TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN TREATING DIFFERENT SKIN DISEASES FROM AHMEDNAGAR DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

The present communication provides ethno-medicinal information of 32 plants used for treating various skin diseases by people of Ahmednagar district. Total 32 uses are recorded from the district. Of these 32 uses 11 uses are recorded for ringworm & 10 for treating scabies. The majority of preparations are from leaf & some from root.

The prevalent skin diseases observed in district are ringworm, scabies, itch, psoriasis, dandruff etc. The information about botanical name, family, local name, disease name, plant part used & mode of medicine preparation and administration is provided.

KEYWORDS: Traditional Knowledge, Skin diseases, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.

INTRODUCTION

Present work includes the plants used for treating various diseases related to skin. These diseases are caused by pathogens like fungi, bacteria, virus etc. The diseases like- scabies, ringworm, itch, dandruff, psoriasis etc. are the common skin diseases observed in the district. The tribal’s & local people use different plants or plant parts for treating these diseases.

STUDY AREA

The Ahmednagar district is situated in the central part of the state of Maharashtra. The district at present having 14 revenue talukas. The area covered by the district is 17,413 sq. km. Out of which 11.23 % is the forest area. According to 2001 census the population of the district is 40.88 lacs which rank sixth in the state. The tribal population of the district is 3, 03, 000 are reported from the district. The major tribes found in district are Thakar, Bhil, Mahadeo koli,
Paradhi, Dhangar etc. Pradhan and Singh (1999) reported 1040 plants species in Ahmednagar district.

**METHODOLOGY**

The present work is based on personal interviews with tribal & rural peoples with traditional knowledge of plants. During the field work voucher specimens of each medicinal plant were collected & identified by using keys given in floras. To confirm the new uses several books like Ambaska (1994), Asolkar et. al (2000), Chaterjee & Pakrashi (2003-2009), Chopra et. al. (1956), Jain (1991), Jain (1996), Jain et. al. (1991), Kapoor (2001), Rastogi & Mehrotra (2004-2008), Sharma & Singh (2001), Sing et. al. (1996) & some papers published are referred.

In the enumeration, each plant species is enumerated with botanical name followed by author name, family name, common name, disease, mode of preparation & administration.

**DISCUSSION**

The present work is the result of intensive ethnobotanical exploration of different areas of Ahmednagar district, done during 2009-2014. This work has explored the ethnobotanical information of 32 plant species belonging to 24 families. Out of 32 plants 11 plants are used to treating ringworm while 10 plants are used for treating scabies. The major plant part used is leaf which include 22 plant.

**ENUMERATION**

*Aloe vera* (L.) Burm. f. (LILIACEAE). ‘Korphad’.
Dandruff: Leaf juice applied on scalp half an hour before taking bath twice per week till relief.

*Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.f.) Wall. (ACANTHACEAE). ‘Kalmegh’.
Itch: 2-3 fresh leaves eaten twice a day and also leaf paste rubbed over affected area till cure.

Dandruff: Gentle warmed seed oil massaged on head once or twice per week for a month.

*Cascabella thevetia* (L.) Lippold (APOCYNACEAE). ‘Pivali Kanher’.
Ringworm: Stem latex applied thrice a day for a week.

*Cassia fistula* L. (CAESALPINIACEAE). ‘Bahava’.
Pimples & Black spots on face: Leaf paste applied over face, kept for half an hour and then washed with water, this is done for 15-20 days.

*Cassia sophera* L. (CAESALPINIACEAE). ‘Borachakur’ ‘Rantakla’.
Ringworm: Fresh root juice applied thrice a day for a week.

Ringworm: Leaf juice applied thrice a day for 3-4 days.

*Centella asiatica* (L.) Urban (APIACEAE). ‘Bramhi’.
Ringworm: Leaf juice applied twice a day till cure.

*Cestrum nocturnum* L. (SOLANACEAE). ‘Rat-rani’.
Scabies: Leaf juice applied over infected part for thrice a day till cure.

*Chrozophora rotteri* (Gies.) Juss. (EUPHORBIACEAE).
Ringworm: Leaf paste applied over ringworm thrice a day till cure.

*Clematis gouriana* Roxb. ex. DC. (RANUNCULACEAE). ‘Morvel’.
Scabies: 100 ml plant decoction taken twice a day for a week.

*Clerodendrum serratum* (L.) Moon. (VERBENACEAE). ‘Bharangi’.
Ringworm: Leaf paste applied over ringworm thrice a day till cure.

*Cyamopsis tetragonolobus* (L.) Taub. (FABACEAE). ‘Gawar’.
Itch: leaf paste applied for treating itch.

*Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb. (FABACEAE). ‘Shisam’.
Psoriasis: 50 ml stem bark decoction with Azadirachta indica (L) A. Juss. bark in equal proportion taken 5 times with interval of 5 days.

*Duranta erecta* L. (VERBENACEAE). ‘Duranta’.
Itch: Fresh stem barks juice massaged over affected area twice a day for 8-10 days.

*Ficus carica* L. (MORACEAE). ‘Anjir’.
Leucoderma: Leaf paste with ‘kath’ (catechu powder) applied over white patches thrice a day till cure.
*Lawsonia inermis* L. (LYTHRACEAE). ‘Mehandi’.
Scabies: Leaf paste applied twice a day till relief.

*Meyna laxiflora* Robyns (RUBIACEAE). ‘Aliv’.
Scabies: Stem or branch tumour paste applied on affected part twice a day till cure.

*Millingtonia hortensis* L. f. (BIGNONIACEAE). ‘Buch’.
Dandruff: Leaf juice massaged over scalp half an hour before taking bath twice or thrice in a week for 2-3 week.

*Momordica charantia* L. (CUCURBITACEAE). ‘Karle’.
Ringworm: Leaf juice applied over ringworm thrice a day till cure.

*Morinda pubescens* J. E. Sm. (RUBIACEAE). ‘Bartondi’.
Scabies: Leaf juice applied over infected part twice a day till cure.

Alopecia: Seed paste applied on affected area twice a day for a week.

*Ocimum americanum* L. (LAMIACEAE). ‘Ran-tulas’.
Ringworm: Leaf paste applied over ringworm once a day till cure.

*Pergularia daemia* (Forssk.) Choiv. (ASCLEPIADACEAE). ‘Utaran’.
Itch: Leaves crushed by hands itself and rubbed over the itching body part, after half an hour bath is taken.

Alopecia: Leaf paste mixed with salt applied on hair patches once a day till cure.

*Plumbago zeylanica* L. (PLUMBAGINACEAE). ‘Chitrak’.
Scabies: Leaves crushed with 1 teaspoon sugar & 100 ml milk taken twice a day for 3 days.

*Solanum nigrum* L. (SOLANACEAE). ‘Kamoni’.
Scabies / Ringworm: Tender leaf paste applied over infected part thrice a day till cure.

*Solanum torvum* Sw. (SOLANACEAE).
Ringworm: Root bark powder applied over ringworm thrice a day till cure.
Tricholepis glaberrima DC. (ASTERACEAE). ‘Dahan’ ‘Brahmadandi’.
Scabies or Ringworm: Leaf powder applied over infected part twice a day for 4-5 days.

Trichosanthes tricuspidata Lour. (CUCURBITACEAE). ‘Kavandali’.
Scabies: Stem bark powder applied over infected part twice a day for 5 days.

Ventilago maderaspatana Gaertn. (RHAMNACEAE). ‘Khandvel’.
Scabies: Leaf paste mixed in Sesamum orientale L. seed oil applied over infected part twice a day till cure.

Ziziphus mauritiana Lam. (RHAMNACEAE). ‘Bor’.
Alopecia: 5 gm dried leaves powder with 10 gm Ziziphus mauritiana Lam. leaves powder and pinch of lime crushed to prepare paste and applied externally until cure. After applying paste spines of Ziziphus mauritiana Lam. are superficially pierced, which help in fast recovery of hairs.

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REFERENCES


