# Studies on Ethnomedicinal Uses and Formulation of Herbal Drugs from Medicinal Plants of Ranchi District- A Survey

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#### **ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:** Plants have been the basis for medical treatments through much of human history, and such traditional medicine is still widely practiced today. Modern medicine recognizes herbalism as a form of alternative medicine, as the practice of herbalism is not strictly based on evidence gathered using the scientific method. Modern medicine, does, however, make use of many plant-derived compounds as the basis for evidence-tested pharmaceutical drugs, and phytotherapy works to apply modern standards of effectiveness testing to herbs and medicines that are derived from natural sources.

**Objectives:** To examine the traditional therapeutic properties of indigenous medicinal plants in urban and rural location of Ranchi, North Eastern India. Methods: In the present study ehnomedicinal survey was conducted in various urban and rural locations of Ranchi District of Jharkhand state during March 2009 - Sep2010.

**Results:** The people of the study area have expertise in utilizing different plant parts as medicine for the treatment of all sorts of aliments. This paper additionally deals with the enlistment and documentation of traditional therapeutic properties of 74 indigenous medicinal plants, which are in practice for the treatment of diseases by inhabitants of the study area. The information on ethnomedicinal formulation is based on the interview with local traditional herbal practitioners, Vaidhya and other knowledgeable persons, who prescribe their herbal preparation to treat various ailment.

**Conclusion:** The study exclusively examined many novel plants and plant products based on its medicinal uses and properties. This survey needs to be integrated with healthcare system (research & industrial level) to explore new drug formulation for medicinal upgradation of humans.

**Keywords-** Medicinal plants, Herbal treatment, Folklore, Aliments.

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# **INTRODUCTION**

Majority of world population relies on traditional medicines for primary healthcare, most of which involves use of locally available plants. In India all most 95% of the prescription are plant based in the traditional systems of Unani, ayurveda, Homeopathy and Siddha<sup>1</sup>. Ancient ethnic communities around the world have learnt to utilize their neighborhood herbal wealth for curative as well as offensive purposes<sup>2</sup>. Due to lake of their knowledge on plants literacy. developed often at the cost of their dear life through centuries old experience could be perfectly documented and it had rather descend from one generation to another as a domestic culture heritage<sup>3</sup>.

Modern medicinal facilities are now making a rapid penetration into the areas which have been centers of herbal use as medicines for ages as their tradition. Such activites may result in disappearance of traditional use and knowledge herbal wealth. It is therefore important (as bioethical mater) that the valuable knowledge from locally folklore, in particular, of the medicinal uses of locally available plants to treat different diseases be recorded<sup>4</sup>.

Many attempts have been made on inventarisation of medicinal plants currently being used for treatment of ailments in different parts of India such as Nayar<sup>5</sup> reported medicinal plants of Eastern Ghats, Nagaraju and Rao<sup>6</sup> enlisted medicinal plants of Tirumala Hills and the plants crude drug of Rayalaseema (A.P.). Similarly Jain et el. from Raipur<sup>7</sup>, Kumar *et al.*, from Bikaner<sup>8</sup>, Bondya *et al.*, and Chandra *et al.* from Ranchi<sup>9,10</sup> have studied on medicinal plants and their traditional uses.

Ranchi district of Jharkhand state is immensely rich in biodiversity and ethnomedicinal information. Ranchi the capital of Jharkhand lies between 22° 30° N - 23° 30° N latitude and 85° E-86° E longitude. It is located at an altitude of 654 m above

sea level. The annual average rainfall in Ranchi district is about 1530 mm. The whole district is covered by red sandy soil. Jharkhand state is immensely rich in biological diversity and traditional knowledge with about 23,605 sq km forest area, which is 29% of the total geographic area. It is also rich in ethnomedicine and about 80% people live in rural are 10. The population compromising various ethnic groups and indigenous mass making it hub of horopaths, Pahans, Vidhya and other knowledge traditional having medicinal uses of various plants found in ambience. The current trend of life style is resulting in gradual loss of valuable therapeutic indigenous knowledge (Homeopathy) associated with ethnic culture in the area in particular<sup>3</sup>.

The present communication records documentation and compilation of fragmentary ethnic knowledge about the medicinal and nutritional indigenous plants. In the paper, attempt has been made to document the folklore formulation so that in near future it may lead to the discovery of new medicines and help in protecting their IPR.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

Ethnomedicinal survey conducted during Mar 2009 – Sep 2010 in 5 different blocks of Ranchi district namely, Kanke, Ratu, Mander, Bero and Lapung. The requisite ehnomedicinal properties of different plants were recorded through direct interview with the local people and practitioners on the basis of their traditional knowledge and the folklore formulation, which they were prescribed to their patients. After documentation, use of formulation was cross checked and confirmed. The plants were identified with the herbaria of Ranchi University and Department of Forestry of Birsa Agriculture University, Jharkhand.

Scientific botanical identification of the collected plants was done by referring to Haines<sup>11</sup>, Hembrom<sup>12</sup>, Prasad<sup>3</sup> and Chandra<sup>10</sup>. Queries were asked on the basis of readymade questionnaire<sup>13</sup> to know the traditional knowledge used in practice by local people. All collected specimen were deposited in the herbarium of Department of Botany, Marwari College, Ranchi, Ranchi University for future references.

## **RESULTS & DISCUSSION**

The documentation has been done on the basis of information extracted from the knowledgeable local practitioners, the patients who have cured and the plant collectors of the area. A list of 74 plants and their uses has been presented in Table 1 in alphabetical order giving their Botanical name, followed by local name, family and medicinal uses.

The works of Hippocrates (459–370 BC) contain 300 medicinal plants classified by physiological action: Wormwood and common centaury (Centaurium umbellatum Gilib) were applied against fever; garlic against intestine parasites; opium, henbane, deadly nightshade, and mandrake were used narcotics; fragrant hellebore haselwort as emetics; sea onion, celery, parsley, asparagus, and garlic as diuretics; oak and pomegranate as adstringents. Most of these plant species were recorded as folklore formulation with their local names, plant parts used, quantity and mode of application for the treatment of various ailments have been enumerated, this statement was further found in agreement with Ganapaty et al. 14. The ailments include menstrual cycle disorder, leucoderma, skin disease, blood pressure, diabetes, Malaria, snake bite, tooth ache, infertility, joints pain, contraceptive, rheumatism, jaundice, wound healing, etc. The knowledge from herbal practitioners on the abortifacient, female contraceptives and wound healing is one of the present day situations<sup>15</sup>.

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## **CONCLUSION**

medicines These traditional indigenous origin may be integrates with national health care system. Plants have been selected and used empirically as drug initially as traditional centuries. preparation then as pure active principle. The study is likely to promote a rational use of botanicals and must be continued focusing on isolation and characterizing the active principles of the crude extract, its pharmacological validation, standardization and formulation. It is hoped that such ethnomedicinal study will provide important of the different formulation used locally of the study area to cure different diseases.

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#### **Conflict of Interest**

We have no conflict of interest to declare.

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 Table 1. List of important medicinal plants in Jharkhand and their uses

S. No.	Latin Name	Local Name	Uses		
	Abrus precatorius	Karjani	Seed -	Purgative, emetic, aphrodisiac, poultice of seeds used as suppository for abortion	
			Root -	Emetic, alexiteric	
1			Leaves -	Juice from fresh leaves in said to remove spots of leucoderma	
			Fruit -	Ground fruit mixed with sugar is given him weakness by tribal	
2	Acacia arabica	Babul	Bark -	Astringent, demulcent	
			Gum -	In dry cough, diarrhea, dysentery and diabetes mellitus	
3	Acacia catechu	Khair	Bark	Astringent Kath	
4	Achyranthes aspera	Apamarg	Plant -	Purgative and diuretic, used in dropsy, Piles, Boils, Skin eruptions, Colic, Snake-bite etc.	
			Root -	Astringent, used in Pyorrhea	
			Seed -	Emetic	
5	Adina cordifolia	Karam	Bark -	Febrifuge, Antiseptic, also used to kill worms in sores	
6	Ailanthus excelsa	Ghorkaranj	Bark -	Aromatic, Tonic, Febrifuge, Expectorant, Antispasmodic and Astringent; used in Rheumatism also.	
7	Aegle marmelos	Bel	Fruit -	Pulp of ripe fruit aromatic, cooling and laxative while half ripe fruit Astringent, Digestive and Stomachic	
			Root -	Used in intermittent fevers, and as bark fish poison.	
8	Alangium Lamarckii	Dhela	Leaves -	As poultice in rheumatic pain	
			Bark&root	In Jaundice	
			Root Bark	Purgative, anthelmintic and useful in fever and skin diseases.	
9	Albizzia lebbek	Siris	Plant -	In snake-bite and scorpion sting, infusion given in anemia and for curing itch.	
			Bark&See d	Astringent, tonic and restorative, given in piles and diarrhea	

				L. D. d. f d d	
			Root bark	In Powder form used to strengthen gums in night-blindness.	
10	Albizzia procera	Safed Siris	Leaves -	Used as insecticide, made into poultice and applied to ulcer	
11	Alstonia scholaris	Chatni	Bark -	Tonic, alternative, febrifuge, useful in diarrhea dysentery and snakebite Milky	
			juice -	Applied to ulcer	
12	Audrographis	Kalmegh	Plant -	Tonic febrifuge, alternative anthelmintic paniculata	
13	Artocarpus lakoocha	Barhar	Seed -	Ground and given to children as purgative	
14	Asparagus racemosa	Satawar	Root -	Decoction used by tribal in fever, refrigerant, demulcent, aphrodisiac, antiseptic, alterative, galactagogue.	
1-			Leaves - Bark -	Carminative, expectorant, anthelmintic, antidotal, diuretic and insecticidal; externally applied in skin diseases as antiseptic and stimulant. Bitter tonic, astringent, alterative, anthelmintic,	
15	Azadirachta indica	Neem	Neem	Roots & Trunk	Antispasmodic and stimulant
			Gum -	Stimulant and demulcent	
			Fruit -	Used in urinary diseases, piles, leprosy, intestinal worms etc.	
			Seed oil-	Antiseptic dressing in skin diseases	
			Bark -	Astringent	
16	Bauhinia purpurea	Koenar	Root -		
			Flowers-	Laxative	
17	Bauhinia retusa	Kathal	Gum -	Emmenagogue, diuretic	
			Root -	Tonic, stimulant emetic, aphrodisiac	
18	Bombax ceiba	Semal	Leaves -	Boiled and given with sugar in case of weakness	
			Gum -	Aphrodisiac, demulcent, haemostatic, astringent, tonic alterative.	
19	Boswellia serrata	Salai	Gum -	Diaphoretic, diuretic, astringent, emmenagogue, tonic	

20	Buchanania lanzan	Piar	Oil -	Tonic a substitute for almond oil in native medical preparations
			Gum -	Used in diarrhea
21			Leaf -	Astringent, tonic
	Butea frondosa	Palas	Seed -	Anthelmintic
			Gum -	Astringent
				Used in dropsy and enlargement of
				abdominal viscera, smoked or
	Calotropis gigantea		Leaves -	smoke inhaled
				in asthma & cough, decoction for
				extracting guinea worms.
22		Akaon	Root bark	Cholagogue, diaphoretic, emetic,
				alterative and diuretic.
			El	Tonic, stomachic, digestive and
			Flower -	expectorant.
	The same of the sa		Latov	Abortifacient as well as used in
			Latex -	leprosy, dropsy, rheumatism, etc.
23	Carissa carandas	Kanwar	Fruit -	Appetizer, ground green fruit with
23	Carissa caranaas	Kaliwai	Truit -	salt taken in dysentery
			Leaves-	Laxative, tonic, febrifuge, purgative
	Cassia fistula  Chloroxylon	Amaltas Bharhul	Seeds &	Astringent, tonic, febrifuge,
			Root Bark	purgative.
24			Root -	puigative.
24			Flower -	Purgative
			Fruit -	Cathartic also applied in
				rheumatism
			Seeds -	Emetic.
25			Leave -	Used for cure of sores in cattle
23				swietenia
	Clerodendron infortunatum	Bhant	Leaves -	Tonic, antiperiodic, febrifuge,
26				vermifuge, also used in skin
				diseases and as
				substitute for chireta
27	Dalbergia latifolia	Kala Sissoo	Leaf -	Boiled and infusion taken in
	Emblica officinalis	Amla		weakness Richest source of vitamin `C',
				,
28			Fruit -	refrigerant, antiscorbutic, diuretic, laxative, astringent, stomachic,
				blood purifier, appetizer.
			Seed -	Infusion used as eye-wash in
				ophthalmic diseases.
29	Eugenia spp.	Jamun	Bark -	Astringent, decoction used for
				gargles, fresh juice used in diarrhea
				of children
			E	Juice (fresh as well as vinegar) used
			Fruit -	as stomachic, carminative, diuretic.
			Seed -	Used in diabetes.

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			Seeds -	Purgative
47	Ougeinia oojenensis	Sandan	Bark -	Febrifuge, decoction given in highly colored urine
			Gum -	Used in dysentery and diarrhea, and also as fish poison
40	Pongamia pinnata	W	Root -	Juice used in fistulous sores and for cleaning foul ulcers.
			Stem bark (fresh)	Used internally for bleeding piles
48		Karanj	Leaves -	Used as poultice in worm infested ulcers.
			Seed -	Oil used in coetaneous affections, herpes scabies and rheumatism.
			Bark -	Astringent
40	Dtorocours as a second in the	Poi Poisse	Leaves -	Externally applied in boils sores and skin diseases
49	Pterocarpus marsupium	Bai, Paisar	Wood -	Extract used in diabetes
			Gum -	Astringent, used in diarrhea pyrosis and toothache.
50	Pueraria tuberosa	Patal Kohra	Root -	Demulcent, refrigerant, emetic, tonic, lactagogues. paste rubbed in rheumatism.
51	Rauwolfia spp.	Sarpagandha	Root -	Febrifuge, antidote for bites of snakes, insects, etc.
52	Rubia cordifolia  147. Rubia cordifolia	Jotsingh	Root -	Astringent, alterative, deobstruent and tonic; decoction used in jaundice paralysis, urinary and menstrual troubles and inflamed chest.
			Stem -	Used in cobra-bites and scorpion string.
53	Schleichera oleosa	Kusum	Bark -	Astringent, used with oil in itch
			Seed -	Power applied to remove maggots

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				Used in throat affections and as
			Gum -	substitute for tragacanth
			Root	_
62	Stereospermum suaveolens	Papar, Panrar	Bark -	Cooling, diuretic, tonic
	Stereospermum suuveoiens		Flower -	Used in hiccough and as aphrodisiac
63	Tamarindus indica	Tetar, Imli	Leaves -	Infusion used in eye diseases
	ramarmaas marca	retar, min	Seed -	Burnt and used as tooth-powder.
64	Tectona grandis	Teak, Sagwan	Leaves -	Burnt leaves in linseed oil used for curing itch.
	Tephrosia purpurea		Plant -	Tonic, laxative, anthelmintic
65		Sarphuka	Root -	Used in tympanitis, dyspepsia and chromic diarrhea fresh root bark used in colic.
66	Terminalia tomentosa	Asan	Bark -	Astringent, diuretic, cardiotonic; burnt bark mixed with linseed oil used for curing itch.
	Terminalia arjuna	Arjun	Bark -	Astringent, febrifuge, cardiotonic, used as antidote to poison
67			Kahua Leaves	Fresh juice used in ear-ache
			Fruit -	Tonic and deobstruent
68	Terminalia belerica	Bahera	Fruit -	Astringent, tonic, laxative, antipyretic, purgative (half - ripe ones); also used in piles, dropsy, diarrhea, leprosy, biliousness, dyspepsia and headache.
			Kernel -	Narcotic, vermifuge
69	Terminalia chebula	Hare	Fruit -	Astringent, laxative, alterative; used in carious teeth and bleeding gums, etc.
			Bark -	Diuretic and cardiotonic.
70	Urginea indica	Jangli	Bulb -	Expectorant, diuretic and cardiac stimulant piaz, Kandri
71	Vetiveria zizanioides	Khus		Used in tympanitis, dyspepsia and chromic diarrhea fresh root bark used in colic.

	168. Votiveria zizanicidea			
	Vitex negundo	Sinduar	Root -	Expectorant, febrifuge, tonic
72			Leaves -	Tonic, vermifuge and used in acute rheumatism
			Fruit (dried)-	Vermifuge
73	Woodfordia fruiticosa	Phuldhawai	Flowers (dried) -	Astringent, used in dysentery, menorrhagia, disorders of liver and mucous membrane; considered a safe stimulant in pregnancy
74	Zizyphus xylopyrus	Kankar	Leaves -	Ground and applied as poultice for cure of swelling