MEDICINAL PLANTS TRADITIONALLY USED BY THE TRIBALS OF RANCHI AND HAZARIBAGH DISTRICTS, BIHAR: SKIN DISEASES & SORES

C. R. TARAFDER

Botanical Survey of India, Howrah

ABSTRACT

The paper deals with about 45 species of medicinal plants belonging to 43 genera and 31 families. Species used in the treatment of skin diseases and sores of cattle are listed with their such uses.

INTRODUCTION

Ranchi and Hazaribagh districts of Bihar State are situated between North latitude 22°21' to 24°45' and East longitude 84°08' to 86°38', inhabited by 2,611,445 and 3,020,44 (Chari, 1971, 1975) tribal people (Santhals, Oraons, Birhore, Bedia, Mohatos etc.) respectively.

Total area of these two districts is about 2276.741 sq. km between the elevation 150 m to 1015 m.

The author undertook studies on the ethnobotany of the districts of Ranchi and Hazaribagh in Bihar. During the course of field studies among the Santals, Mundas, Oraons, Birhors, Bedia, Mohatos etc., the author made collections of some plants traditionally used by the tribals for skin diseases and sores of cattle and human beings. These species are enumerated in this paper.


The species are arranged alphabetically:

Date of receipt : 14.6.83. Date of acceptance : 21.8.84.

Apluda mutica Linn. (Poaceae)
L.N. : Chotki-basar (Or.)
Loc. : Kanahari hill.
This grass is fed to cattle for 3 or 4 days for curing wound/sore on tongue and in mouth (24060, 18617).

Atylosea scarbaeoides Benth. (Fabaceae)
L.N. : Bonkurthi (Bir.)
Loc. : Koderma.
Leaf paste is applied on tongue of cattle for curing wounds (18913).

Bauhinia purpurea Linn. (Caesalpiniaceae)
L.N. : Kainara (S.)
Loc. : Jate (Ra.)
Paste of bark is applied on wounds. The powder of dry bark is also applied on wounds (24219).

Borresia hisiida (Linn.) K. Schum. (Rubiacae)
L.N. : Haddha (S.)
Loc. : Ramgarh.
Paste of roots mixed with coconut oil is
applied twice a day for 4-5 days to cure wounds. This is also used for cattle (18595).

**Boswellia serrata** Roxb. (Burseraceae)
- *L.N.*: Salai (S.)
- *Loc.:* Chalanga (Barsaud)

Decoction of bark is applied on wounds once daily for 3-4 days (18712).

**Calotropis gigantea** (Linn.) R. Br. (Asclepiadaceae)
- *L.N.:* Akanda (S.)
- *Loc.:* Chora Pathol Pahar (Netarhat)

Leaf paste is applied on wounds of cattle; also used as vermicide. Small quantity of latex is applied in eczema and ring worm once daily for 7 days (24114).

**Carissa spinarum** Linn. (Apocynaceae)
- *L.N.:* Konod Kanta (S.)
- *Loc.:* Kanohari hill (Haz.), Chaterha (J.T.)

Paste of bark with seed oil of *Pongamia pinnata* is applied on wounds of cattle for 7 days (24055).

**Celastrus paniculatus** Willd. (Celastraceae)
- *L.N.:* Kujri (S.)
- *Loc.:* Ramubera (Barsaud)

Seed oil is applied on wounds once daily for 4-5 days (18547).

**Cheilanthus tenuifolia** Swartz (Polypodiaceae)
- *L.N.:* Naganacha (S.)
- *Loc.:* Jate (Ra.)

A paste of roots with Karanj oil (*Pongamia pinnata*) is applied on wounds for 7 days (24252).

**Cleome viscosa** Linn. (Capparaceae)
- *L.N.:* Barbur (Or.)
- *Loc.:* Chor-Pahar (Guryakorma)

Leaf paste is applied on wounds once daily for 7 days (18516).

**Croton oblongifolius** Roxb. (Euphorbiaceae)
- *L.N.:* Putri (Bir.)
- *Loc.:* Chaterha (J.T.)

Latex from young shoot is applied for ring worms once daily for 7 days (18614).

**Curculgillo orchoides** Gaertn. (Amaryllidaceae)
- *L.N.:* Kalimusli (II.)
- *Loc.:* Barsaud (Haz.)

In case of syphilitic disease the paste of roots is applied once daily till cure (18544).

**Curcuma longa** Linn. (Zingiberaceae)
- *L.N.:* Hardi (S.)
- *Loc.:* Chota-Pathal-Pahar (Netarhat)

Paste of root is applied for eczema once daily for 7 days (24115).

**C. aromatica** Salisb. (Zingiberaceae)
- *L.N.:* Jangli ada (S.)
- *Loc.:* Jate (Ra.)

Paste of root is applied on wounds once daily for 4-5 days for remedy (24270).

**Cuscuta reflexa** Roxb. (Convolvulaceae)
- *L.N.:* Amarlata (S.)
- *Loc.:* Usri falls (Haz.)

Paste of semen is applied once daily for 4-5 days for itches (23729).

**Dioscorea pentaphylla** Linn. (Dioscoreaceae)
- *L.N.:* Chundura (S.)
- *Loc.:* Chaterha (J.T.)

The root is made into a paste with mustard oil. The rapid preparation is applied on wounds or chilblain at bed time for 4-5 days (18652).

**Dipteracanthus suffruticosus** Voigt (Acanthaceae)
- *L.N.:* Bodik Ranu (M.)
- *Loc.:* Chatra (Haz.)

Paste of roots is applied once daily for 5-6 days.

The above preparation can also be used, in case of cow or buffalo (15138).

**Dreges volubilis** Benth. ex Hook. f. (Asclepiadaceae)
- *L.N.:* Par (Bir.)
- *Loc.:* Koderma

Paste of roots is applied externally on blisters or wounds due to blister (18902).

**Eclipta alba** Hassk. (Asteraceae)
- *L.N.:* Bhengria (S.)
- *Loc.:* H.N.P.
Paste of twig is applied on wounds daily before going to bed. It is continued for 4-5 days (24048).

**Elephantopus scaber** Linn. (Asteraceae)
*L.N.* : Medurchundi (Nagashia), Marachuta (S.)
*Loc.* : Netarhat, Jate (Ra.)

Roots of this plant is made into paste with roots of *Cassia tora* and applied on chilblain, at bed time for 3-4 days (24268).

**Eriosema chinense** Vogel. (Fabaceae)
*L.N.* : Kunden (S.)
*Loc.* : H.N.P.

The decoction of leaves and bark of *Symphlocos racemosa* is applied on chilblain; powder of dry leaves with salt is also applied. This is to be continued once daily at bed time for 3-4 days (24040).

**Eucalyptus globulus** Labill (Myrtaceae)
*L.N.* : Eucalyptus (S.)
*Loc.* : Netarhat.

Gum is applied on wounds once daily for 3-4 days (24134).

**Euphorbia hirta** Linn. (Euphorbiaceae)
*L.N.* : Dudhia Bon (S.)
*Loc.* : Jate (Ra.)

Paste of roots is applied on wounds once daily for 3-4 days and in case of cattle one root is also to be hanged on the neck (24187).

**Evolvulus alsinoides** Linn. (Convolvulaceae)
*L.N.* : Nilghas (Bir.)
*Loc.* : Chaterba (J.T.)

A bunch of plants is sweeped over the body of cattle for 5 times from head to tail and then allowed to take smell of the same bunch for remedy for wounds (18619).

**Holarrhena antidysenterica** (Roth) A. DC. (Apocynaceae)
*L.N.* : Karila (S.)
*Loc.* : Koderma

Powder of dry bark is taken once daily for 3-4 days for worm infested wounds (18921).

**Lagerstroemia parviflora** Roxb. (Lythraceae)
*L.N.* : Sidha (H.), Sakrai, Kahu (S.)
*Loc.* : Gangapur (Haz.)

Fruits are made into a paste with midrib of leaves and applied on wounds once daily for 7 days (23748, 15291).

**L. speciosa** (Linn.) Pers. (Lythraceae)
*L.N.* : Jarul (S.)
*Loc.* : Chatra

Powder of dry bark is spread on wounds for 4-5 days (18499).

**Leea crispa** Linn. (Leeaceae)
*L.N.* : Barkur (Or.)
*Loc.* : Chor-Pahar (Guryakorma)

Paste of roots is applied on wounds and on swollen parts for 3-4 days (18520).

**Leonotis nepataefolia** R. Br. (Lamiaceae)
*L.N.* : Katjurus (Majhi)
*Loc.* : Madhuban

Ashes (prepared by burning) of fruit, stem and leaves are mixed with mustard oil and applied on itch or on wounds for 7 days (23785).

**Martynia annua** Linn. (Pedaliaceae)
*L.N.* : Bag-nakhi, Kana (S.)
*Loc.* : Netarhat

Oil of seeds is applied once daily for 7-10 days for skin diseases (24131).

**Plumbago zeylanica** Linn. (Plumbaginaceae)
*L.N.* : Chita (S.)
*Loc.* : Chota-pathal-pahar (Netarhat)

Paste of leaves is applied on wounds created due to blisters. This is to be continued for 3-4 days (24108).

**Scoparia dulcis** Linn. (Scrophulariaceae)
*L.N.* : Chinaghhas (S.)
*Loc.* : Ramgarh
Paste of roots is applied on wounds. The paste is also used for killing worms of wounds (19866).

**Semicarpus anacardium** Linn. f. (Anacardiaceae)

*L.N. : Valua (S.)
Loc. : Kanahari Hill (Haz.)

Oil of nuts is applied on chilblain (wounds between the hoof). This is to be continued once daily at night time for 4-5 days (24054).

**Shorea robusta** Gaertn. (Dipterocarpaceae)

*L.N. : Sakhuia (S.)
Loc. : Laskari (Haz.)

Resin is made into a paste with karanj (Pongamia pinnata) oil and applied on wounds once daily for 3-4 days.

The gum is made into a paste with ash of tortoise shell and mustard oil. The preparation is kept for few minutes in cold water and then applied on itch, ring worm, wounds, eczema etc. This is to be continued once daily for 3-4 days (15196, 15208).

**Sida cordifolia** Linn. (Malvaceae)

*L.N. : Berala (H.)
Loc. : Barsaul (Haz.)

A paste of roots is applied on wounds (18546).

**Tagetes erecta** Linn. (Asteraceae)

*L.N. : Genda (S.)
Loc. : Netarhat

Juice of leaves or the paste of leaves is applied on wounds (24142).

**Tragia involucrata** Linn. (Euphorbiaceae)

*L.N. : Latlatia (M.)
Loc. : Chatra

Paste of roots is applied on urticaria (allergic eruption) (15133).

**Trapa bispinosa** Roxb. (Onagraceae)

*L.N. : Pakhanchata (K.M.)
Loc. : H.N.P.

Paste of leaves or root or fruit is mixed with mustard oil and applied on chilblain once daily at night for 3-4 days (24020).

**Tricodesma indicum** R. Br. (Boraginaceae)

*L.N. : Hetmuria (S.)
Loc. : Netarhat

Paste of root is mixed with mustard oil and applied on wounds once daily for 3-4 days (24138).

**Tridex procumbens** Linn. (Asteraceae)

*L.N. : Kuri (Bir.)
Loc. : Koderma

The juice of leaves or paste of leaves is applied on scratches (18931).

**Viscum articulatum** Burm. f. (Loranthaceae)

*L.N. : Banda (S.)
Loc. : Jate (Ra.)

Plant is made into a paste with mustard oil and is applied externally for skin diseases (24110).

**Vitex negundo** Linn. (Verbenaceae)

*L.N. : Sinduar (S.)
Loc. : Netarhat

Powder of dry leaves is applied on tongue sores (24113).

**Xanthium strumarium** Linn. (Asteraceae)

*L.N. : Varycat (S.)
Loc. : Chatra

Seeds are fried in mustard oil and applied on itch or for other skin diseases (15178).

**Ziziphus oenoplia** Mill. (Rhamnaceae)

*L.N. : Sekra (S.)
Loc. : Majhidi (Haz.)

Paste of bark is kept in mouth overnight for wound or sore on tongue (23766).

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author is grateful to Dr. S. K. Jain, Ex Director, Botanical Survey of India for encouragement and guidance and to the Joint Director, Central Botanical Laboratory, Botanical Survey of India for providing necessary facilities. Thanks are also due to the Deputy Director, Central National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India for encouragement. The author is also thankful to various tribals who accompanied him to collect the materials and to the forest autho-
rities of the Government of Bihar for rendering necessary help during the field work.

REFERENCES


BREEERS, J. Botany of Ranchi District, Bihar. 1951.

CHARI, R. B. Census of India, Series 1, Paper 1 of 1875, 1971.


DASTUR, J. F. Medicinal Plants of India and Pakistan, Bombay. 1952.


