Traditional Phytotherapy for Diarrhoeal Diseases in Dhenkanal district of Orissa, India.

R.B MOHANT & M.K. ROUT*

P.G. Department of Botany, Dhenkanal College, Dhenkanal, Orissa-756 001.

* O.P.S Mohavidyalaya, Hindol road, Dhenkanal, Orissa

Received: 8.8.2000
Accepted: 8.10.2000

Abstract: Medico-ethnobotanical exploration carried out in Dhenkanal district of Orissa during 1996-98 reveal that, people use 21 plant species belonging to 20 genera and 17 families on 10 different combinations for the treatment of diarrhoeal diseases. The method of preparation of medicine and details of application care recorded.

Keywords: Medico-ethnobotany, Diarrhoea, Phytotherapy

INTRODUCTION

Traditional phytotherapy for diarrhoeal diseases in India is practiced by common people form pre-historic period. But there have been some sporadic studies exclusively on this disease (1,2,3) which are largely confined to the medico-ethnobotany of a particular region of a tribe. However, there is a compilation of reports of different workers (4) depicting the use of 151 plant species in treatment of this disease. The present study highlights the typical combination of some common household stuff and kitchen garden products in preparation of medicine for the immediate treatment of diarrhoeal diseases in Dhenkanal district of Orissa.

LAND AND PEOPLE

Dhenkanal is a land locked district lying between 20°29'-21° 11' N and 85°7'-86°2" E and extending over an area of 4597 sq. kms. The forest and hills cover around 1890.15 sq kms. (40.46% of total land area) and the vegetation is mixed dry deciduous in nature. Around 91.7% of its total population (947870) live in rural areas and tribals constitute 12.68% (120226) of the total (5). The prominent among them are santal Juang and Bhuyan Community inhabiting interior hilly regions of the district. The people adopt traditional phototherapy for some common diseases and occasionally opt of allopathic treatment based in the availability of modern health care system in the locality.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Quarterly visits were made regularly to different parts of the district during 1996-98. Information on medicinal uses of plants for diarrhoeal diseases was collected through interviews with local medicine men and knowledgeable elderly persons of either sex belonging to tribal and rural communities. Vernacular names of the plants, parts used method of preparation and administration of the drug in appropriate doses were also recorded. The plant specimens were identified following the standard treatise and voucher specimen of two uncommon species (Sl no) 4&8) were preserved for future reference.
ENUMERATION

The 21 plant species belonging to 20 general and 17 families in 10 different combinations are arranged alphabetically with their family names in parenthesis followed by their local names, locality, ethnobotanical recipes, used, doses, mode of administration etc.

1. Bryophyllum pinnatum Kurz. (Crassulaceae), ‘amarapoi’ Kamakshya nagar. Two to tree leaves ground with five black peppers (Piper nigrum L., Piperaceae)

2. Cajanus indicus Spreng (Fabaceae), ‘Kandula’, Hindol.

The decoction, extract by boiling the mixture of 100 gms of arhar dal (Cajanus indicus), little turmeric powder (Curcuma longa L) and mustard oil (Brassica nigra L.) is used another extract of tamarind (Tamarindus indica L.) fruit juice, little sugar and salt. About 25 ml of this mixture is administered trice daily for three days to diarrhoea patients

3. Eucalptus citriodra Hock. (Myrtaceae), ‘Eucalptus’, Dhenkanal.

Aqueous extract of three to seven leaves and two a half black peppers administered to children as well as adults along with sugar candy in diarrhea and dysentery. Dose two times for tree days.

4. Flacourtia cataphracta Roxb (Flacouriaceae), Bhainchikoli’, Saptasajya.

Roots ground with black pepper and taken with raw cow milk rice a day to cure stomach-ace and diarrhoea.

5. Nymphaea pubescens willd. (hymphaeaceae), ‘Nali kain’ Bhuban

Roots of Nymphaea and three black peppers are ground with raw cow milk and taken twice a day in gastric diarrhoea and diarrhea.

6. Piper betle L. (Piperaceae) ‘Panapatra Parjang.

A compound mixture of leaves of piper betle L., Mentha viridis L. (Lamiaceae), Bryophyllum pinnatum Kurz. (Crassulaceae) and Aegle marmelos (L) Corr. Rutaceae are ground together along with cumin (cuminum cuminum L., Apiaceae), Caraway (CARUm Carvi L., Apiaceae) and little salt. The extract is administered both to children and adults approximately 10 gms. Thrice for three days in indigestion and diarrhea.

7. Psidium guajava L. (Myrtaceae) ‘Pijuli’ Odapada.

Young leaves of guava (Psidium guajava), Pomegranate (Punica granatum sL. Punicaceae), Mango (Mangifer Indica L., Anacardiaceae) and black peppers and taken along with sugar candy in diarrhoea Half glass for adults and half cup for children twice for three days.

8. Pterospermum acerifolium willd. Sterculiaceae), ‘Muchkunda’ Dhenkanal.

One to two flowers are ground with seven black peppers for adults or two to three for children and administered twice a day in diarrhea and dysentery.

9. Punica granatum L., (Punicaceae) ‘Dalimba’ Kankadahada
Unripe fruit s ground with five black peppers and taken with sugar candy two to three times a day in diarrhoea

10. Shorea robusta Gaertn f. (Dipterocarpaceae), ‘Salajhuna’ Gondia.

About 10 gms of resin of Sal tree (Jhuna) is powdered and administered with one once to trice both to children and adults in diarrhoea

CONCLUSION

Although Broyophyllum pinnatum, Psidium guajava or Punica granatum are well known species for their therapeutic use in diarrhoeal disease, their typical combination with some other plants or plant products in preparation of the drug is unique in Dhekanal district of orissa. It is reported to be effective with quick action in checking the diseases. Moreover, some of the combinations can be prepared immediately by collecting the ingredients from the kitchen items or backyard gardens. Phytotherapeutic use of pterospermum acerifolium eucalyptus citriodra Nympheae pubescens and shorea robusta are new reports from Orissa.

REFERENCES

1. Choudhury, J.U. ; Alam M.K. and Hassan, M. some traditional folk formularies against dysentery and diarrhoea in bangladesh j. econ tax Bot 12:20-23. (1996).

2. Mohanty R.B. Padhy S.N. and Dash S.K. Traditional phytotherapy for diarrheal diseases in ganja and phulbani districts of south orissa, India. Ethnobotany. 8 (1& 2): 60-65, (1996).

3. Khandelwal,S. Ethnomedicine of Bhils in Rajasthan plants used in Diarrhoea. Vanyajati (46) 3: 17-23, (1998).

4. Mohanty, R.B. ; Dash S.K. and Padhy, S.N. Traditional phytotherapy for diarrhoeal diseases in India-A review. Ethnobotany. 10 1&2): 103-111, (1998)

5. Tripathy, B.K. State’s Economy in figures IRECTORATE OF Economics and statistics orissa, Bhubaneswar. (1994)

CORRIGENDA

We forgot to mention the authors name in the articles studies on the adaptogenic and antibacterial properties of polyscias fruticosa (L) harms page 231 -246 Published in (vol.No XVIII No 3&4 January and April 1999). The authors name is a Madhu C. Divakar, Head of the Department of Pharmacognosy & Phytochemistry Sri Ramkrishna College of Pharmacy, Coimbatore – 641 044.

Omission if regretted.

EDITOR