

Folklore Medicinal Plants of Gulbarga District, Karnataka, India

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Abstract

In this paper 36 folk medicinal plants from Gulbarga district have been reported. Traditional methods of treatment using plants and animals are predominant in rural societies of Karnataka, a state of south India. As a result of an ethno botanical survey conducted, information on 36 such plant species from 34 genera and 23 families are presented.

Keywords

Folk medicine: Gulbarga: Karnataka: India

1. Introduction

The Gulbarga District population comprises four tribes. All these tribes have their own traditional medicines. The tribal people living in this area are illiterate and their traditional medicines have not been documented yet. Hence, the present study is carried out to document the uses of traditional herbal drugs.

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2. Study area and tribal

Gulbarga is one of the Districts situated in the northeastern part of Karnataka state (Fig-1, c) and lies between 76° 04" and 77° 04" longitude and 18° 12" & 17° 46" latitude. The total area of the district amounts to 16242.4 sq. km. Bhatt RC (1998). The total population as per 2001 census comprises 22,78,301 (Directorate of Economics and Statistics Gulbarga District Population 2001).

The information including the various data (local names, ailments, therapeutic effects, parts of plant used, and preparation.) was obtained from local healers, Nativaidyas and experienced adults by personal interviews carried out between 1999-2007. Plant specimens were collected and are preserved in the herbarium at the department of Botany of Gulbarga University, Gulbarga (HGUG). For the identification of the plants floras (Gamble, 1935; Hooker, 1978; Saldhana, 1984 and Seetharam 2000) have been used.

During the fieldwork the following places were visited: 1. Aland, 2. Ainapur, 3. Chincholli, 4. Nagarhal, 5. Bhunyar(B), 6. Bhunyar(K), 7. Khanapur, 8. Benkenpalli, 9. Yetabarpur, 10. Tumkunta, 11. Hasargundagi, 12. Garampalli, 13. Yalammadi, 14. Channur, 15. Sedam, 16. Ainoli, 17. Sulepeth, 18. Chandrampalli, 19. Gurampalli, 20. Chittapur, 21. Dandoti, 22. Dandagund.

3. Result and discussion

The plants used as folklore medicines in Gulbarga District are presented in table -1, arraigned in alphabetical order of their botanical names, along with the family, followed by local names used by tribes, brief notes on the plant parts, mode of uses, doses and duration of treatment.

During the study 63 specimens were collected in the area. According to the result of the identifications, 36 species are being used as folklore medicines in Gulbarga. Among them 31 species are wild and 5 species are cultivated plants. As a result of this study, 52 different uses belonging to 36 species have been recorded.

Table 1
Folk medicinal plants of Gulbarga District (Karnataka, India)

Botanical name	Family	Specimen number	Local name	Ailments treated	Plant parts used	Preparation, Administration, duration of treatment
<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.) Delile	Mimosidae	HGUG-241	Karijali mara	Urinary tract infection	Flower	Decoction, 5 days
<i>Acalypha indica</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	HGUG-203	Kuppe gida	Snake bite Bee bite	Whole plant	Paste smeared on spot of bite
<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corrêa	Rutaceae	HGUG-710	Bilvapatri	Earache	Leaves	Juice
<i>Albizia lebbeck</i> (L.) Benth.	Mimosidae	HGUG-245	Shirsi mara	Seminal weakness, Skin diseases	Seeds Seeds	Powder External
<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L.	Acanthaceae	HGUG-005	Mulludantu	Constipation Appetizer	Whole plant	Chewed
<i>Aristolochia indica</i> L.	Aristolochiaceae	HGUG-045	Eshwari balli	Scorpion sting Bee bite	Root	Paste applied on site
<i>Asparagus recemosus</i> Willd	Liliaceae	HGUG-542	Shatavari	Dysentery Galactagogue Gonorrhoea and Leucorrhoea	Root	Juice
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> L.	Caesalpinaceae	HGUG-1298	Ashmanthaka	Bleeding piles	Fruits	Powder

Table 1 (continued)

<i>Murraya koenigii</i> (L.) Spreng.	Rutaceae	HGUG-713	Karibevu	Piles	Leaves	Orally with honey
<i>Nyctanthus arbor-tristis</i> L.	Nyctaginaceae	HGUG- 606	Parijata	Conjunctivitis Eye inflammation Insomnia	Flower	Decoction. flower to be kept on the eye, tied cloth at night.
<i>Ocimum basilacum</i> L.	Lamiaceae	HGUG-534	Kamakasturi	Helminthiasis Stomachache	Leaf juice	Decoction for 5 days
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L.	Oxalidaceae	HGUG-611	Purchi soppu	Jaundice	Leaves	Juice once daily for 21 days
<i>Passiflora foetida</i> L.	Passifloraceae	HGUG-615	Kukki balli	Inflammation and swelling	Fruit decoction Paste	Taken orally Externally
<i>Polyalthia longifolia</i> (Sonn.) Thwaites	Annonaceae	HGUG-021	Asoka	Diabetes	Bark	Orally
<i>Pterocarpus marsupium</i> Roxb.	Fabaceae	HGUG-182	Rakta chandan	Skin disorder Psoriasis Dermatitis Mycosis & warts	Leaves and latex	Directly applied till complete cure
<i>Ricinus communis</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	HGUG-193	Oudala gida	Haemorrhoids	Leaves	Smeared with castor oil
<i>Senna tora</i> (L.) Roxb.	Caesalpinaceae	HGUG-223	Chagache	Fever	Root	Decoction
<i>Sesbania grandiflora</i> (L.) Pers.	Fabaceae	HGUG-203	Chagache gida	Mouth ulcers	Whole plant	Chewed

Table 1 (continued)

<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels	Myrtaceae	HGUG-596	Nerale	Diabetes	Seeds	Two tea spoonful of powder taken internally with water twice daily
<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	HGUG-224	Hunse mara	Sore throat Osteo orthritis	Bark and Leaves	Liquid extract of bark and leaves Paste externally
<i>Terminalia bellarica</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb.	Combrataceae	HGUG-141	Taremara	Asthma	Fruit powder	Orally with honey
<i>Terminalia chebula</i> Retz.	Combrataceae	HGUG-954	Alalekayi mara	Headache	Fruits	Orally with honey
<i>Trichosanthes cucumerina</i> L. var. <i>cucumerina</i>	Cucurbitaceae	HGUG-804	Adavi padaval	Jaundice	Leaves & root Fruits	Orally with butter milk Diabetes
<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.	Verbinaceae	HGUG-764	Lakki gida	Typhoid fever	Leaves	Paste applied on forehead

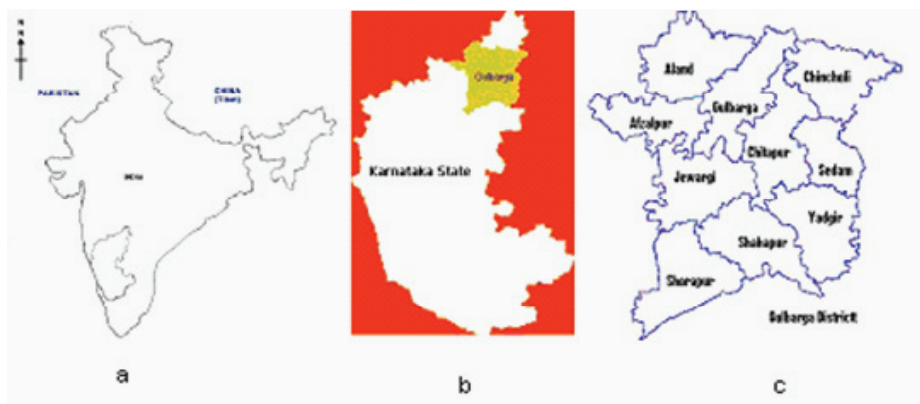


Figure 1. Political map of India, Karnataka, Gulbarga.

4. Conclusion:

Gulbarga District has a rich source of folklore medicinal knowledge, which needs continuous monitoring and intensive probes. The folklore medicinal uses of 36 plants have been recorded in the elderly population of Gulbarga, disclosing some original indications. The use of plants is generally related to information passed on orally, and relatively free from mythological elements. Plants and plant parts are used in different dosage forms, the most common being fresh juice, decoction, infusion and dry powder. External applications of drugs are indicated for ailments like cuts and wounds, dermatitis, sprain and swelling; sometimes, the drug is taken by chewing a particular plant part.

In Gulbarga traditional methods of treatments based on medicinal plants are still an important part of social life and culture. The claimed therapeutical values of the reported species call for modern scientific studies to establish their safety and effectiveness and to preserve these species that may otherwise be lost due to human activities in Gulbarga and adjoining areas.

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