

LITERATURE REVIEW

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Different groups of scientists have worked on the different plants which are traditionally used as folk medicines.

Ethnobotanical Review

Acharya D; et.al (1998) have presented the paper incorporating ethnomedicinal uses of 30 plants used by the Gond tribe of Bhanadehi which is situated 12 km. away from Chindwara on way to Chand. The data has been gathered by extensive survey of Bhanadehi and Subhurbs. The Tribal Bhumkas and medicine men were taken to the nearby forest by identification and confirmation of the plants, the plants are used in different ailments of stomach, skin diseases, fever, bone fracture, urinary troubles and seminal emission etc. The study was aimed to gather the first hand information on ethnomedicinal uses of plants of Bhanadehi.

Bharadwaj A. K ; Rai B. K [1998] have given the information of Tribal culture of Bastar in the state of continous changues due to urbanisation various development programmes, accutturation and intrusion of the out siders with the consequent loss of traditions and knowledge. The need of documentation and compilation of the information of the traditional uses of medicinal plants in curing different ailments has been emphasized. Measures are also highlighted to conserve the species diversity of Bastar forest and cultivation of important medicinal plants to meet the requirement of tribal people need to set up a machinery for documentation of folk medicine and traditional medicine centered with tribal people is also discussed.

Johri R. K. and Singh C. [1997] has reported several vernonia species which are used in native cultures as folk remedies for a variety of human ailments. In Indian materia medica, the entire plant leaf, root, seed or flower of certain Vernonia species have been reported to possess curative properties. The usage of Vernonia species in traditional medicines and their potential for plant based drugs is reviewed. An overview of the chemical constituents of these species and their diverse pharmacological activities is also presented.

Noel P. H; et.al [1997] have given the different types of alternative treatments used by patients with non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus in South Texas and the extent of their use have been discussed of 61 different plant medicines used four most commonly reported were nopal [*Opuntia streptacantha*] or the prickly pear cactus, chaya [*Chisoscolus chayamansa*] misper [*Eriobotrya japonica*] or loquat, and Saliva [*Aloe vera*]. Disease severity was not associated with the use of alternative treatments when controlling for other variables. Some of the identified plants have been reported to have hypoglycaemic properties.

Rao P. R; et.al [1997] have done the alcoholic extract of *Gynandropsis gynandra* roots exhibited significant antipyretic, analgesic and hypoglycaemic activities in a dose dependent manner. These activities have been attributed to its use in folk medicine.

Sharma P. K. and Sharma J. D. [1997] their research is based on the traditional usage of *Commiphora wightii* as found in the semi-arid region of Rajasthan, 14 out of 52 species that are part of its plant community were found to have medicinal value. Due to its historical use in folk medicine and a highly commercially important target species, its ecological status, encourages the conservation of *C. Wightii* plant community.

Srimal R. C. [1997] have given a brief review of medicinal properties on Turmeric. Turmeric has been attributed as number of medicinal properties in the traditional system of medicines. The major claims have been for use as antiseptic, cure for poisoning, eliminating body waste products for dyspepsia, respiratory disorders and cure for a number of skin diseases including promotion of wound healing. Curcumin, Curcuminoids and essential oils are the major active constituents. The main activities have been found to be anti-inflammatory, protective, anti microbial, wound healing, anti cancer, anti tumour, and anti viral. Discovery of antiviral properties of Curcumin, particularly against HIV, need proper evaluation. The review highlights some of the newer researches which may explain the multifaceted activity of this natural product. Different extracts of turmeric and also curcumin have been tried clinically in several diseased conditions.

Vohora S. B. and Mishra G. V. ; has given the "Rational basis of the use of medicinal plants in skin diseases" of 455 plants surveyed, majority of them exhibited only one or two types of pharmacological activities considered relevant to skin diseases. Priority list of 39 plants suggested for their therapeutic value in skin disease has been given.

Vang J. J.; et.al [1997] have given "Comparative study on the immuno competent activity of three different kinds of Phe- Hue- Jawa- Chi- Cao, *Hedyotis diffusa*, *Hedyotis Corymbosa* and *Mollugo pentaphylla* after sublethal whole body x-irradiation, phytotherapy, Research, in these research they have given Chinese folk medicinal herbs *Hedyotis*, *Corymbosa*, *H.diffusa* and *Mollugo pentaphylla* given at doses of 500 to 1000 mg / kg. / day for quinic acid and 3,4-dicaffeoylquinic acid from the wood.

Zou Z. M; et.al [1997] have given the *Sarcococca vagans* as a Chinese folk medicines distributed over southern China. It has been used as an antitumour reagent. Three new steroidal alkaloids named *Sarcococca vagans* A-C, were isolated from roots of *Sarcococca vagans*. Their structures were established on the basis of spectral evidence and biogenetic consideration as [a-os]-20-[dimethylamino]-3 beta-[triglyoylamino]-5-a-pregn-16-ene-2 beta, 4 beta-diol [20S]-4 beta-acetoxy-20-[dimethylamino]-3 beta-[tigloylamino]-5 a-pregn-16-en-2 a-ol and [20S]-20-[dimethylamino]-3-[tiglyoylamino]-5 a-pregn-2,16-diene-4-one respectively.

Ziyyat A.; et.al [1997] have given the "Phytotherapy of hypertension and diabetes in oriental Morocco." as below, In order to select the main medicinal plant used in the folk medicines to treat arterial hypertension and / or Diabetes as survey was undertaken in different areas of oriental Morocco. The patients [370 women and 256 men] were divided into 3 groups Diabetes (61%) and Hypertensive diabetic persons (16%). On average 67.5% of patient regularly used medicinal plants. The result shows that phytotherapy is widely adopted in north eastern Morocco. For diabetes 41 plants were cited of which the most used one *Trigonella foenum - graceum*, *Globular alypum*, *Artemisia herba-alba*, *Citrullus colocynths* and *Tetraclinis articulata*. In the hypertension therapy 18 vegetal species were reported, of which the most used were *Allium sativum*, *Olea europea*, *Arbustus unedo*, *Urilica diocia* and *Petroselinum crispum*. Among the species used for hypertension 14 were also employed for diabetes. Moreover these two diseases were associated in 41 % of hypertensives. These findings suggest that hypertension observed in this region would be in a large part related to diabetes.

Phytochemical review on the species of *Alocasia cucullata*.

Chug T'sao Yao [1981] has given the following about *A. cucullata*.

Plant contained lysine, arginine, aspartic acid, threonine, serine, glutamic acid, leucine, phenylalanine, proline, glycine, alanine, valine, isoleucine, as well as fumaric pyromuric, mallic acid and beta-sitosterol. The plant *A.cucullata* is distributed in Bengal and Assam.