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Traditional Medical Practice by Primitive Savara Tribes of Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh, India

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Abstract | **Original Research Article**

An ethnomedicinal survey was carried out among the primitive groups of Savaras tribals inhabited in Donubai Village, Gummalakshmipuram Mandal, Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh, India. A total of 54 ethnomedicinal plants belonging to 50 genera under 31 families were recorded. Of these, maximum species belongs to Fabaceae family (5 species) followed by Apocynaceae and Caesalpiniaceae each with (4 species), Asclepiadaceae and Verbenaceae (3species each). The maximum contribution was recorded for trees followed by herbs, shrubs and climbers. Among the plant parts used in different formulations, roots are profusely used which is followed by bark and leaves. A total of 32 diseases are known to cure by using 54 medicinal plants viz., Dysentery, Diarrhoea and Fever etc.

Keywords: Traditional medicine, Primitive Savara tribes, Donubai Village, Srikakulam District.

INTRODUCTION

India is home to different ethnic groups comprising 5.4 crores of indigenous peoples living in various territories, having diverse cultures, religious rites and food traditions that separate them from each other. These people also have a healthy awareness of traditional medicine [1]. The World Health Organization estimates that about 80% of the world's population in developing countries depends on plants for the management of a variety of diseases, because of the lack of modern healthcare services [2, 3]. At present about 65% of Indians are dependent on the traditional system of medicine [4]. Medicinal flora have shown a pivotal part in management of dermatological conditions [5], particularly communities in developing countries local communities depend on traditional medicine for their health care [6]. Ethno botanical studies in the tribal dominated areas of the district have been carried out by Banerjee, Rao *et al.,* [7, 8]. Medicinal plants used as antipyretic agents by the traditional healers of Darjeeling Himalayas [9]. The main objectives of the present investigation are collection, identification and documentation of the plants used by Savara primitive tribes of Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study Area

The present study conducted during 2020- 2022 in Donubai Village, Gummalakshmipuram mandal, Srikakulam District, Andhra Pradesh, India. The total geographical area of village is 75 hectares. Gummalakshmipuram has a total population of 2,783 peoples, out of which male population is 1,648 while female population is 1,135. Literacy rate of gummalakshmipuram village is 79.66% out of which 86.77% males and 69.34% females are literate. There are about 656 houses in gummalakshmipuram village.

METHODOLOGY

Data Collection

The data which was collected from the local tribal doctors and validated for the better utilization as medicine. Also, the information on different ways of using the plants and their parts as medicine from different experts in the study region. This information related to medicinal values was collected from tribal doctors, village elders, personal interviews, and group discussions included men and women of Savara primitive tribal. All the plants were identified up to species level using floras and literature [10, 11] and all the plants were provided in Table 1 with their habit, family, preparation of mode of administration, etc. Some

of the important species were prepared herbarium and deposited in Andhra University Herbarium (AUH).

RESULT & DISCUSSION

A total of 54 plant species have been identified and categorized into 50 genera and 31 families. The family wise analysis of ethnomedicinal data revealed that of the 31 families the dominant ones are Fabaceae represented by 5 species followed by Caesalpiniaceae and Apocynaceae with 4 species, Verbenaceae and Asclepiadaceae with 3 species each. Sapindaceae, Rutaceae, Musaceae, Moraceae, Mimosaceae, Lauraceae, Euphorbiaceae and Asteraceae with 2 species each. Remaining 20 families consists single species. Out of 54 plant species for Dysentery five plants and for Diarrhoea and Asthma four plants were used by savara primitive tribes (Table. 1). Most of the ethnomedicines are prepared using single plant in the region while some others are prepared by the mixing parts of more than one plant. Some reports revealed that more than 80% of the world populations rely on herbal and traditional medicine [12, 13]. It was estimated that 2 500 plant species have been utilized for medicinal purposes and more than 6 000 plants are widely used in folk and herbal medicine [14]. Indigenous knowledge plays a central role in disease diagnosis and healthcare practices in traditional medication systems [15]. Use of 52 medicinal plants by the *Khasia* tribes of Sylhet [16]; 38 species used by *Bagata* tribe for snake bite of Visakhapatnam [17] and 95 species were used for endemic diseases by tribes in Muchingiputtu mandal, Visakhapatnam [18].

Table 1: Ethnomedicinal plants used by Savara Primitive tribes, Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh

S. No	Plant Name	Family	Habit	Part Used	Disease
1	*Asparagus racemosus*	Liliaceae	Herb	Tuber	Bronchitis
2	*Bauhinia racemosa*	Caesalpiniaceae	Tree	Stem bark	Asthma
3	*Bauhinia vahlii*	Caesalpiniaceae	Climber	Root	Dysentery
4	*Boerhavia diffusa*	Nyctaginaceae	Herb	Whole plant	HIV
5	*Bridelia retusa*	Euphorbiaceae	Tree	Stem bark	Chest pain
6	*Caesalpinia bonduc*	Caesalpiniaceae	Shrub	Seed	Abortion
7	*Calotropis gigantea*	Asclepiadaceae	Shrub	Root	Epilepsy
8	*Cassia occidentalis*	Caesalpiniaceae	Herb	Root	Anthelmintic
9	*Cyperus rotundus*	Cyperaceae	Herb	Tuber	Diarrhoea
10	*Dalbergia latifolia*	Fabaceae	Tree	Stem bark	Fever
11	*Dillenia pentagyna*	Dilleniaceae	Tree	Stem bark	Rheumatoid Arthritis
12	*Dioscorea bulbifera*	Dioscoreaceae	Climber	Tuber	Sterility
13	*Elephantopus scaber*	Asteraceae	Herb	Root	Anthelmintic
14	*Eucalyptus globulus*	Myrtaceae	Tree	Leaf	Antiseptic
15	*Eugenia bracteata*	Myrtaceae	Shrub	Root	Dysentery
16	*Euphorbia hirta*	Euphorbiaceae	Herb	Leaf	Dysentery
17	*Evolvulus alsinoides*	Convolvulaceae	Herb	Leaf	Jaundice
18	*Ficus benghalensis*	Moraceae	Tree	Latex	Boils
19	*Ficus racemosa*	Moraceae	Tree	Stem bark	Diarrhoea
20	*Gmelina arborea*	Verbenaceae	Tree	Stem bark	Chest pain
21	*Gmelina asiatica*	Verbenaceae	Tree	Fruit	Dandruf
22	*Grewia tiliifolia*	Tiliaceae	Tree	Leaf	Lice
23	*Gymnema sylvestre*	Asclepiadaceae	Climber	Root	Snake bite
24	*Haldinia cordifolia*	Rubiaceae	Tree	Stem bark	Leucorrhoea
25	*Helicteris isora*	Sterculiaceae	Shrub	Fruit	Dysentery
26	*Hemidesmus indicus*	Asclepiadaceae	Climber	Root	Diarrhoea
27	*Hybanthus ennaespermus*	Violaceae	Herb	Whole plant	Impotency
28	*Ichnocarpus friutiscens*	Apocynaceae	Climber	Root	Epilepsy
29	*Lagerstroemia parviflora*	Lythraceae	Tree	Leaf	Dysentery
30	*Lannea coromandelica*	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Stem bark	Cuts
31	*Memecylon umbellatum*	Melastomataceae	Tree	Root bark	Leucorrhoea
32	*Mimosa pudica*	Mimosaceae	Herb	Root	Epilepsy
33	*Momordica charantia*	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	Fruit	Diabetes
34	*Moring oleifera*	Moringaceae	Tree	Leaf	Blood pressure
35	*Mucuna pruriense*	Fabaceae	Climber	Root	Dysmenorrhoea
36	*Murraya paniculata*	Rutaceae	Shrub	Root	Anaemia
37	*Musa paradasiaca*	Musaceae	Herb	Leaf	Cough
38	*Polyalthia cerasoides*	Annonaceae	Tree	Gum	Chest pain
39	*Pterocarpus marsupium*	Fabaceae	Tree	Stem bark	Conception

S. No	Plant Name	Family	Habit	Part Used	Disease
40	*Pueraria tuberosa*	Fabaceae	Climber	Tuber	Peptic ulcer
41	*Rauvolfia serpentina*	Apocynaceae	Herb	Root	Fever
42	*Rauvolfia tetraphylla*	Apocynaceae	Herb	Root bark	Blood pressure
43	*Rubia cordifolia*	Rubiaceae	Herb	Root	Stomachache
44	*Sapindus emarginatus*	Sapindaceae	Tree	Fruit	Asthma
45	*Schleichera oleosa*	Sapindaceae	Tree	Stem bark	Blood purification
46	*Semecarpus anacardium*	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Seed	Abdomina swelling
47	*Strycnos nuxvomica*	Loganiaceae	Tree	Stem bark	Asthma
48	*Tephrosia hirta*	Fabaceae	Herb	Root	Fever
49	*Terminalia chebula*	Combretaceae	Tree	Fruit	Cough
50	*Vitex negundo*	Verbenaceae	Shrub	Leaf	Swellings
51	*Woodfordia fruticosa*	Lythraceae	Shrub	Flowers	Diarrhoea
52	*Wrightia tinctoria*	Apocynaceae	Tree	Latex	Asthma
53	*Xanthium strumarium*	Asteraceae	Herb	Root	Boils
54	*Xylia xylocarpa*	Mimosaceae	Tree	Root bark	Gonorrhoea

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This research provides a lead to isolate and elucidate the chemical compounds responsible for ethnomedicinal properties of those plants. Further research is needed to diagnose the phytochemicals and their administration of those compounds for using varies plants to treatments of different diseases. There is an urgent need to take necessary actions to document the inherent herbal medicine knowledge.

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