

Ethnomedicinal Uses of Medicinal Plants of Badami Taluk

Amaresh Topalakatti*

Department of Botany, SVPVV Samstha's SSBM Degree College, Karnataka, India

*Corresponding author: Dr. Amaresh Topalakatti, Department of Botany, SVPVV Samstha's SSBM Degree College, Badami-587201, Karnataka, India, E-mail: amaresht4@gmail.com

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Abstract

The objective of present study was to document and preserve ethnomedicinal knowledge use to treat different human ailments by traditional healers traditional knowledge of local vaidyas about medicinal plants and their importance in local health care is well known since Vedic period. Plants are considered as divine in origin and were worshipped as Mother (Goddess).

Screening of medicinal plants has become a potential source of bio-dynamic compounds of therapeutic value in phytochemical researches. Ethnobotanical documentation is one way of capturing this body of knowledge. Hence the survey of medicinal plants and their traditional uses by traditional practitioners of Badamitaluk of Bagalkot district as it has a long history of medicinal plants since from Chalukyan period.

Keywords: Medicinal plants; Badami; Ethnomedicinal uses

Study area

The study area Badami taluk is located in Bagalkot district of Karnataka state. It has a long back history for its architectural beauty of Menabasadhi, Agasthatirtha, Mahakoot with rich source of medicinal plants [1]. This taluk is situated between 15.92°N 75.68°E latitude. The study area has diverse type of vegetation like arid habitat, shrubs and thorny vegetation and rich in diversity of plants with medicinal values which are being explored by traditional practitioners of different locality in this taluk [2].

Introduction

Plants are the principal source of raw materials for plant based medicines since ancient times from the period of Charaka and Sushruta [3]. Now the traditional herbal medicines are receiving great importance in health care throughout the world [4]. This traditional knowledge is handed down orally or in the form of scripts from one generation to the other through trial and error methods [5]. In India most rural populations and tribal communities rely on traditional medicines for their health care needs.

Methodology

Data sheets were prepared at different villages of the taluk where traditional practitioners are practicing, with village name and its locality, date of visit, address of the patients with their age, sex and the treatment they are getting from the medicinal plants [6]. The vernacular names of the plant and the part used for the treatment with questionnaires with the patient and traditional practitioners of particular locality [7]. Frequent field survey in prominent villages like Mahakoot, Adagal, Nandikeshwa, Pattadakal, Belur, Hosoor, Yaragoppa, Kendur, Naganathkolla etc. Plant species were identified with flora and the preliminary data was recorded by observing the fresh plants in field shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: The study area of Badami taluk.

Results of Survey

Some plants species used to treat human ailments in Badami taluk of Bagalkot district are as by various traditional practitioners is shown in Table 1.

Name of plant	Family	Parts used	Ailments
<i>Asparagus racemosus</i>	Liliaceae	Roots	Hypertension Insomnia
<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	Acanthaceae	Whole plant	Fever and weakness
<i>Aloe vera</i>	Liliaceae	Gelatinous extract of leaf	Laxatives, wound healing, skincare
<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	Rutaceae	Fruits and bark	Diarrhea, dysentery, constipation

<i>Adhatoda vasica</i>	Acanthaceae	Leaf	Antispasmodic, respiratory stimulant
<i>Calotropis gigantea</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Flower powder, leaves	Cough and cold, dropsy inflammation
<i>Centella asiatica</i>	Umbelliferae	Whole plant	Anti-Inflammatory, Jaundice, diarrhea
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Solanaceae	Fruits/whole plant	Dropsy, Diuretic anti dysentery
<i>Ocimum sanctum</i>	Labiatae	Leaves/seeds	Cough, cold and bronchitis
<i>Holerrhina antydysentrica</i>	Apocynaceae	Bark/seeds	Scabies, antipyretic, Amoebic dysentery

Table 1: Details about medicinal plants and their use to treat various ailments.

Conclusion

The survey indicates that the study area has plenty of medicinal plants to treat a wide spectrum of human ailments. The study concluded that even though the accessibility of western medicine for simple and complicated diseases is available many people still relay on medicinal plants at least for

treatment of some simple disease such as cold, cough, fever, headache, poison, snake bites, skin disease and tooth infections.

It is necessary to acquire and preserve these medicinal plants by propped documentation and identification.

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