family-Hypoxidaceae; Local Name-Kali Musali

A small herb, roots fleshy, leaves linear-lanceolate, flowers at the ground level.

7. *Helicteres isora* L.

Family-Sterculiaceae; Local Name-Maraur fali

A small tree, Leaves ovate, flowers redish.

Uses-Roots are used in diabetes and stomach related diseases.

8. *Holarrhena pubescens* (Buch.-Ham.) wallich ex G. Don

Family-Apocynaceae; Local Name-Kuretha.

A small deciduous trees, leaves ovate and oblong, flowers arranged at terminally.

Uses-Bark and seeds are used for the treatment of dysentery, piles and skin disease.

9. *Madhuca longifolia* (J.koenig) Macbr.

Family-sapotaceae; Local Name-Mahua

Deciduous branched trees, leaves obovate or lanceolate, flowers in fascicles at the end of branches, fruits are berry.

Uses-wood is used for making comb and other things. Flower are used for making 'saraab'. Fruit are eaten by tribals.

10. *Naringi crenulata* (Roxb.) Nicolson

Family-Rutaceae; Local Name-Kaitha.

A large spiny tree, leaves obovate, flower white racemes.

Uses-Leaves, fruits, and roots are used as medicine in throat infection, heart and liver related disease.

11. *Phyllanthus emblica* L.

Family-Euphorbiaceae; Local Name-aamla.

A small deciduous tree, leaves oblong, flowers in axillary clusters, fruits are drupe.

Uses-It is highly medicinal plant. Fruit are main source of vitamin C, tribals used this for many purposes.

12. *Saraca asoca* (Roxb.) De wilde

Family-Caesalpinaceae; Local Name-Ashok.

An evergreen tree, leaves oblong, lanceolate, flowers arranged corymbose panicles

Uses-Leaves, flowers, bark and seeds are used for the

treatment of piles, urinary problems.

13. *Semecarpus anacardium* L.

Family-Anacardiaceae; Local Name-Bhilava

A deciduous branched tree, leaves yellowish, fruits are drupe.

Uses-It is used for the treatment of impotency, cancer etc.

14. *Soymida febrifuga* (Roxb.) A. Juss.

Family-Meliaceae; Local Name-Hada Ron.

A large tree, leaves in clusters flowers in terminal panicles.

Uses-Leaves, bark, roots and seeds are used for the treatment of piles, urinary problems.

15. *Tribulus terrestris* L.

Family-Zygophyllaceae; Local Name-Gokharu

A prostrate herb. leaflets lanceolate, flowers axillary.

Uses-fruits are medicinally important. It is used for the treatment of worms, uterus and urinary problems.

16. *Terminalia Arjuna* (Roxb. Ex D.C.) Wight & Arn.

Family-Combretaceae; Local Name-Arjun

A large tree, leaves glabrous oblong, flowers small white.

Uses-It is used for the treatment of heart disease, tuberculosis, skin disease and leukemia.

17. *Terminalia bellirica* (Gaertn.) Roxb.

Family-combretaceae; Local Name-Bahera

A large tree, leaves glabrous elliptic, flowers yellow greenish in spikes.

Uses-It is one of the important components of Triphala.

18. *Vitex Negundo* L.

Family-Verbenaceae; Local Name-Nirgundi

A small shrub, leaves oblong glabrous, flowers in terminal axillary.

Uses-Leaves medicinally important. It is used in cough, skin diseases, tuberculosis and leprosy.

19. *Withania Somnifera* L.

Family-Solanaceae; Local Name-Ashvagandha

A small shrub, leaves ovate, flowers fascicled.

Uses-It is used for the treatment of tuberculosis, leprosy, impotency etc.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During investigation, 19 species were recorded in Ashok Nagar and Guna districts which are economically and medicinally important. They belonged to different 17

families. Certain plants viz. *Withania Somnifera*., *Terminalia Arjuna* and *Phyllanthus emblica* are having high medicinal value not only this, the cultivation of the plant at large scale will be helpful for improving economic condition of tribal people of Ashok Nagar and Guna district. Tribals and villagers of Ashok Nagar and Guna district uses these plant species for medicinal and other purposes. Similar observations were reported in Sheopur district by Pathak and Mishra (2011). Plants diversity of Ashok Nagar and Guna district is a boon to tribal people and it is emphasized that the flora should be conserved for the future generations and the tribal population should be encouraged for growing these economic and medicinal plants on a large scale for optimizing their economic conditions.

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