

# Ethnomedicine Against Jaundice Used by Gond Tribes of Adilabad District, Andhra Pradesh, India

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## Abstract

The present investigation was performed in order to enumerate the medicinal plants that gond tribes uses for the treatment of jaundice in Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh, India. The study revealed that totally 12 plants belonging to 9 families were used to cure jaundice. The plants were used either separately or in combination with some other plant parts..

**Keywords:** Ethnomedicine, Tribal, Gonds, Jaundice, Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh.

## Introduction

The Composition of population in the state of Andhra Pradesh exhibit great diversity. Gonds are one of the major and largest tribe of Adilabad district, and numerically predominant tribal group in India. They are found in larger areas of central India known after them as Gondwana. Important sub divisions among Gonds are MuriaGond(found in Madhya Pradesh), RajGond and DurveGond(found in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa). All these sub division call themselves as Koitur in their dialect like Koyas, another larger tribal group in Andhra Pradesh. Naikapod is mentioned along with RajGonds in the approved list of Scheduled Tribe but in tribal areas of Adilabad district, Naikapod is a separate tribe. Most of the information's on medicinal uses of plant preparations given here have been found to be new when compared with earlier published work (Shanker and Henry, 1992; Pullaiah, Prasanna, and Obeulesy, 1998; Madhu, 2009). Mubeen, Fatima, Khanum, Alikhan and Anwar (2004-2005) studied the medicinally important plants growing in and around Adilabad district of Andhra

Pradesh. Seetha Rama Reddi TV.V, S.Prasanthi and B.V.A. RamaRao Naidu (2006), studied Tradition phytotherapy for Jaundice. In the present investigation , we report the Ethnomedicinal plants against Jaundice used by the Gonds in Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh, India.

## **Study Area**

The present ethnomedicinal study has been carried out in Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh. It is situated between  $77^{\circ} 47'$  and  $80^{\circ} 0'$  of the eastern longitudes and  $18^{\circ} 40'$  and  $19^{\circ} 56'$  of northern latitudes. The district is bounded on North by Yeotmal and Chanda districts of Maharashtra on the East by Chanda district, on the South by Karimnagar and Nizamabad districts and on the west by Nanded district of Maharashtra state. These harbour mainly dry deciduous forest and aborigines. These forests occupy about 44.5 percent of the total geographical area of the district. The total forest area in the district is 7218.86 sq.km. The total population of the district is 24,88,003 out of which the tribal population is 4,16,511 in which Gondu population is 2,21,376 (52.15% in total district Tribal population) as for 2001 Census of India. The main occupation of the people is agriculture.

## **Methodology**

Field investigations were carried out in Adilabad district to study the species which are used to cure Jaundice by interviewing the gonds. The selected species were collected between June 2009 to December 2009 in their natural habitats in Adilabad district. Regular periodical field trips were undertaken to the tribal hamlets in Thmsi, Jainad, Bela, Narnoor, Indervelly, Gudihathnoor, Ichoda, Bazarathnoor, Neradigonda, Utnoor, Jainoor, Kerameri, Kuntala, and Bejjur mandals in the district. Information was collected directly from the medicinemen and other elder people of the gond tribes.

## **Enumeration of Ethnomedicinal Plants**

### ***1) Acalypha indica L.***

Family: EUPHORBIACEAE,

Vernacular Name: Muripinda

Mode of Administration: Leaves crushed with sugar candy and curd taken orally early in the morning for 3days.

2) *Boerhavia diffusa* L.

Syn: *Boerhavia repens* L.

Family: NYCTAGINACEAE,

Vernacular Name : Atika Mamidi

Mode of Administration: Whole plant extract mixed with sugar and curd and administered once early in the morning for 7days.

3) *Celosia argentea* L.

Family: AMARANTHACEAE,

Vernacular Name: Gurugaku

Mode of Administration :Leaf extract in combination of leaves of *Achyranthes* mixed with sugar and curd and administered once in the morning for 3days.

4) *Curculigo orchoides* Gaertn.

Family : HYPOXIDACEAE,

Vernacular Name: Nela Tadi

Mode of Administration : Rhizome extract given with curd in 2 spoonfuls twice a day for about a week.

5) *Cyperus rotundus* L.

Family: CYPERACEAE,

Vernacular Name: Tunga Gaddi

Mode of Administration :Tubers ground with triphal (Fruits of *Terminalia chebula*, *T.bellirica* Emblica officinalis) and the extract administered in 2

spoonfuls twice a day about 5 days.

6) *Euphorbia hirta* L.

Syn: *Euphorbia pilulifera* L.

Family: EUPHORBIACEAE,

Vernacular Name: Reddivari Nanubalu , Chukkabottala chettu.

Mode of Administration :Leaf extract in combination with leaf extract of

*Phyllanthus amarus*, sugar and curd is administered in 2 spoonfuls thrice a day for 2-3days.

7) *Oldenlandia corymbosa* L.

Family: RUBIACEAE,

Vernacular Name: Chiru veru

Mode of Administration :Whole plant decoction given with a glass of buttermilk in 3 spoonfuls twice a day for about 5days.

8) *Phyllanthus amarus* Schum. et Thonn

Syn: *Phyllanthus niruri* L.

Family: EUPHORBIACEAE,

Vernacular Name: Nela Usiri

Mode of Administration Whole plant extract mixed with curd and given in 2 spoonfuls twice a day for a week.

9) *Portulaca oleracea* L.

Family: PORTULACACEAE,

Vernacular Name: Pappu koora

Mode of Administration : Whole plant dried and made into powder and administered in 2 spoonfuls early in the morning for about 15days.

**10) *Ricinus communis* L.**

Family: EUPHORBIACEAE,

Vernacular Name: Amudamu

Mode of Administration: Leaf paste administered in 1 spoonful with buttermilk early in the morning for 5-7days.

**11) *Tinospora cordifolia* (Willd.) Hook. [f.et](#) Thoms.**

Syn: *Menispermum cordifolium* Willd.

Family: MENISPERMACEAE

Vernacular Name: Tippa teega

Mode of Administration : Dry fruit powder mixed with honey and administered in 2 spoonfuls once in morning for 5 - 7days.

**12) *Woodfordia fruticosa* (L.) Kurz**

Family: LYTHRACEAE

Vernacular Name: Jeguru

Mode of Administration: Stem bark ground with bark of *Bauhinia racemosa* and *Oroxylum inidcum* in and the poultice administered in 2 spoonfuls banana fruit twice a day for 5-7 days.

**Results and Conclusion**

The present study revealed that totally 12 plants belonging to 9 families and different modes of treatment were followed to cure jaundice by the gond tribes inhabiting in Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh, India. Euphorbiaceae is the leading family with four species. During the treatment of the disease, various forms of preparations are used. The plants were used either separately or in combination with other plant parts or either with sugar candy or curd or butter milk. Mostly they prefer whole plant or leaves in top priority to cure the disease. The indigenous knowledge of the tribal communities must be properly documented and preserved so that their knowledge could be passed on to the future generations. Such studies and documents provide important and vital clues for understanding the complex heritage of tribal communities and their association with environment and nature.

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