



Some Ethno medicinal Plants used for the Treatment of Piles by the Kondadora Tribe of Northern Andhra Pradesh, A.P., India

Prema Chandra Sekhar ^{1*}, Y. Vijay Kumar ² J.Ratna Grace ³, O.Aniel kumar ⁴ and P. Prayaga Murty

^{1,2,3} Department of Botany, Dr. V.S.Krishna College, Visakhapatnam, A.P., India

⁴ Department of Botany, Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, A.P., India

Corresponding author Prema Chandra Sekhar Department of Botany, Dr. V.S.Krishna College, Visakhapatnam, A.P., India E.mail: chandrasedkhar.premal16@gmail.com

Mankind has blessed with variety of natural products which help us in day to day life. Present paper deals with some medicinal plants of Northern Andhra Pradesh to treat piles by konda dora tribes. A total of 22 plant species, belonging to 18 genera and 17 families were potentially utilized by the konda dora tribal people. Of these 22 species, 19 are dicots, 3 are monocots, 12 are monotypic, viz., representing only by one species. The remaining families representing 2 species. Different parts of the plants used for treatment of piles are leaf, fruit, seed, root, tuber, and latex. Sometimes whole plant is used for treating the diseases especially in case of herbs. Based on analysis the the whole plant and leaf constitute highest percentage of utilization (27%) followed by root (23%), tuber, fruit and latex (5) Phytochemical and pharmacological studies of above said plants need to be taken up to find out the exact ingredients that help in to cure the piles problem.

Keywords: Ethnomedicinal plants, Piles, Kondadora, Northern Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, India

Introduction

Traditional medicine is the sum total of all knowledge and practices whether explicable or not used in diagnosis, prevention and elimination of physical, mental or social imbalance and relying exclusively on practical experience and observation transferred by individuals from generation to generation (Manjunath, 1990.) The World Health Organization has estimated that over 80% of the global populations rely chiefly on traditional medicine (Akerele, 1992). In India, almost 95% of the prescriptions are plant-based in the traditional systems of Unani, Ayurveda, Homoeopathy and Siddha (Satyavati et al., 1987). Recent investigators showed interest on investigating about medicinal plants and collection of folklore claims. Many traditional medicinal systems are mainly using the

herbs. Many scientists of different disciplines have paid good attention in screening the medicinal plants used in different traditional systems. Documenting the indigenous knowledge through ethnobotanical studies is important for the conservation of biological resources as well as their sustainable utilization. There is an urgent need to inventories and record all ethno botanical information among the diverse ethnic communities before the traditional cultures are lost; who should make use of this knowledge and what part of knowledge should be used are certainly with in the purview of the tribal's (Rao, 1996). Northern Andhra Pradesh districts harbors diversified flora and tribal culture. Although studies have been taken up for documentation of floras, there were few attempts of ethnobotanical studies in this region. Hence the present study on treatment of piles by using medicinal plants by Konda Dora of Northern Andhra Pradesh has been taken up.

Material and methods

The various methods used for the study of ethnomedicine of Northern Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, India, were essentially the same as described by Jain (1981, 1987, and 1989); Chadwick and Mars (1994) and Martin (1995). The main emphasis was given to intensive field work in selected tribal pockets. Village wise information was gathered about the plants used by the konda dora tribal people for treatment of piles . The field trips were planned to cover the selected tribal pockets in every month of a year. Each field trip was of 3-4 days duration covering 2-5 pockets in a day. The information was recorded in tape recorder and in field note books. The plants were identified with the help of 'Flora of British India' by Hooker (1872-1897); 'Flora of Presidency of Madras' by Gamble (1915-1936); 'Forest flora of Andhra Pradesh' by Reddy *et al.* (1991); 'Flora of Andhra Pradesh' by Pullaiah & Chennaiah (1997). Following types of informants were chosen by selected sampling and random sampling methods.

- The tribal doctors (Vaidyas)
- Village headmen
- Tribals, those who are collecting timber, fuel.
- The interpreters and educated tribal people.
- Tribal people working in the fields.
- Tribal people in weekly shandies.

Discussions were made at times with local chiefs, priests and herbal doctors not only for gathering information but also for confirmation of the uses of same plant recorded from different informants at different places.

The Konda Doras are found in the scheduled areas of Northern Andhra Pradesh (Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam and East and West Godavari districts). They call themselves as Kubing or Kondargi in their own dialect. The Konda Doras speak Adivasi Oriya and Telugu. Konda Dora tribe is divided into a number of clans such as Korra, Killo, Swabi, Ontalu, Kimud, pangi, Paralek, Mandelek, Bidaka, Somelunger, Surrek, Goorigune olijukala etc. Levirate type of marriage is customarily practiced in this community. Polygamy is also in vogue. Marriage by capture, marriage

by elopement, marriage by negotiations and marriage by service are traditionally accepted ways of acquiring mates. Divorce is socially permitted. They eat beef and pork. They practice shifting cultivation but they are adapting to settled cultivation. They also collect non-timber forest products and sell them in shandies. They worship "Boda

Devatha", "Sanku Devatha", "Nisani Devatha" and "Jakara devatha" and offer sacrifices. They celebrate festivals such as 'Chitra Panduga', Balli Panduga, Korra and sama Kotha, Chikkudu Kotha and Pusapandoi (ceremonial eating of adda nuts). The

most important festival is 'Kada Pandoi' (seed charming festival) and this festival is followed by hunting festival. They perform famous community dance called 'Dimsa' during 'vetting' festival and on marriage occasions. The traditional music instruments

used are tudum, dappu, kirdi and pirodi. In the traditional panchayat headed by the headman, 'Guravakadu' the cases such as divorce, minor civil fights and minor social disputes are dealt and decision of the headman is final.

Results and discussion

In the present study, a total of 22 plant species, belonging to 18 genera and 17 families were potentially utilized by the konda dora tribal people. Of these 22 species, 19 are dicots, 3 (*Arisaema tortuosum*, *Chlorophytum laxum* and *Sansevieria roxburghiana*) are monocots, 12 are monotypic, viz., representing only by one species. The remaining families like Malvaceae, Anacardiaceae, Solanaceae,

Lamiaceae, and Mimosaceae representing 2 species. (Table-1). Different parts of the plants used for treatment of piles

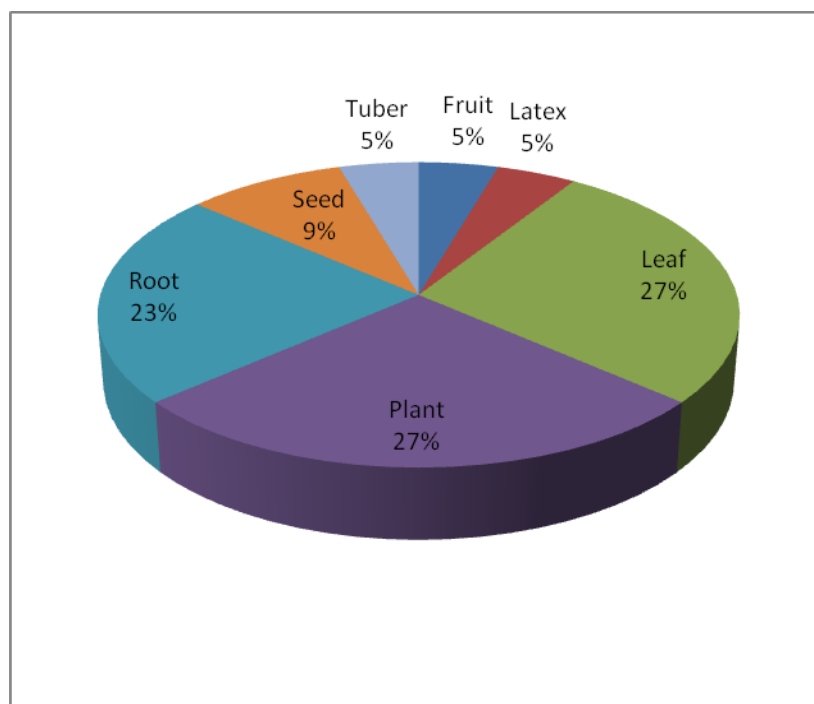
are leaf, fruit, seed, root, tuber, and latex. Sometimes whole plant is used for treating the diseases especially in case of herbs. Based on analysis the whole plant and leaf constitute highest percentage of utilization (27%) followed by root (23%), tuber, fruit and latex (5%) (Fig.1).

Table -1: List of plants used by the konda dora for piles

S.No	Name of the Species	Local name	Family	Part used
1	<i>Abutilon crispum</i> (L.) Medicus.	Erri Benda	Malvaceae	Leaf
2	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> (L.) Sweet.	Thuthura Benda	Malvaceae	Seed
3	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Uttareni	Amarantaceae	Plant
4	<i>Arisaema tortuosum</i> Wall.	Marigadda	Araceae	Root
5	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i> L	Jilledu mandara	Asclepidaceae	Root
6	<i>Capsicum frutescence</i> L	Mirapa	Solanaceae	Plant
7	<i>Chlorophytum laxum</i> R. Br.	Dumpateega	Liliaceae	Tuber
8	<i>Ficus racemosa</i> Linn.	Medi	Moraceae	Latex
9	<i>Homonoia riparia</i> (Haiw.) Merr.	Adavai ganneru	Euphorbiaceae	Root
10	<i>Lannea coromandelica</i> (Houtt.) Merr.	Gumpena	Anacardiaceae	Plant
11	<i>Leucas aspera</i> (Willd.) Link	Tella tummi	Lamiaceae	Leaf
12	<i>Manilkara hexandra</i> (Roxb.) Dubard.	Pala chettu	Sapotaceae	Leaf
13	<i>Mimosa intsia</i> L	Korintha	Mimosaceae	Root
14	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L	Attipatti	Mimosaceae	Leaf

15	<i>Orthosiphon rubicundus</i> (Don.) Benth.	Nelatappidi	Lamiaceae	Leaf
16	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L	Pulichinta	Oxalidaceae	Plant
17	<i>Paederia foetida</i> L	Gandha badulia	Rubiaceae	Leaf
18	<i>Polygala elongata</i> Willd	Akumokka	Polygalaceae	Root
19	<i>Rivea hypocratoriformis</i> (Desr.) Choisy.	Bodditeega	Convolvulaceae	Plant
20	<i>Sansevieria roxburghiana</i> Schult	Seganara	Agavaceae	Plant
21	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> Linn	Kamanchi	Solanaceae	Fruit
22	<i>Spondias pinnata</i> Linn.f	Adavi mamidi	Anacardiaceae	Seed

Fig:-1 Part used analysis



Conclusion

Medicinal plants represent a significant contribution to human health and one of the most significant ways in which humans directly reap the benefits provided by biodiversity. Use of medicinal plants by konda dora people from the Northern Andhra Pradesh has a long history. Here we reported on 22 medicinal plant species used for the treatment of piles. The therapeutic efficiency of the plants as claimed by the tribal people has to be confirmed by scientific scrutiny like phytochemical analysis and drug trial testing. Phytochemical and pharmacological studies of above said plants need to be taken up to find out the exact ingredients that help in to cure the piles problem.

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