

Short Communication

Assessment of ethno-medicinal plants from Chamundi Hill, Mysore

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A survey has been done in Chamundi Hill of Mysore District for investigations of ethano-medicinal plants. About 34 plants were reported in this preliminary study which was used for various diseases. This manuscript is very useful for those who working with herbal plants especially doctors and researchers and those who are practicing Indian medicine system.

Key words: Chamundi Hill, ethno-medicinal, Ayurveda.

INTRODUCTION

India holds rich variety of flora that no other country can boast of. India covers more than 45,000 species of flora, out of which there are several species that are not found anywhere else. Since ancient times, the use of plants as a source of medicines has been the inherent part of life in India. It has been estimated that out of 17,000 plant species occurring in India, 9,000 are commonly useful of which 7,500 are medicinal, 3,900 are culturally important, 525 are used for fiber, 400 are used for fodder, 300 are used for pesticides and insecticides, 300 are used for gums and resin, and 10 for perfumes (Duthie, 1960). There are more than officially documented plants in India that holds great medicinal potential. India comprises of seven percent of world's flora. Even today, the world health organization estimates that up to 70% of the people depend on the traditional medicines. Ethno-medicinal plants come under traditional medicine (Jain and Rao, 1967). Right now they are playing very important role in the Indian medicinal system called Ayurveda. In the present study we have assessed the presence of the medicinal plants in Chamundi Hill, which is located near our home town.

Chamundi Hill situated between 11°36'N latitude and 76°55'N E longitude is 6 km away from Mysore City. It is a small mountain with an altitude of 1000 m from the base of the hill with scrubby forest spread all around. The temperature ranges from 17 to 35°C and relative humidity varies from 19 to 75%. To study the medicinal plants diversity and variability collections were made in Chamundi Hill once a month from February 2008 to January 2009. It was an uninhabited area thirty years ago with a small temple at the hilltop which has now become

a famous tourist spot with a small township with a population of 3000.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During the course of exploration we have collected all plants which are easily seen in the hill. Some are found in the deep scrubby forest recognized by Ayurvedic doctors during our visit to the hill. The collected plants specimen were deposited in the Department of Biology, Kannada Bharthi College, Kushal Nagar. In Table 1, botanical names are arranged alphabetically followed by family, plant parts used and medicinal uses.

OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

Plant species belonging to 22 genera and 34 species of families are documented in the Table 1. This reflected the diversity of the medicinal plants present in Chamundi Hill, Mysore. Scrutiny of Table 1 also shows the part of plants that are used for medical purpose and for a particular treatment. According to our collection the Ceasalpiniaceae is common and abundant family are present in the hill compare to other species.

From earlier times people made use of plants for their basic needs, medicare and live hood. Some plants used by people are cultivated, while others grow in wild conditions. The tribal depends predominantly on plants for food, clothing, medicine, oil agricultural implements, art, craft, huts and for other requirements.

Plants used to prevent abortion, easy delivery, respiratory gastric problems, antidote for snake and

Table 1. Shows the list of the plants which are collected at the Chamundi Hill during February 2008 to January 2009.

S/N	Botanical name	Family	Plants parts	Medicinal use
1.	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Leaves, fruits	Fever, dysentery
2.	<i>Argemone maxicana</i> L.	Papaveraceae	Leaf juice	Wounds
3.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Meliaceae	Leaves, stems	Tooth problem, skin diseases
4.	<i>Bacopa monnieri</i> L.	Scrophulariaceae	Whole plant	To cure lymph gland
5.	<i>Brassica compestris</i> L.	Brassicaceae	Seeds	Suffering from evil eyes
6.	<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Fruit	To cure lymph gland
7.	<i>Calotropis gigantean</i> L.	Asclepidaceae	Leaves	Easy delivery
8.	<i>Calotropis procera</i> L.	Asclepidaceae	Latex	To reduce tooth ache
9.	<i>Cassia fistula</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Fruit	Skin disease fever
10.	<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Leaves juice	Tonsils treatment
11.	<i>Cassia tora</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Seeds	To cough
12.	<i>Centella asiatica</i> L.	Apiaceae	Stem, leaves	Memory bronchitis
13.	<i>Crotalaria burhia</i> L.	Fabaceae	Leaves juice	Remove kidney stones
14.	<i>Citrus lemon</i> L.	Rutaceae	Fruits	Acidity, sunstroke
15.	<i>Coccinia grandis</i> L.	Cucurbitaceae	Leaves	Reduce acidity
16.	<i>Datura meta</i> L.	Solanaceae	Seeds	Abortion
17.	<i>Emblica officinalis</i>	Eubhorbiaceae	Fruits	Short sightness
18.	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L.	Moraceae	Leaf, latex	Rheumatism
19.	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L.	Moraceae	Fruits, leaves	Male and female fertility, wounds
20.	<i>Lawsonia intermis</i> L.	Lythraceae	Leaf	Boils and burns
21.	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L.	Anacardiaceae	Bark, seeds	Cough, diarrhoea
22.	<i>Morus alba</i> L.	Moraceae	Leaf	Diarhoea
23.	<i>Musca paradisiaca</i> L.	Musaceae	Fruits	Diarhoea
24.	<i>Ocimum sactum</i> L.	Labiatae	Leaves	Cough, cold
25.	<i>Parthenium hysterosporus</i> L.	Piperaceae	Flower, leaf	Cuts cold and wounds
26.	<i>Piper nigrum</i> L.	Piperaceae	Fruits	Juandice
27.	<i>Ricinus communis</i> L.	Euphoraceae	oils	Pneumonia, body pain
28.	<i>Raphanus sativus</i> L.	Brassicaceae	Roots, leaf	Acidity
29.	<i>Saraca asoca</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Bark	Anthelminthic, piles
30.	<i>Sida cordifolia</i> L.	malvaceae	Leaf, root	dysentery
31.	<i>Solanum indicum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Fruit, root	Bronchitis, leprosy
32.	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>	Menispermaceae	Root	Jaundice, snake bait
33.	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> L.	Asteraceae	Leaf	Wounds, burning wounds
34.	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Asteraceae	Leaf, seeds	Malaria, chronic

scorpion bites, fever toothache, cough, jaundice, and sexual power (Pandey et al., 1998; Singh, 1987, 1991; Singh and Maheswari, 1989; Singh, 1991; Singh and Singh, 2001; Shukla, 1991; Kalpana et al., 2010).

DISCUSSION

The majority of plants species belong to families Ceasalpiniaceae, Moraceae, Piperaceae, Euphoraceae, Asteraceae, Brassiacaeae etc. Among these 34 plants collected belonging to dicots and monocots. Out of which 50% are trees, 22% shrubs, 17% herbs, and 11% creepers. The percentage of plants parts used is as follows: fruits 26%, leaves 45%, root 10%, seeds 1%,

stem 5%, whole plant 1%, oil 4%, and latex 2%.

The percentage study adds to the earlier knowledge regarding use of plants in the treatment of common diseases.

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