EXCELLENT PUBLISHERS

International Journal of Current Research in Biosciences and Plant Biology

ISSN: 2349-8080 Volume 2 Number 4 (April-2015) pp. 30-32

www.ijcrbp.com

Original Research Article

Preliminary Observation of Ethnomedicinal Plants in Malihabad, Lucknow District, Rajasthan, India

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Abstract

Uttar Pradesh state is a rich store house of medicinal plants. A large number of medicinal plants are found in Lucknow district of Uttar Pradesh. The people of the state have great faith in effectiveness of medicinal herbs. The plant diversity of this district is quite rich and the people especially local people depend on plants for procuring house hold remedies. The present study was carried out to preliminary survey of traditional medicinal knowledge of plants of Malihabad region, ethnomedicinal information ten plant species belonging to eight families was documented by interrogating the local traditional practitioners.

Keywords

Diversity
Ethnomedicinal plants
Malihabad

Introduction

Plants are one of the most important sources of medicines. The application of plants as medicines dates back to prehistoric period. In India the references to the curative properties of some herbs in the Rig-veda seems to be the earliest records of use of plants in medicines. The medicinal plants are extensively utilized throughout the world in two distinct areas of health management; traditional system of medicine and modern system of medicine (Raut et al., 2012; Patil, 2012; Chauhan, 1999). The traditional system of medicine mainly functions through Local or folk or tribal stream (Kaur et al., 2011; Mukharjee, 1984 and Nayak et al., 2000). Ethnomedicinal plants are the anthropological approach of plant science that encompasses every possible interrelationship between plants and human societies (Ahmad et al., 2003; Brij Lal and Singh, 2008). The medicinal attributes of many plants are found in leaves, used as alterative, tonic diuretic, blood purifier and antiphlogistic. They are used as remedy against chronic eczema, chronic ulcers, chronic rheumatism, chronic nervous diseases, madness, cholera amenorrhea, piles and fistula. Usually, the power of dried leaves is given with milk in mental disability and for the improvement of the memory. The fresh juice of leaves is grown as alterative in jaundice, fevers and gonorrhoea. The same is also

useful for children's in cutenaceous diseases and for the improvement of nervous system (Das and Durah, 2014; Singh, 1999; Singh and Kumar, 2000; Louga et al., 2000; Kharwal and Rawat, 2012; Dhaliwal and Sharma, 1999; Sharma et al., 2014).

India including Uttar Pradesh is a rich center of ethnomedicinal diversity of plants, contributing nearly about 15% ethnomedicinal plants so far recorded in the Lucknow district. In various systems of traditional medicine worldwide, including the Indian system of medicine, these ethnomedicinal plants species are said to effectively cure dyspepsia, bleeding piles, bronchitis, scabies, stomach disorders, and many disorders of blood and heart. In the current study, we investigated ethnomedicinal plants of traditional importance from the Lucknow flora of Malihabad.

Materials and methods

Malihabad is located at 26.92°N 80.72°E. It has an average elevation of 128 meters. The collected specimens from in and around Malihabad and plant species were identified taxonomically with the help of Flora Lucknow and other literature of flora (Hooker, 1872-1897; Jain and Rao, 1976; Jain, 2003). The specimens were collected, pressed, dried, mounted and preserved were deposited in the herbarium maintained by the Department of Life Science in Singhania University. Data was tabulated with Family, plant name, part of plant and uses.

Results and discussion

In the current study, 10 ethnomedicinal plants species belonging to 8 families were reported from in and around area of Malihabad. During the study we were found that medicinal plants conquered of this region are main source of primary health care for villagers. Most of them people depend on these medicinal plants especially senior persons and they have sound knowledge of medicinal plants and use these plants in daily life. These plants are used in the forms of powder paste, decoction, juice and some whole plant extract. Plants of family Acanthaceae and Menispermaceae were largely represented (2 sp.) followed by Solanaceae, Zygophyllaceae and other one species in each family. Body pain, cough, bronchitis, piles, asthma, flatulence, pimples, dysentery, constipation, headache, stomachache, leucoderma, gum problem, knee pain, tetanus and wounds healing problems used these medicinal plants for the treatment. The leaves of plants were most used plant part accounting for four species in a total of ten ethnomedicinal plants. *Withania somnifera* plant species is highly used in traditional medicine by local people.

Table 1. List of Ethnomedicinal plants in Malihabad, Lucknow District.

S. No.	Family	Name of the plant	Plant Part Used	Disease cured
1	Acanthaceae	*Adhatoda vasica*	Leaves joint pain	Cough
2	Acanthaceae	*Andrographis paniculata*	Whole plant	Stomach, cholera
3	Convolvulaceae	*Cuscuta reflexa*	Leaves	Leucoderma
4	Euphorbiaceae	*Croton tiglium*	Seed	Asthma
5	Fabaceae	*Cassia fistula*	Fruit(pod)	Constipation and diabetes
6	Menispermaceae	*Cocculus villosus*	Leaves	Urinary troubles
7	Menispermaceae	*Tinospora cordifolia*	Dry stem and bark	Fever, urinary troubles, jaundice, syphilis, diabetes
8	Solanaceae	*Withania somnifera*	Dry root	Hematological problems
9	Zygophyllaceae	*Tribulus terrestris*	Fruit	Urinary troubles

Conclusion

The present study shows that Rahimabad region is dominant for medicinal flora and local people are enriched with folk traditional knowledge about these medicinal plants. Now days these medicinal plants are highly used in Ayurveda treatment for different diseases and this knowledge is passing orally from one generation another but it has not been documented yet from this region. So that enumeration of this information is necessary for conservation and valuable information for the well being of human kind in the study area. All these plants need to be evaluated through phyto and pharmaco research to discover their potentiality as drugs.

Acknowledgement

We are grateful to the Vice Chancellor and Head of Department of Life Sciences of Singhania University, Rajasthan for providing necessary laboratory facilities.

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