ETHNOMEDICINAL APPROACHES FOR TREATING VARIOUS DISEASE BY IRULAS TRIBALS, KONBANUR VILLAGE, ANAIKATTI HILLS, THE WESTERN GHATS, COIMBATORE DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

Indigenous traditional Knowledge is an integral part of the culture and history of a local community. It evolves through years of regular experimentation on the day to day life and available resources surrounded by the community. The present paper documented 85 ethno-medicinal plants of Konbanur village, Anaikatti, Coimbatore district, the Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu belonging to 48 families were used by the Irula tribals for various diseases and food. The conventional ethno medicinal plants were mostly used for different inflammation, cough and cold, leucoderma, different skin diseases, ulcers and leprosy. The ethnomedicinal plants are arranged alphabetically followed by botanical name, family, local name and medicinal uses.

Keywords: Psychological Approach, Canadian fiction, Margaret Atwood, nature.

1. INTRODUCTION

India is endowed with a variety of natural resources. All along the West coast the Western Ghats are sprawling. The entire Western Ghats is known for its biodiversity, richness and endemism of different species. India harbours about 15% (3000 - 3500) out of 20,000 medicinal plants of the world. About 90% of these are found growing wild in different climatic regions of the country (Singh, 1997). The tribal and rural populations of India are, to a large extent, dependent on medicinal plants not only to meet their own healthcare needs by self-medication, but also for their livestock. The Western Ghats is richly credited with varied kind of vegetation and unimaginable topographical features. There are about 2,000 plant species that has been found to possess the medicinal value, in all the four systems of indigenous medicine, viz., Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (Hemambara et al., 1996). Irulas are a small tribal community that is part of the Dravidian language group that is spoken in South-Eastern India. They are recognized as a Scheduled Tribe (ST) by the Government of India (Sasi et al., 2011; Ragupathy and Newmaster, 2009). The Irulas are the Dravidian inhabitants and one among the 36 sub-tribal communities in Tamil Nadu that holds the population about 26,000 Irulas living in Tamil Nadu, out of the total population of 558 lakh in the state (Department of Tribal Welfare of Tamil Nadu, Statistic table, July 2006), which is less than 0.5 % of the entire state's population (Census of India, 1991 and 2001). The study area Konbanur village, Anaikatti (11°6’N, 76°45’E), is occupied 250 acres site constitutes a part of the large two square kilometers catchment area. Two hill slopes, northern and southern, also form a part of NBR park. The hills elevate to a height of 80 to 120 meter from the valleys.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present work is the outcome of intensive field studies undertaken in hamlet inhabited by Irulas community. Explorative field trips were regularly made once in a month of the study area to all habitants to elicit information on medicinal plant used to treat various ailments. Folklore medico botanical investigations were carried out according to the method adopted by Schultes (1960, 1962); Jain (1989) and Martin (1995). Fieldwork is the most significant aspect in this type of study. Extensive field trips were conducted to remote rural settlements. From each village, two or three local herbal healers were interviewed to elicite first hand information in respect of the plant/plant product curing various diseases. The voucher specimen plants collected were identified with the help of Flora of Presidency of Madras by Gamble (1936) and Flora of Tamilnadu and Carnatic by Mathew (1983).

The medicinal plants collected in this way are tabulated. All the collected medicinal plants were arranged their family and genus according to the alphabetical order. The botanical names followed by author citation and synonyms of the plant species, local name of the plant species were also provided. Most of the plants are used as a medicine rest of them served as edible plants.
3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study was carried out in the Konbanur village of Anaikatti hills, the Western Ghats, Coimbatore District. Fieldwork is the most significant aspect in this type of study. Extensive field trips were conducted to remote rural settlements. From each village, two or three local herbal healers were interviewed to elicit first hand information in respect of the plant/plant product curing various diseases. In Table 1, data obtained from the field survey are presented. In this study 85 plant species belonging to 48 families have been recorded. Many plant species belonging to families of Solanaceae, Asteraceae and Amaranthaceae are frequently used. The informations collected from this study are in agreement with the previous reports (Pushpangadan and Atal, 1984; Kala, 2005; Jain, 2001; Ayyanar and Ignacimuthu, 2005; Sandhya et al., 2006; Ignacimuthu et al., 2006). For common ailments such as fevers, stomach ache and respiratory disorders, skin diseases, joint pains, hair loss, dysentery, diarrhoea, snakebite, jaundice and malaria more number of medication were used. On the other hand, few were used to complicated problems such as heart diseases, kidney disorders, cancer and diabetes. The knowledge informants were taken to the field and information on medicinal plants was recorded. The informants were asked to explain therapies of the diseases and to list plants they employ (Table 3-4). In this investigation, there are 20 species belonging to 17 families and 18 Genera were reported by the local practice for the treatment of common heart diseases (Table 2). Among them, 17 families represents atleast single species each. Nearly 20 species, they are using for the treatment of common stomach problems which belonging into 12 families and 20 Genera (Table 3) and The Irula communities of the study area selectively used around 15 families with their 19 plant species especially for the treatment of kidney disorders which is belonging into (Table 4) Amaranthaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Lamiaceae, Fabaceae, Malvaceae, Menispermacae and Nyctaginaceae etc. For each plant species complete documentation of folklore medicinal information including medicinal property, their vernacular names, family, parts of used, uses and their identified phytochemical compounds was recorded (Coehran and Cornfield, 1951; Martin, 1995).

Table 1. List of Ethnomedicinal plants used by Irula tribalin study area.

| S. No | Botanical Name | Family | Vernacular Name | Parts used ,Mode of Preparation, Ethno medicinal uses and some other plants used as ingredients |
|-------|----------------|--------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | *Abelmoschus esculandus* L. | Malvaceae | Bhendhi | Protect from asthma and diabetes |
| 2     | *Abrus precatorius* L. | Fabaceae | Rosary pea, Ratti | Used in asthma pains and diarrhoea, Protect from Piles and Pulmonary tuberculosis, Useful in treatment of Vomiting, Cough, Dysentery |
| 3     | *Abutilon indicum* Linn. | Malvaceae | Thuthi | Protect from Piles and Pulmonary tuberculosis |
| 4     | *Achyranthes aspera* Linn. | Amaranthaceae | Chirchitta | Cough, Dysentery, Extracts used for treating Snakebite, Fever |
| 5     | *Aconitum heterophyllum* L. | Fabaceae | Athividayam | Rhizome used for cough and fever. |
| 6     | *Acorus calamus* L. | Acoraceae | Vasambu | Leaf used for Diuretic Medicine for Stomach-ache, cold cough, fever |
| 7     | *Adina cordifolia* (Roxb.) Correa | Rubiaceae | Kadami | Medicine for Stomach ache, cold cough, fever |
| 8     | *Aegle marmelos* (L.) Correa | Rutaceae | Vilvam | Fruits used for Dysentery |
| 9     | *Aerva lanata* L. | Amaranthaceae | Kanpulai | Leaf juice cure kidney stone, Treating for stomach pain and antifungal disease |
| 10    | *Ageratum conyzoides* L. | Asteraceae | Chick weed | To relieve congestions especially in lungs and bronchial tract, To lower blood pressure and cholesterol. |
| 11    | *Allium ceba* L. | Liliaceae | Onion | Avoid diarrhea done by its powder |
| 12    | *Allium sativum* L. | Liliaceae | Garlic | Leaf juice used for Diuretic and |
| 13    | *Amaranthus caudatus* L. | Amaranthaceae | Cirukeerai | |
| 14    | *Amaranthus spinosus* L. | Amaranthaceae | Mullu | |
| No. | Name                                                                 | Family | Mode of Use                          | Disease                                                                 |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15  | Andrographis paniculata Burm.f.                                       | Acanthaceae | Digestion                           | Leaf paste mixed with milk internally taken for snake bite             |
| 16  | Aristolochia bracteata Lam.                                           | Aristolochiaceae |                                            | Leaf Paste used externally on the wound of snake bite                  |
| 17  | Artocarpus heterophyllus Lam.                                         | Moraceae |                                            | Leaf juice used for taken internally for ulcer                        |
| 18  | Basella alba L.                                                       | Basellaceae |                                            | Leaves boiled in water and taken internally to cure piles             |
| 19  | Boerhavia diffusa L.                                                  | Nyctaginaceae |                                            | Taken for treatment of abdominal pain, tumors                         |
| 20  | Bryophyllum pinnatum (Lam.)joken                                      | Crassulaceae |                                            | Cure kidney stone and Cough                                             |
| 21  | Burberis vulgaris Linn.                                               | Berberidaceae |                                            | Fruit used to reinforce the heart and liver                            |
| 22  | Caesalpinia pulcherrima Linn.                                         | Fabaceae |                                            | Focusing the diseases like asthma, malaria, kidney stone               |
| 23  | Caeselpinia abonduc (L.) Roxb.                                        | Caesalpinaceae |                                            | Seed used for Fever. Leaf juice used for diabetics                     |
| 24  | Camellia sinensis (L.) Kuntze                                        | Berberidaceae |                                            | Tea used for cancer, heart disease, liver disease                      |
| 25  | Canna indica L.                                                       | Scitaminaceae |                                            | Root juice are used for diuretic and digestion                         |
| 26  | Canna indica L.                                                       | Rubiaceae |                                            | Roots and Leaves paste used for Diuretic                               |
| 27  | Capparis sepiaria L.                                                  | Violaceae |                                            | Root and Leaves are pasted with lemon juice and are applied topically to treat swellings. Leaves juice used for Immuno stimulant anti-inflammatory |
| 28  | Capparis sepybalnica L.                                               | Capparaceae |                                            |                         |
| 29  | Caralluma umbellata Haw.                                              | Asclepiadaceae |                                            | Whole plant roasted for a few minutes and roasted paste applied for indigestion Cures Abdominal disorders, Atenorrhoea, Atherosclerosis Works as an antibacterial, antifungal, antimalarial Curing infant fever and Chronic cough |
| 30  | Carica papaya Linn.                                                   | Caricaceae |                                            |                           |
| 31  | Cassia occidentalis (L)                                                | Fabaceae |                                            | Treatment of urinary tract                                            |
| 32  | Celosia argenta L.                                                    | Verbenaceae |                                            |                           |
| 33  | Cissampelospareira L.                                                 | Menispermacae |                                            | Treatment of urinary tract infection, skin diseases, Hypoglycaemic Working against Anti-tumor and Cholera |
| 34  | Cocciangrandis (L.) J. Viogt                                          | Cucurbitaceae |                                            |                           |
| 35  | Coleus aromaticus benth.                                               | Lamiaceae |                                            |                           |
| 36  | Coleus forskohlii (wild.) Briq.                                       | Lamiaceae |                                            |                           |
| 37  | Commiphora mukul (Jacq.) Eng.                                         | Burseraceae |                                            | oleo-gum-resin used in treatment of nervous diseases, leprosy          |
| 38  | Cordiac dichotoma G. Forst.                                           | Boraginaceae |                                            | Seed extract used for Anti-inflamatory                                |
| 39  | Crataegus oxyacantha Linn.                                            | Rosaceae |                                            | To reduce cardiac and cerebral damage, when ischemia                   |
| No. | Plant Name                                    | Family            | Uses                                           |
|-----|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 41  | *Crocus sativus* Linn.                       | Iridaceae         | Stamens are used for curing heart disease.     |
| 42  | *Curcuma longa* Linn.                        | Zingiberaceae     | Use in cardiovascular disease and gastrointestinal disorders. |
| 43  | *Cyphomandra betacea* (Cav.) Miers           | Solanaceae        | Fruits used for diuretic, cough and cold.      |
| 44  | *Daturastramonium* L.                        | Solanaceae        | Relieve the diseases urinary retention and ulcer. |
| 45  | *Digitalis lanata* Linn.                     | Scrophulariaceae  | Used to relieve from heart diseases and asthma. |
| 46  | *Dioscorea oppositifolia* L.                 | Dioscoreaceae     | Leaves paste is used as antiseptic for ulcers. |
| 47  | *Diplocylopsalmatus* (L.) Jeffrey            | Cucurbitaceae     | Fruits juice used in body pain.               |
| 48  | *Dolichos biflorus* L.                       | Fabaceae          | Rhizome juice are taken internally for body pain. |
| 49  | *Drynaria quercifolia* (L.) J.Sm.            | Polypodiaceae     | Treatment of jaundice, dyspepsia and cough.    |
| 50  | *Emblica officinalis* Gaertn.                | Euphorbiaceae     | Helps for curing Blood clotting and rheumatic complaints. |
| 51  | *Erigeron Canadensis* L.                     | Asteraceae        | Rhizome paste is applied to wounds.            |
| 52  | *Gloriosa superba* L.                        | Liliaceae         | Cures the Kidney problems and live disorders.  |
| 53  | *Glycosmis pentaphylla* (Retz.) Dc.           | Rutaceae          | Treatment for Stomach ache.                    |
| 54  | *Gomphrena serrata* L.                       | Amaranthaceae     | Refrigrant and for kidney and urinary disorders. |
| 55  | *Guizotia abyssinica* (L.) Cass.              | Asteraceae        | Medicine for curing kidney diseases.           |
| 56  | *Hemidesmus indicus* L.                      | Asclepiadaceae    | Treating diseases like Diabetic, Diarrhea and digestive problem. |
| 57  | *Inula racemosa* HOOK. F                    | Asteraceae        | Medicine for diabetes, Painkiller, Skin diseases. |
| 58  | *Jatropha multifida* L.                      | Euphorbiaceae     | Cures the digestive problems and acts as an anti-inflammatory, anti-spasmodic. |
| 59  | *Justicia adhatoda* L.                       | Acanthaceae       | Cure kidney stone.                             |
| 60  | *Kalanchoepinnata* L.                        | Crassulaceae      | Stabilize blood pressure and make strength.    |
| 61  | *Lagenaria siceraaria* L.                    | Cucurbitaceae     | Treatment of diarrhea, tissue inflammation and haemostasis. |
| 62  | *Madhuca longifolia* (Koenig)                | Sapotaceae        | Seeds powder used for Snake bites.             |
| 63  | *Matricarrecutita* L.                        | Asteraceae        | Cures the digestive problems and acts as an anti-inflammatory, anti-spasmodic. |
| 64  | *Momordica charantia* L.                     | Cucurbitaceae     | Cure kidney stone.                             |
| 65  | *Moringa oleifera* L.                        | Moringaceae       | Stabilize blood pressure and make strength.    |
| 66  | *Nelumbo nucifera* Gaertn                    | Nymphaeaceae      | Treatment of diarrhea, tissue inflammation and haemostasis. |
| 67  | *Pachygoneovata* (Poir.) Diels               | Menispermaeae     | Seeds powder used for Snake bites.             |
| 68  | *Peruglia firma* (Forsk) Chiv                 | Asclepiadaceae    | Treating the diseases like malarial intermittent fevers, toothaches. |
| 69  | *Phyllanthus niruri* L.                      | Phyllanthaceae    | Brain tumor and Jaundice.                     |
| 70  | *Piper longum* L.                            | Piperaceae        | Therapeutic agent for Alzheimer.               |

**Welsh Place Names:**

| No. | Plant Name                                    | Family            | Uses                                           |
|-----|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|
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| 42  | *Curcuma longa* Linn.                        | Zingiberaceae     | Use in cardiovascular disease and gastrointestinal disorders. |
| 43  | *Cyphomandra betacea* (Cav.) Miers           | Solanaceae        | Fruits used for diuretic, cough and cold.      |
| 44  | *Daturastramonium* L.                        | Solanaceae        | Relieve the diseases urinary retention and ulcer. |
| 45  | *Digitalis lanata* Linn.                     | Scrophulariaceae  | Used to relieve from heart diseases and asthma. |
| 46  | *Dioscorea oppositifolia* L.                 | Dioscoreaceae     | Leaves paste is used as antiseptic for ulcers. |
| 47  | *Diplocylopsalmatus* (L.) Jeffrey            | Cucurbitaceae     | Fruits juice used in body pain.               |
| 48  | *Dolichos biflorus* L.                       | Fabaceae          | Rhizome juice are taken internally for body pain. |
| 49  | *Drynaria quercifolia* (L.) J.Sm.            | Polypodiaceae     | Treatment of jaundice, dyspepsia and cough.    |
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| 56  | *Hemidesmus indicus* L.                      | Asclepiadaceae    | Treating diseases like Diabetic, Diarrhea and digestive problem. |
| 57  | *Inula racemosa* HOOK. F                    | Asteraceae        | Medicine for diabetes, Painkiller, Skin diseases. |
| 58  | *Jatropha multifida* L.                      | Euphorbiaceae     | Cures the digestive problems and acts as an anti-inflammatory, anti-spasmodic. |
| 59  | *Justicia adhatoda* L.                       | Acanthaceae       | Cure kidney stone.                             |
| 60  | *Kalanchoepinnata* L.                        | Crassulaceae      | Stabilize blood pressure and make strength.    |
| 61  | *Lagenaria siceraaria* L.                    | Cucurbitaceae     | Treatment of diarrhea, tissue inflammation and haemostasis. |
| 62  | *Madhuca longifolia* (Koenig)                | Sapotaceae        | Seeds powder used for Snake bites.             |
| 63  | *Matricarrecutita* L.                        | Asteraceae        | Cures the digestive problems and acts as an anti-inflammatory, anti-spasmodic. |
| 64  | *Momordica charantia* L.                     | Cucurbitaceae     | Cure kidney stone.                             |
| 65  | *Moringa oleifera* L.                        | Moringaceae       | Stabilize blood pressure and make strength.    |
| 66  | *Nelumbo nucifera* Gaertn                    | Nymphaeaceae      | Treatment of diarrhea, tissue inflammation and haemostasis. |
| 67  | *Pachygoneovata* (Poir.) Diels               | Menispermaeae     | Seeds powder used for Snake bites.             |
| 68  | *Peruglia firma* (Forsk) Chiv                 | Asclepiadaceae    | Treating the diseases like malarial intermittent fevers, toothaches. |
| 69  | *Phyllanthus niruri* L.                      | Phyllanthaceae    | Brain tumor and Jaundice.                     |
| 70  | *Piper longum* L.                            | Piperaceae        | Therapeutic agent for Alzheimer.               |
Table 2. List of medicinal plants used by Irula tribal for the treatment of heart diseases.

| S. No | Botanical Name       | Common name | Name of the Family | Parts used | Chemical Constituents                                                                 |
|-------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | *Allium ceba* L.     | Onion       | Liliaceae          | Bulb & Leaves | Sulphur compounds (Ajoene, allyl sulfides, and vinylthiins), quercetin and Allicin (diallyl disulphide oxide) |
| 2     | *Allium sativum* L.  | Garlic      | Liliaceae          | Bulb       | Sulphur compounds (Ajoene, allyl sulfides, and vinylthiins) and Allicin               |
| 3     | *Berberis vulgaris* Linn. | Jaundice barberry | Berberidaceae | Bark & Root Leaves | Berberine                                                                          |
| 4     | *Camellia sinensis* (L.) Kuntze | Tea plant | Theaceae          | Leaves & Leaf buds | Epicatechin (EC), Epigallocatechin (EGC), Epicatechin-3-gallate (ECG) and Epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG) |
| 5     | *Colest forsfohlii* (wild.) Briq | Marunthu koorakankizan ku | Lamiaceae | Tuberos root Gum & Resin Berries, Leaves & Flower | Forskohlin, Arjunic acid |
| 6     | *Commiphora mukul* (Jacq.) Eng. | Guggul | Burseraceae | Guggul Sterones, Z-guggulsterone, Guggulipids |
| 7     | *Crataegus oxyacantha* Linn. | Hawthorne | Rosaceae          | Oligomeric proanthocyanidins, Catechins, Quercetin, Epicatechins |
| 8     | *Crocus sativus* Linn. | Saffron | Iridaceae          | Stigmas    | Crocetin, Picrocrocin                                                                  |
Table 3. List of medicinal plants used by Irula tribal for the treatment of stomach disorders.

| S.NO | Botanical name                  | Name of the family | Common name         | Part used                  | Chemical constitution                                |
|------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Abrus precatorius L.           | Fabaceae           | Kuntrymani          | Seed                      | 2,3-diphospho-d-glyceric Acid C-glycosides            |
| 2    | Achyranthes aspea Linn.        | Amaranthaceae      | Chirchitta          | whole plant               | Heterophylline, Hetiesine                             |
| 3    | Aconitum heterophyllum L.      | Fabaceae           | Athvidayam          | whole plant               | Rhamnopyranosyl                                      |
| 4    | Adina cordifolia (Roxb.)       | Rubiaceae          | Kadami              | leaf, flower              | Terpinene                                             |
| 5    | Linn.                          | Asteraceae         | Chick weed          | whole plant               | cardiac glycosides                                    |
| 6    | Caesalpinia pulcherrima        | Fabaceae           | Peacock Flower      |                            | Chrysophanol 1                                        |
| 7    | Carica papaya Linn.            | Caricaceae         | Papaya              | fruit, seed roots, leaves and seeds | Ethylacetate, Chloroform, Methanolic, Aphrodisiac,  |
| 8    | Cassia occidentalis (Linn.)    | Fabaceae           | Ponnavarai          |                           |                                                       |

Table 4. List of medicinal plants used by Irula tribal for the treatment of kidney disorders.

| S. No | Botanical Name                  | Family    | Common Name | Parts used | Chemical constitution                                |
|-------|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Abutilon indicum Linn.         | Malvaceae | Thuthi      | Leaf       | Ethylacetate, Chloroform, Methanolic, Aphrodisiac,  |
| Plant Name | Family | Part(s) | Active Components |
|------------|--------|---------|-------------------|
| **2 Aervalanata L.** | Amaranthaceae | Kanpulai | Root, leaf | Laxative, Mucilage, β-Sitosterol, α-amyrin, betulin, Hentriacontane, Sitosteryl palmitate, D-glucoside, Glycosides, Rhamnogalactoside, Saponins, Glycosides, linoleic, linolenic, oleic acid, squalene, β-carotene, Triterpenoids, |
| **3 Abelmoschus esculentus L. Amaranthaceae** | Malvaceae | Vendai | Fruit | Saponins, Glycosides, linoleic, linolenic, oleic acid, squalene, β-carotene, Triterpenoids, |
| **4 Abilmoschus esculentus L.** | Malvaceae | Cirukeerai | Root | Saponins, Glycosides, linoleic, linolenic, oleic acid, squalene, β-carotene, Triterpenoids, |
| **5 Boerhaavia diffusa L.** | Nyctaginaceae | mukkurtaikk oti | Root | phlobaphenes and ursolic acid, β-D-glucopyranoside, nundecanyl, flavanoids, flavones, flavans, flavonones, isoflavonoids, chalcones, oleic acid, 2,3-dihydroxyoleanolic acid, Crategolic acid, Ursolic acid, Pomolic acid, sSesquicarboxylic acid, 6-methoxygenkwanin, quercetin, Chrysoeriol, Luteolin, Apigenin, Flavanone erydol, Flavonol 7, 12-
| **6 Bryophyllum pinnatum (Lam.) oken** | Crassulaceae | Malaikali | Leaves | phlobaphenes and ursolic acid, β-D-glucopyranoside, nundecanyl, flavanoids, flavones, flavans, flavonones, isoflavonoids, chalcones, oleic acid, 2,3-dihydroxyoleanolic acid, Crategolic acid, Ursolic acid, Pomolic acid, sSesquicarboxylic acid, 6-methoxygenkwanin, quercetin, Chrysoeriol, Luteolin, Apigenin, Flavanone erydol, Flavonol 7, 12-
| **7 Coleus aromaticus Benth.** | Lamiaceae | Karpuravalli | Leaves | Lamiaceae, Karpuravalli, Leaves, Seed, root, 7, 12-
| **8 Celosia argentea L.** | Verbenaceae | Kozhikontai | Seed, root | Lamiaceae, Karpuravalli, Leaves, Seed, root, 7, 12-
| **9 Cissampelos pareira L.** | Menispermaceae | Ponnusutai | Leaf, root | Lamiaceae, Karpuravalli, Leaves, Seed, root, 7, 12-
| **10 Clerodendrum serratum L.** | Lamiaceae | Thalunarai | Leaf | Lamiaceae, Karpuravalli, Leaves, Seed, root, 7, 12-
| **11 Dolichos biflorus L.** | Fabaceae | Kollu | Root | Lamiaceae, Karpuravalli, Leaves, Seed, root, 7, 12-
| **12 Gompherna serrate L.** | Amaranthaceae | Arasan con todo | Whole plant | Lamiaceae, Karpuravalli, Leaves, Seed, root, 7, 12-
| **13 Hemidesmus indicus L.** | Asclepiadaceae | Nanari | Root | Lamiaceae, Karpuravalli, Leaves, Seed, root, 7, 12-
| **14 Lagenaria siceraaria (L.)** | Cucurbitaceae | Surakkai | Fruit | Lamiaceae, Karpuravalli, Leaves, Seed, root, 7, 12-
| **15 Moringa oleifera L.** | Moringaceae | Murungai | Root | Lamiaceae, Karpuravalli, Leaves, Seed, root, 7, 12-
| **16 Momordica charantia L.** | Cucurbitaceae | Pakarkai | Leaves | Lamiaceae, Karpuravalli, Leaves, Seed, root, 7, 12-
| **17 Phyllanthus niruri (L.)** | Phyllanthaceae | Keezhanelli | Root | Lamiaceae, Karpuravalli, Leaves, Seed, root, 7, 12-
| **18 Scoparia dulcis (L.)** | Scrophulariaceae | Sarkaraivemp u | Root, shoot | Lamiaceae, Karpuravalli, Leaves, Seed, root, 7, 12-
| **19 Tribulus terrestris L.** | Zygophyllaceae | Nerunji | Whole plant | Lamiaceae, Karpuravalli, Leaves, Seed, root, 7, 12-
The most important aspect of the Irula tribal medicine is that fresh plant material is used for the preparation of medicine. Alternatively, if the fresh plant parts are not available, dried plant materials are used. For this reason several plants served as edible food and alternative remedy to cure a more than single diseases. From this study it is clear that Irula tribal possess innate ability to discern the character of plants and exploit the plant resources to meet their health care needs.

4. CONCLUSION

In the present investigation, a total of 85 species of medicinal plants distributed among 80 genera belonging to 48 families were identified at Konbanur village, Anaikatti hills, the Western Ghats, Coimbatore district. In this survey Amaranthaceae, Asteraceae and Solanaceae family species served as a food and Asclepiadaceae, Combretaceae, Rhamnaceae and Liliaceae, Euphorbiaceae and etc., families are utilized for various ailments. It is clearly indicates that there is wide usage of local flora by the Irulars community in study area.

This rural area is an important source of traditional medicines. More information may be explored from the peoples residing in the remote villages in this district. The traditional healers are the main source of knowledge on medicinal plants. This knowledge has been transmitted orally from generation to generation; however it seems that it is vanishing from the modern society since younger people are not interested to carry on this tradition. It is also observed that some traditional plants in that area are fast eroding. The conservation efforts are needed by plantation and protection of these plants with maximum participation of local people.

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