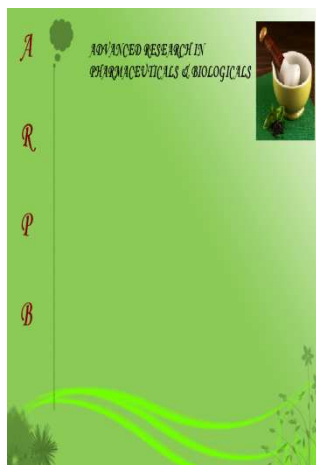




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EXOTIC MEDICINAL PLANTS FROM WEST VIDARBHA REGION OF MAHARASHTRA

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ABSTRACT:

The main objective of this article is to deal with the report of 29 exotic medicinal plants collected from West Vidarbha region of Maharashtra where the plants are used by the tribals and villagers for the purpose of treatment of diseases. Exotics are naturalized in almost all the region and nowadays they are the part of our indigenous flora. Knowledge about exotics is a later creation or addition to traditional knowledge. Researchers now try to determine what components of traditional knowledge related to indigenous species and what percentage of exotics.

Keywords: Medicinal plants, Vidarbha, Traditional knowledge, Indigenous and Vaidos.

INTRODUCTION

Vidarbha region comprises of 11 districts of which west vidarbha region comprises of 5 districts namely, Akola, Amravati, Buldhana, Washim and Yavatmal. In this region, forest is dry deciduous type and the soil is mostly classified as black cotton soil, brown and loamy soil. The rainfall ranges between 540 mm to 860 mm. whereas the considerable variation occurs in topology, geology, climate and rainfall. In the last few years, many plants have been introduced through cultivation, social forestry and gardening. Now they are naturalized along roadsides in forest and also as a weed occurring regularly in cultivated fields. Some earlier reports on these plants having ethnomedicinal values reported¹⁻⁵.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

An extensive plant exploration was conducted during 2005-2008 for the study of exotic medicinal plants from the West Vidarbha region. Several medicine men and the Vaidos was contacted with the help of discussion and oral interviews with them collected the data on medicinal uses also the literature available on the same plants compared with the latest information, It is found that most of the exotics are now used by them instead of indigenous plants

probably they may have better results or their easy availability in the region. These plants material after drying and processing with mercuric chloride, herbarium sheets have been prepared and are identified by using Floras⁶⁻¹¹ & the medicinal value is compared with earlier available literature⁹⁻¹⁶. All these plants are enumerated in the following ways.

Pantropical

1) *Brassica nigra* L.

Local Name: Mohari

Locality: Akola, Rothe, 514.

Uses: Seeds used in the treatment of rheumatism, in rubefacient poultice, in head application, neuralgia and spasms, for treating alopecia, epilepsy, snake bite and toothache. Raw seeds are eaten in insect bite.

2) *Thespesia populnea* (L.) Soland.

Local Name: Bhendi jhar

Locality: Chandur, Rothe 530.

Uses: Plant is astringent, acrid, cooling, depurative, anti-inflammatory, haemostatic, vulnerary, alterant, antidiarrhoeal and antibacterial, useful in dermatopathy such as scabies, psoriasis, ringworms, guinea-worms, leprosy, urethritis, gonorrhoea, hemorrhoids, haematoptysis, inflammation, wounds, ulcers, diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, diabetes, warts, dyspepsia cough, asthma and vitiated condition of "pitta".

3) *Albizia julibrissin* Duraz.

Local Name: Pandhra Shirish

Locality: Murtizapur, Rothe 67

Uses: Flowers and buds used for neurasthenia, Amnesia, feeling of congestion in chest. It is useful in anxiety, insomnia, pulmonary abscess, trauma.

4) *Albizia lebbek* (L) Willd.

Local Name: Bhingari

Locality: Patur, Rothe 260.

Uses: Bark is astringent, aphrodisiac, anti-inflammatory, ophthalmic, depurative and tonic, also useful in cough and cataract, Asthma, enlarged cervical glands, strengthening gums, scrofula, skin eruption, leprosy, leucoderma, sprains wound ulcers, neuralgia, inflammation, diarrhoea and all types of poisoning. Leaves smoked in asthma.

5) *Leucaena leucocephala* (L) Guill.

Local Name: Kubhabul /Subabhul.

Locality: PKV campus, Rothe 901.

Uses: Seeds have a beneficial effect in ascariasis. The torrefied seeds are prescribed in the form of a powder / sugared cake.

6) *Ipomoea aquatica* Forsk.

Local Name: Nalachi bhaji

Locality: Mahan dam, Rothe 904.

Uses: Plant juice, stem, leaves and buds are used in medicine. The leaves and shoots are eaten as vegetables.

Paleotropical

7) *Alhagi pseudalhagi* (M. Bieb.) Desv.

Local Name: Untachara

Locality: Gandhigram, Rothe, 350.

Uses: Twigs used as a fodder for camel, for making screens. Leaves are used in the treatment of asthma.

8) *Sphaeranthus indicus* L.

Local Name: Gorakhmundi

Locality: Morna River, Rothe, 115.

Uses: Root, stem, leaves, flowers and seeds are used in medicine. Plant parts possess an essential oil and alkaloids. Complete plant used as fish and crab poison.

9) *Ipomoea nil* (L) Roth.

Local Name: Kala Dana.

Locality: Dagadparva, Rothe, 158.

Uses: Plant is astringent, acrid, refrigerant, mucilaginous, stomachic, laxative, diuretic and tonic. Useful in skin diseases, boils, swellings, wounds, ulcers, carbuncle, dropsy, menorrhagia, haemorrhoids, proctitis, vomiting, colic cramp, dyspepsia, burning sensation.

Tropical America

10) *Ocimum americanum* L.

Local Name: Rantulsi.

Locality: Belkund, Rothe, 51.

Uses: Leaves for treating constipation and indigestion, Cold, cough, epilepsy, headache, Hysteria and loss of taste. A complete plant used as a mosquito repellent by villagers.

11) *Emilia sonchifolia* (L) Dc. ex Wight.

Local Name: Mahatari.

Locality: PKV Campus, Rothe, 249.

Uses: Leaf paste with castor oil applied on paining legs. The entire plant is made into paste and given internally to relieve chest pain. Fruit powder mixed with sugar, honey and cow ghee, consume by men as aphrodisiac.

12) *Terminalia catappa* L.

Local Name: Deshi-badam.

Locality: PKV, Campus, Rothe, 323.

Uses: Leaves bark and fruits are used in dysentery, dressing of rheumatic pain, eye problems, stop bleeding during teeth extraction. Fruits and bark used in cough, asthma, leprosy, headache. Ripe fruits used in travel nausea. Bark used in throat and mouth problems, stomach up-sets, diarrhoea, fever. Fallen leaves used to treat liver diseases and young leaves for colic. Juice of leaves used in scabies, skin diseases, leprosy.

13) *Datura metel* L.

Local Name: Dhotra.

Locality: Akola. Rothe, 222.

Uses: Leaves used in the treatment of asthma. Paste of leaves applied against swellings and sprains.

14) *Alternanthera sessilis* (L.) R.Br.

Locality: Akola, Rothe, 213.

Uses: Paste of plant prepared with ½ cloves of *Allium sativum* and black

pepper, effective against chronic liver disorder, restorative for liver. Plant is bitter astringent, cooling constipating, depurative, digestive cholagogue, galactagogue and febrifuge. Used in burning sensation, diarrhoea, leprosy, skin disease, dyspepsia, haemorrhoids, agalactia, spleenopathy and fever.

15) *Jatropha gossypifolia* L.

Local Name: Chandrajyoti, Mogali Erandi.

Locality: Barshitakali. Rothe, 312.

Uses: Paste prepared from leaves used against toothache. Latex of leaves mixed with stem bark powder and applied to expel ringworms.

Central America

16) *Pepromia pellucida* A. Dietr.

Local Name: Van-pipli.

Locality: Pkv campus, Rothe, 279.

Uses: Roots ground with water and a paste is prepared, taken orally to check miscarriage during pregnancy.

United state

17) *Rumex dentatus* L.

Local Name: Ranpalak.

Locality: Khadki Chandur, Rothe, 103.

Uses: Plant has a laxative, alternative and mildly tonic properties and can be freely used as tonic and laxative in rheumatism, bilious complaints and as an astringent in piles, bleeding of lungs. It produces an irritation of mucus membrane of the trachea and catarrhal condition of

bowels. The plant is useful in early morning diarrhoea, also uses to treat diphtheria, cancer, rheumatism, piles jaundice and skin diseases, especially ulcers and is widely regarded as a blood cleaner.

China/ Europe / N. America

18) *Morus alba* L.

Local Name: Tuti/ Shehtut.

Locality: P.K.V, Campus. Rothe,149.

Uses: Leaves are diaphoretic, emollient and antibacterial, also used to treat pharyngopathy, lumbago, dyspepsia, diarrhoea, ulcerated intensive, strangury, hepatopathy, spleenopathy and Melancholia.

Coastal region of both Peninsula.

19) *Casuarina equisetifolia* J.R & G.Forst.

Local Name: Saru

Locality: P.K.V Campus, Rothe, 147.

Uses: Plant is astringent, diuretic, emmenagogue, laxative and tonic, Beefwood is a remedy for Beri-Beri, colic, cough, diarrhoea, dysentery, headache, nerve, pimples, sores, sore-throat, stomachache, swelling and toothache. Seeds used for passing blood in diarrhoea.

20) *Commelina benghalensis* Linn.

Local Name: Kena

Locality: Ansing, Rothe, 191.

Uses: Paste of plant applied externally to affected part. It is effective in chest pain.

Leaves and rhizome are used as a vegetable. It is a sacred plant used by Hindu during religious ceremony like “Hari-talika.”

Gerout Tropical

21) *Plumbago zeylanica* L.

Local Name: Chitrak.

Locality: Narnala fort, Rothe, 118.

Use: One teaspoonful root paste mixed in goat milk is given against stomach disorder. Roots of *Plumbago*, *Tephrosia purpurea*, *Cissus pallida*, Pepper and Garlic extract given orally for cancer patient.

Central America / Arid Mexican.

22) *Prosopis juliflora* (S.W.) DC.

Local Name: Vilayati Babhul

Locality: Akola, Rothe, 220.

Uses: Leaf juice used in folk remedies for cancer condition, also in catarrh, colds, diarrhoea, dysentery, eyes flu, hoarseness, inflammation, itch, measles, pink eyes, stomachache, sore throat and wounds of body.

23) *Kalanchoe pinnata* (Lamk.) Pers.

Local Name: Panphuti.

Locality: PKV Campus, Rothe, 332.

Uses: Leaves possess properties like emollient haemostatic, refrigerant, emollient vulnerary, depurative, constipating anodyne, carminative anti-inflammatory, disinfectant and tonic, useful in cuts, wounds, boils, sloughing ulcers, ophthalmia, burns, scalds, corn,

diarrhoea, dysentery, vomiting and acute inflammation, discoloration of skin.

Tropical Africa

24) *Synadenium grantii* Hook. f.

Local Name: Vilayati.

Locality: Fetra, Rothe, 255.

Use: Latex locally used against alopecia, planted along hedges of field for removal of white ants.

25) *Physalis angulata* L.

Local Name: Popti / Kapalphodi

Locality: Gandhigram, Rothe, 945

Uses: The fruit and leaves have narcotic properties, also used as anti-inflammatory and it is infectant of skin diseases. Leaf juice used externally and internally for worms. Roots for earache, liver problems, malaria, hepatitis and rheumatism. Decoction of fruit taken internally to promote fertility. The part of plant is also useful for fever, vomiting, kidney, liver and gallbladder stone.

North America

26) *Ipomoea hedracea* Clarke.

Local Name: Nilavati.

Locality: Dagadparva, Rothe 199.

Uses: Seeds are medicinally important, it contain resinous matter, fixed oil, and small amount of saponin, mucilage and tannin. Dried seeds are purgative. In over doses, the drug causes symptoms of irritant poisoning. Also used in medicine as an extract, a tincture and compound powder.

27) *Mentha spicata* L.

Local Name: Pudina

Locality: Akola, Rothe, 129.

Uses: It is carminative, stimulant and to prevent vomiting. Tea made from this herb is used to treat neuralgia, indigestion and diarrhoea. Fresh leaf juice and tender shoots is given two spoon-full twice daily against liver enlargement and loss of vigor.

Europe / Asia / North America

28) *Medicago sativa* L.

Local Name: Lasoon ghass

Locality: Barshitakali, Rothe, 239.

Uses: Alfa-Alfa is perhaps more therapeutically useful as a food than medicine. It is given to convalescent, who requires easily assimilated nutrients. It could be powerful in treating problems relating to menstruation and menopause.

Malacca

29) *Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels.

Local Name: Jambhul

Locality: Wagha, Rothe, 410.

Uses: Poultice of bark is applied externally on affected part. The bark is used in sore throat, bronchitis asthma, ulcers and dysentery. It is useful in diabetes, leucorrhoea, fever, gastropathy and dermatopathy. Leaves used for strengthening the teeth and gums. Tender leaves for vomiting. Fruits and seeds used in diabetes, pharyngitis, spleenopathy & ringworms.

DISCUSSION

Naturalists and conservationists know that the biodiversity in any area comprises native or indigenous species and also exotics species. Among indigenous species some occurs only in restricted areas like within a state or country and some also occurs outside that area called as endemic. In true sense traditional knowledge relates primarily to indigenous species. Knowledge about exotics is a later creation or addition to

traditional knowledge. Researchers now try to determine what components of traditional knowledge related to indigenous species and what percentage of exotics. Discovering uses of exotic species by native people can indicate paucity or depletion of indigenous species, for the particular or better properties in the exotics. The following is a list of about 29 exotics plants, which are useful in medicine.

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