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Use of Various Bio-Fencing Plants in the Control of Human Diseases by the Lambada Tribe Inhabiting Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh, India

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Abstract

The present paper deals with 16 bio-fencing plants, which are being used for control of various diseases in human beings by Lambada tribes of Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh. The biomedicines are collected from the plants, which are used as fencing plants to their agricultural fields. This work is being carried out in collaboration with local Lambada tribes of Manchya Naik Thanda of Nalgonda district. The documented ethno medicine information was indexed by plant name, family, local name and uses.

Key Words: Lambada Tribe, Fencing plants, Nalgonda District, Andhra Pradesh.

Introduction

Nalgonda district lies between 17⁰ 50' N latitude and 78⁰ 10' and 80⁰ 5' S longitude. The district is bounded on the north by Medak and Warangal districts, on the South by Mahabubnagar and Guntur districts, on the West by the Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts and on the East by Khammam and Krishna districts. The district has geographical area of 14,240 sq. km. With a total population of 30,80,000. The tribal population in the district is 10%. The forest occupies 83,000 hectares area; these are mostly of tropical thorny type.

Two important tribal settlements are seen in this district. They are Lambada and Erukala. This work is concentrated on Lambada tribe living at Manchya Naik Thanda, Mattampally Mandal of Nalgonda District.

Lambada tribals are the largest tribe in Andhrapradesh. Lambadas live in exclusive settlements of their own called Thandas, usually away from the main village, tenaciously maintaining their cultural and ethnic identity. They eat a variety of tubers, roots, leaves, wild fruits etc., they collect and sell non timber forest produce like tamarind, adda leaves, broom sticks etc. in local Shandi (market). They cultivate largely jowar, which is their staple food.

Methodology

Regular field trips to Manchya Naik Thanda were conducted between 2006 and 2007 in the months of April to July for collecting the ethno botanical data and herbarium specimens. The tribal people of Lambada who regularly use the plants provided important information regarding the ethno medicinal usage of the fencing plants around their agricultural fields. The collected plants from the tribal people were identified with the help of herbarium and literature, and herbarium specimens were deposited in the Botany Department, P.G. College of Science, Saifabad.

Results

1) *Alangium salvifolium* (L.f.) Wang.

Family: Alangiaceae

Local name: Ooduga chettu

Medicinal uses: fruits are used as antiemetic.

2) *Annona squamosa* Linn.

Family: Annonaceae

Local name: Sethafalam

Medicinal uses: leaf paste is applied over joints to get relief from pain and 5 grams of seed powder along with milk taken against gastric colic.

3) *Agave americana* Linn.

Family: Agavaceae

Local name: Kithanara

Medicinal uses: crushed leaf gives relief from joint pains.

4) *Azadirachta indica* A.Juss.

Family: Meliaceae

Local name: Vepa

Medicinal Uses: leaf smoke is used for the control of mosquitoes and leaf paste is used to cure skin diseases.

5) *Ailanthus excelsa* Roxb.

Family: Simaroubaceae

Local name: Pedda vepa

Medicinal uses: bark and leaf smoke is used for control of mosquitoes.

6) *Balanites aegyptiaca* (L.) Del.

Family: Balanitaceae

Local name: Gare

Medicinal uses: small twigs are kept in the ventilators to avoid the entry of microbes. Dried leaf smoke is used to control the houseflies inside the home. Fruit pulp is taken orally to control the loose motions.

7) *Butea monosperma* (Lamk.) Taub.

Family: Fabaceae

Local name: Chuttaku

Medicinal uses: leaf paste is applied on forehead to get relief from headache.

8) *Borassus flabellifer* Linn.

Family: Arecaceae

Local name: Thati chettu

Medicinal uses: male spike smoke is slightly inhaled for control of cold and cough.

9) *Bambusa arundinacea* (Retz.) Willd.

Family: Poaceae

Local name: Veduru

Medicinal uses: stem stripes are used to bind the fractured bones.

10) *Calotropis procera* (Ait.) Aitf.

Family: Asclepiadaceae

Local name: jelladu

Medicinal uses: leaves are pounded with castor oil and banded over knee joints to get relief from joint pain.

11) *Caesalpinia bonduc* Linn.

Family: Caesalpiniaceae

Local name: gachakaya

Medicinal uses: seeds powder with turmeric and applied to cure skin diseases.

12) *Chloroxylon swietenia* DC.

Family: Rutaceae

Local name: Billudu

Medicinal uses: Dried bark smoke is inhaled against cough and cold.

13) *Euphorbia tirucalli* Linn.

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Local name: palachettu

Medicinal uses: latex is applied over swellings to get relief from pain.

14) *Vitex negundo* L.

Family: Verbenaceae

Local Name: Vavili

Medicinal uses: leaves are boiled in water and this water is used for bath to control of body pains.

15) *Lawsonia inermis* L.

Family: Lythraceae

Local name: Gorinta

Medicinal uses: leaf paste is applied to cure wounds.

16) *Randia dumetorum* Lamk.

Family: Rubiaceae

Local name: Manga

Medicinal uses: bark is pounded with coconut oil and used to control dandruff.

Discussion

The plants collected and reported from Manchya Naik Thanda of Nalgonda district in the present study are used by the Lambada tribals in their routine treatment practices. These plants are also used as fencing plants to protect their agricultural fields. Hence these plants are acting as bio-fencing as well as bio-medicinal plants. All the preparations are very effective, cheap and available around their agricultural fields. So the tribals are using these plants as alternative to allopathic medicines. Further research on these bio-fencing/ bio-medicinal plants on scientific lines may help in developing effective drugs for human health care.

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