

THE ROLE OF MEDICINAL FISHES IN RELATION TO HEALTH CARE AMONG THE GOND TRIBAL OF CHHATISGARH

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ABSTRACT

During the course of medico-ethnozoological survey of Chhatisgarh covering 6 districts namely, Raipur, Bastar, Bilaspur, Dantewada, Dhamtari and Raigarh, available information with regard to native use of medicinal fishes by the Gond tribals in the treatment of human disease have been recorded. The study has revealed the use of fishes in the treatment of human ailment.

KEYWORDS : Medicinal Fishes, Gond, Tribal

There is much public awareness of the utility of ethnobotany especially because of the use of plants in several system of medicines like Ayurveda, Homoeopathy and Unani in comparison with this there is very little knowledge of ethnozoology though it is been utilized in this society to a certain extent, because of the impact of modern civilization and due to the tremendous progress of Allopathy, ethnozoology is being neglected. Added to this scarcity of wild animal wealth also has deteriorated the utility of animals for food and drugs. However with a view to record the available knowledge on ethnozoology a survey was undertaken in the 6 districts of Chhatisgarh. The data collected pertains to the utility of fishes.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The medico-ethnozoological data obtained in this study are based on the information collected through the personal contact and interview of Gond tribals 6 of districts of Chhatisgarh. The general idea about district wise distribution of Gonds could be had from the 'Tribal Map of India (Gohain, 1971). Information regarding their location, population and social structure were collected from Tribal Welfare and Block development office the interviews were arranged through the head or senior person of the communities. In each and every district, the tribal community was repeatedly interviews from as many localities as possible to get accurate and elaborate information regarding the remedies derived from various parts/organs/secretion of fishes (Husain, 1971; Annoymous, 1952; Khan, 1911 and Thorp, 1967).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Information regarding the medicinal application of 6 species of fishes were obtained through the interview of 15 tribals belonging to 16 districts. The format is an alphabetical arrangement of vernacular names of fishes, zoological names are given in parenthesis. These applications are tabulated in the following pages. The format is an alphabetical arrangement of the vernacular names of the amphibians. Zoological names are given in parenthesis. The medico-ethnozoological data presented in this paper reveal curious information about the medicinal application of different parts of fishes. Data obtained from the survey of these districts, revealed fascinating information regarding the medicinal applications of different parts of 6 fishes species while majority of these advocations are novel, some do find place in the earlier monographs (Vohra and Khan, 1978) and (Azmi, 1989, 90) Perusal of literature on medicinal utility of fishes has indicated that flesh of fishes been separately recommended as *Glnetoschesia*, *Pneumonia* etc. and the bile of frogs suits in jaundice and liver abscess. These informations together with those embodied in earlier reports (Azmi, 1989, 1990 and Joseph 1982) and other compilation. Animal origin drugs are interesting enough to receive the attention of biomedical scientists to make systematic sorties in this filed in order to explore the potentialities, effectiveness and proper utilization of such drugs in the parent struggle against disease and suffering in table 1.

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Table 1 : Medicinal Use of Amphibians by Gond Tribals of M.P.

Names of Animals	Part (s) Used	Mode of Administration	Disease (s)
<i>Barbus stigma</i>	Whole Body	Roasted and Poaltisedtis on the affected site 2-3 times Cooked with light-spices, juice consumed and flesh orally taken twiced a week till cured.	Abscess, Bowls and Ringworm Asthama, Difficult breathing
Channa sps.	Whole body	Dried powdered mixed with honey and consumed for about one month Cooked with light-spices, juice consumed and flesh orally taken twiced a week till cured. Soup mixed with powdered black paper little salt drunk for 40 days once daily Boiled and consumed for 5-6 days, once daily Soup mixed with powdered red chilli and black and drunk for 3-4 days once daily	T.B. Asthama, Breathing difficult Glactoschesia Impotency Debelety Malaria
Clarias batrachus	Whole Body Bile	Incinated mixed with honey and applied one jaws of children for a week once daily 100gms of fish and equal amount of finfure and black paper fried well in mustard oil and eaten for 10-15 days, once daily	Teething problem, Gum Spermatorrhoea
Mastacmbalus armatus <i>Labeo rohita</i>	Whole body Bile	Dermal mucous scrapped, dried transformed into pills and taken twice daily, for about 40 days Applied on for head for 3-4 days 8-10 drops diluted in one glass of water and drunk in empty stomach for about 30 days, once daily Applied on the affected site once daily, till cured	Loss of sexual vigour High fever Gastroentitis worm Piles
<i>Labeo rohita</i>	Liver Spines/Bones Teeth Eggs	Boiled in water, soup drunk remainder, cooked and eaten for 10-12 days daily Incinated mixed with honey and applied to eyes Tied round the waist so as to touch the skin Boiled in water, soup drunk, remainder cooked and eaten by the lactating ladies 8-10 day once daily	Nigh blindness and week sight Eyes troubles General weekness Glactechesia, General weekness, loss of sexual vigour
Chela	Whole body	Boiled, squashed mascerated in water and taken for 8-10 day, once daily Fried deeply in mustered oil, extracted in entire body and applied into the eyes.	Night Blindness Eye ailments
Chela	Whole body	250gms of fish and equal amount of gorlic ginger and dried powderd papaya, 50gms of green chilli, fried well in mustared oil in eaten for 8-10 day once daily	Loss of sexual vigour, spermatorrhaea

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