

## **Ethnomedicinal and Ethnoveterinary Plants from Boath, Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh, India**

**M. Venkat Ramana**

Plant Systematics Laboratory, Department of Botany, University College of Science Osmania University, Hyderabad  
– 500 007, India

Email: venkat.botany@gmail.com

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### **ABSTRACT**

The present paper deals with the traditional uses of 57 plant species employed in ethnomedicine and ethnoveterinary practice by tribal and local people of the Boath Revenue Division of Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh, to treat different ailments affecting both human and livestock. For each plant species, details on the scientific name, botanical family, local name and use are provided along with parts harvested for treatment, the manner of processing and the mode of administration.

**Key words:** Ethnomedicine, ethnoveterinary medicine, Boath Revenue Division, Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Boath Revenue Division, located in the southwest of the Adilabad district in Andhra Pradesh, with an area of 30,878 ha, is primarily a forested tract (40% of the total land area) north of River Godavari characteristically having a rocky and gently undulating topography that continues in to the adjoining districts of Maharashtra. It enjoys the typical Deccan climate with temperatures ranging between 29 and 41°C maximum and 15 to 28°C minimum. The region receives an average annual rainfall of 995.1 mm.

The Mathura, Lambada and Gonds comprise the tribal population of this region and traditional practices of curing ailments using plants and animal resources are practiced by all these communities. In an enquiry to document their traditional knowledge of the medicinal plants, we conducted a year long survey in this region from 2006 to 2007. The data was collected by interviewing local and traditional medical practioners and village heads. Our studies have shown that these people have accumulated a wide knowledge in the usage of plant wealth over the centuries. As there exist no documentation of the traditional knowledge of tribals of Boath<sup>1,2</sup>, through this paper we attempt to fill the gap.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The study was carried out from April 2006 to March 2007. The information on plants were collected by interviewing traditional practioners and village heads. Plants were identified in the field by trekking different areas of the forests along with some of the members of the community who already practiced traditional medicine<sup>3-5</sup>. During the field trips, plant specimens were collected, properly tagged with field numbers, and brought to the Plant Systematics Laboratory, Department of Botany, Osmania University, Hyderabad for identification, where they are

deposited.

## RESULTS

The plant species are arranged in alphabetical order according to scientific names for convenience. For each plant species given in the following enumeration, details on the scientific name, botanical family, local name and use are provided along with the parts harvested for treatment and the manner of processing and mode of administration. We follow recent trends in nomenclature (IT IS, 2007).

### Ethnomedicinal Plants

#### *Burning sensation at time of urination*

*Aerva lanata* Juss.

Family: Amaranthaceae

Local name: *Pindikura*

5-10 gms of root with zeera made into juice mixed with pinch of sugar and administered once a day until relief.

#### *Injuries, cuts and scorpion bites*

*Achyranthus aspera* L.

Family: Amaranthaceae

Local name: *Uttereni*

Handful of leaves made into paste and bandaged over the bites, cuts and injuries for three days.

#### *Stomachache*

*Allium sativum* L.

Family: Liliaceae

Local name: *Velli-ulli, garlic*

4-5 scale leaves were made into paste mixed with pinch of water and salt taken twice a day till relief.

#### *Backache*

*Aegle marmelos* Correa

Family: Rutaceae

Local name: *Maredu*

Handful of young leaves were made into paste and bandaged over night, on the backbone region for immediate healing.

#### *Cataract*

*Aloe barbadensis* Mill.

Family: Aloaceae

Local name: *Kalabanda*

Mucilage applied on the eye-lids before going to bed, for seven days till eyes clear.

#### *Dog bites*

*Acacia farnesiana* Willd.

Family: Fabaceae/Leguminosae

Local name: *Murikitumma*

5-10 gm of leaves ground with water and made into juice mixed with cow milk administered once in fortnight.

#### *Boils*

*Argemone mexicana* L.

Family: Papaveraceae

Local name: *Pichikusuma*

Handful of Leaves were made into paste and applied daily over the boils until cure.

#### ***Reduce heat***

***Azadirachta indica*** A. Juss.

Family: Meliaceae

Local name: *Vepa*

5-10 gms of stem bark were made into juice mixed with pinch of sugar and ½ glass of juice administered.

#### ***Kidney stones***

***Butea monosperma*** (Lam.) Taub.

Family: Fabaceae/Leguminosae

Local name: *Moduga*

10-15 gms of stem bark were made into juice mixed with pinch of pepper powder and cow milk administered once in a month to dissolve stones in kidneys.

#### ***Lice eradication***

***Bauhenia purpurea*** L.

Family: Fabaceae/Leguminosae

Local name: *Devakanchana, Pedda Are*

**Dried seed paste mixed with coconut oil applied once before taking bath will eradicate the lice.**

#### ***Fertility in women***

***Caesalpinia cristata*** L.

Family: Fabaceae/Leguminosae

Local name: *Gachhkaya*

5-10 gms of stem bark ground with pinch of water and made into juice and half tea cup juice administered during menses period.

#### ***Hydrocoel***

***Calotropis gigantea*** (L.) R.Br.

Family: Asclepiadaceae

Local name: *Jilledu*

2-3 Leaves mildly heated with castor (*Ricinus communis*) oil and bandaged over the testicles, changed every day until cured.

#### ***Fertility in women & Joint pains***

***Citrus aurantiifolia*** (Christ.) Swingle

Family: Rutaceae

Local name: *Nimma*

15-20 gm of roots dried and made into paste mixed with cow milk, 2 teaspoonful given daily for one month.

Juice made from the ripened fruit added with pinch of sesame oil (*Sesamum indicum*) applied over the joints to cure.

#### ***Seminal disorders and Leucorrhoea***

***Curculigo orchioides*** Gaertn.

Family: Hyoxidiaceae

Local name: *Nelathadi Gaddalu*

Powder made from the root tubers and mixed with cow milk, administered twice a week

#### ***Diarrhoea and dysentery***

***Cocos nucifera*** L.

Family: Arecaceae

Local name: *Kobbari*

One glass of tender coconut water given twice in a day will cure Diarrhoea and dysentery.

### ***Heart ailments***

***Coccinia indica*** Wight & Arn.

Family: Cucurbitaceae

Local name: *Dhonda*

**Handful of leaves ground and made into juice mixed with 10 ml of brandy given twice in a week.**

### ***Snake bite***

***Dregea volubilis*** Benth.

Family: Asclepiadiaceae

Local name: *Peddaguriza Aaku*

4-5 leaves with 5-10 leaves of *Nelagulimidi (Enicostema axillare)* were made into juice added with pinch of pepper powder, administered immediately bandaged over the bite and the juice is given orally.

### ***Cataract***

***Emblica officinalis*** Gaertn.

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Local name: *Usiri*

Ripened fruit juice is applied on the eyelids externally everyday

### ***Family planning***

***Ficus religiosa*** L. (Moraceae) *Ravi*

5-10 gms of stem bark were made into juice is mixed with pinch of sugar, administered, ½ tea cup from the third day on menses.

### ***Anti-cancer & Heel cracks***

***Ficus racemosa*** L.

Family: Moraceae

Local name: *Medi*

5-10 gms of stem were made into paste added with pinch of soil from the termite mounds and brass dust made into tablets, given daily one for one month.

Latex applied externally to heel cracks.

### ***Toothache***

***Gossypium herbaceum*** L.

Family: Malvaceae

Local name: *Patti*

Seeds burned and ash made into paste with water used to wash the teeth early morning every day till fortnight will cure toothache.

### ***Lice eradication and hair growth & Improves fertility in women***

***Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*** L.

Family: Malvaceae

Local name: *Mandara*

1 or 2 flowers petals boiled in coconut oil applied to head before going to bed, once in a day.

Fragrance of the flowers early morning and late evening times improves fertility in women

### ***Diarrhoea and dysentery in children***

***Ipomoea obscura*** Ker-Gawl.

Family: Convolvulaceae

Local name: *Gollagiddi Aaku*

Part of the fresh plant tied over the wrist of children.

### ***Bronchitis***

***Justicia adhatoda*** L.

Family: Acanthaceae

Local name: *Addasaram*

3-4 leaves ground and made into juice added with water and pinch of pepper powder, 1 or 2 tea-spoonful given internally once in a day for a month.

### ***Cuts and injuries***

***Lagascea mollis*** Cav.

Family: Asteraceae

Local name: *Moddualamu*

Leaf paste is prepared and applied over the wounds will help to cure.

### ***Toothache***

***Momordica charantia*** L.

Family: Cucurbitaceae

Local name: *Kakara*

Handful of leaves ground and made into juice added with pinch of sugar administered, 2-3 tea-spoonful twice in a week.

### ***Headache***

***Mentha arvensis*** L.

Family: Lamiaceae

Local name: *Pudina*

5-10 leaves were made into juice added with donkey milk administered once in a day.

### ***Bone fractures***

***Mucuna pruriens*** Bak.

Family: Fabaceae/Leguminosae

Local name: *Dulakaya*

10-15 seeds were soaked overnight, in water and the water is given in empty stomach twice a week until cure.

### ***Abdominal pain and male reproductive disorders***

***Madhuca indica*** Wight

Family: Sapotaceae

Local name: *Ippa*

5-10 gm of stem paste is mixed with water and sugar given once in a day.

### ***Joint pains and Foot pains***

***Opuntia elatior*** Mill.

Family: Cactaceae

Local name: *Brammajemudu*

Burned stem ash is applied on joints to cure pain.

### ***Stomachache***

***Plumeria rubra*** L.

Family: Apocynaceae

Local name: *Adavi Ganneru*

5-10 gm of fresh root made into paste is mixed with ghee administered once in a day.

### ***Boils and Joint pains & Sore throat***

***Plumbago zelanica*** L.

Family: Plumbaginaceae

Local name: *Chitramulamu*

Tender portion of the roots made into juice added with pinch of water given 2-3 tea spoonful twice a day.  
5-6 gm of roots made into paste bandaged over the boils and joints.

#### ***Joint pains***

***Ricinus communis* L.** (Euphorbiaceae) *Amudamu*

Two teaspoonful seed oil mixed with equal quantity of cow urine, given orally once in a day.

#### ***Anti-cancer***

***Sesamum indicum* L.**

Family: Pedaliaceae

Local name: *Nuvuulu*

Gargling with oil extracted from the seed, every day early morning after mouth wash in empty stomach for six months.

#### ***Neck and joint pains***

***Semecarpus anacardium* L. f.**

Family: Anacardiaceae

Local name: *Nalla Jidi*

Exudations from the ripened seed is directly applied on the affected area.

#### ***Kidney stones***

***Syzygium cumini* (L.) Skeels**

Family: Myrtaceae

Local name: *Allaneredu*

Handful of stem bark is made into juice added with a pinch of pepper powder, along with cow milk, administered twice in a month to dissolve stones in kidneys.

#### ***Reduce heat***

***Tinospora cordifolia* (Willd.) Miers**

Family: Menispermaceae

Local names: *Tippa Tega*

10-15 cm of the fresh plant powder is mixed with cumin (*zeera*) and sugar is administered.

#### ***Dysentery in children & Snakebite***

***Tamarindus indica* L.**

Family: Fabaceae / Leguminosae

Local name: *Chinta*

Five gms of leaf juice is added with sugar and given twice in a day.

Ruptured seed is applied on the snake bite.

#### ***Stomachache***

***Zizyphus xylopyrus* (Retz.) Willd.**

Family: Rhamnaceae

Local name: *Gotti*

5-10 gm of stem bark were made into juice administered once a day.

***Obesity & hair growth (not diseases)***

***Trigonella foenum-graceum* L.**

Family: Fabaceae / Leguminosae

Local name: *Menthi*

Fresh stems and leaves eaten directly and made into curry and taken with rice reduce the obesity

***Internal bleeding in the digestive system or digestive hemorrhage [For cattle]***

***Argemone mexicana*** L.

Family: Papaveraceae

Local name: *Pichikusuma, Udugu*

100 gm leaves crushed and pounded with 15 gm pepper, mixed with butter milk, given orally twice in a week.

***Digestive disorders [For cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep]***

***Azadirachta indica*** A. Juss.

Family: Meliaceae

Local name: *Vepa*

50 gm leaves crushed and mixed with water, given orally once in a day.

***Foot and mouth diseases [For cattle]***

***Aegle marmelos*** Correa

Family: Rutaceae

Local name: *Maredu*

Pulp of the fruit is mixed with pulp of the tamarind along with pinch of calcium is applied externally.

***Bone fractures [For cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep] & Grinding of teeth [For cattle]:***

***Butea monosperma*** (Lam.) Taub.

Family: Fabaceae / Leguminosae

Local name: *Modugu*

250 gms stem bark crushed well and applied externally on the fractured area

Mixing of bark powdered with 15 gms pepper is given orally twice a week.

***Rheumatism [For cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep]:***

***Cynodon dactylon*** (L.) Pers.

Family: Poaceae

Local name: *Garika*

100 gms of plant with 10 gms of pepper mixed with toddy and given orally twice a day for one week will cure rheumatism.

***Bronchitis and asthma [For cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep]:***

***Cissus quadrangularis*** L.

Family: Vitaceae

Local name: *Nalleda*

Mixing of 100 gms of aerial plant parts along with 50 gm of leaves of *Justicia adhatoda* (*Addasaramu*) mixed with water, given orally once a day to cure asthma.

***Staggering [For cattle]***

***Dreagea volubilis*** Benth.

Family: Asclepiadecaceae

Local name: *Peddagurizaku*

50 gm leaves and 50 gm of root pounded with *Cuminum cuminum* (*Jeera*) and sugar is given orally once in a week.

***Swellings [For cattle]***

***Erythrina suberosa*** Roxb.

Family: Fabaceae / Leguminosae

Local name: *Munumoduga*

100 gm of stem without bark, crushed and extract is applied on the swollen region.

***Impaction [For cattle]***

***Holarrhena pubescence*** (Buch. Ham.) Wall.

Family: Apocynaceae

Local name: *Palakodisa*

10 gms of leaves with a pinch of calcium and jaggery is given direct.

***For ability to take food [For cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep] Jatropha curcas L.***

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Local name: *Adaviamudamu*

50 gms of leaves are crushed well and mixed with water which is given orally twice a week.

***Bronchitis and Asthma [For cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep]:***

***Justicia adhatoda L.***

Family: Acanthaceae

Local name: Addasaram

100 gms leaves pounded with *Allium sativum* (garlic) and *Carum copticum* (voma) mixed with water, given orally twice a day.

***Ruminating and digestive disorders [For cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep]***

***Lagenaria siceraria*** (Molina) Standley

Family: Cucurbitaceae

Local name: Chedu Burrakaya

Unripe fruit pounded with 10 gm of pepper and mixed with butter milk, given orally once a day.

***Bone fractures and rheumatism [For cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep]***

***Opuntia elatior*** Mill.

Family: Cactaceae

Local name: *Brammajemudu*

Burned ash of the plant is applied externally.

***Muscle disorders [For cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep]***

***Pergularia daemia*** (Forsskal) Chiov.

Family: Asclepiadaceae

Local name: *Dustaputeega*

Latex or leaf extract applied locally.

***Ruminating and digestive disorders [For cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep]***

***Solanum nigrum*** L.

Family: Solanaceae

Local name; *Kasipandlu*

100 gms of ripened fruits pounded with 15 gm of pepper mixed with butter milk, given orally once a day for 15 days.

***Psychic disorders [For cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep]***

***Sterculia urens*** Roxb.

Family: Sterculiaceae

Local name: *Tapasi*

100 gms of stem bark pounded with 10 gm of pepper mixed with toddy, given orally twice a week.

***Bone fractures [For cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep]***

***Terminalia arjuna*** Wight & Arn.

(Combretaceae)

*Tella Maddi*

250 gms of stem bark crushed and applied over the fractures.

***Kill the lice and insects [For cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep]:***

***Vitex negundo*** L.



Family: Verbenaceae

Local name: *Vavili*

Spray leaf extract over the animalsto eradicate lice.

## Conclusion

The present paper documents the ethnomedicinal and ethnoveterinarian uses of 57 plant species from Boath area of Adilabad district in Andhra Pradesh. Forty species of plants belonging to 39 genera and 27 families were recorded being used to treat 27 different ailments and diseases affecting tribals of this area. Most of the plant species are in local distribution and few species are in cultivation in home gardens. Different parts of medicinal plants are used in preparation of medicinal pastes or concoctions, the leaves and stem were the most frequently used parts followed by whole plant, fruits, roots and latex or exudes. Most of the species are used to treat only one disease. Only few diseases treated with more than one species. The present observation is match with the earlier reports with respect to ethnomedicine<sup>6-7</sup> and ethnoveterinary medicine<sup>8-10</sup>.

Some major ailments and diseases such as cancer, heart diseases, kidney-stones and obesity were being effectively treated using traditional knowledge and locally available plant resources. *Ficus raemosa* and *Sesamum indicum* are used to treat cancer, *Coccinia indica* is used to treat heart ailments, *Butea monosperma* and *Syzygium cumini* are used to treat kidney-stones problem and *Trigonella foenum-graceum* is used as anti-obesity. Keeping in view the traditional knowledge and beliefs, we propose phytochemical and pharmacological studies of these plants in conjunction with treatments of these diseases.

As many as 17 species of plants belonging to 18 genera and 17 families are used in ethnoveterinary medicine to treat 15 diseases of livestock in general. Different parts of medicinal plants are used in veterinary practices, but the most used part are the leaves. These traditional knowledge help the local and tribals of this area immensely as there are no functional veterinary hospital in the Boath Revenue Division. Scientific studies on these plants too would yield interesting results and help us in understanding the pharmacological actions of the active compounds found in these plants that the local and tribals of the region had been using for so long.

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