RESEARCH ARTICLE

ETHNOBOTANICAL SURVEY OF MEDICINAL PLANTS IN AND AROUND MARANDAHALLI VILLAGE, DHARMAPURI DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT
The present ethnobotanical investigation was carried out from December, 2016 to February, 2017 to identify the medicinal plants used by local people residing in and around Marandahalli village, Dharmapuri District regularly. A total of 58 medicinal plants were identified on basis of available first hand information from local people inhabiting in the study area, from literature survey and internet. Out of 58 medicinal plants documented in the study area, only 27 plants have been used by them for the treatment of various diseases like fever, intermittent fever, cough, asthma, jaundice, gastric problems, urinary disorders, dry skin disease, psoriasis, skin allergies, leucoderma, burning skin, liver disorders, snake bite, memory power, ulcer, diabetes, stomach aches etc., The plants were also to be used in different forms such as juice, decoction, powder and past. Authentication is needed to validate the usage.

Keywords: Ethnobotany, Herbal medicine, Local people, Marandahalli, Dharmapuri.

1. INTRODUCTION
In India medicinal plants based traditional systems of medicines are playing major role in providing health care to large section of population in both rural and urban areas. Indian Systems of Medicine are well known among the global traditional systems of medicine which has been included Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Indigenous systems of medicine and Traditional systems of medicine. Traditional Systems of medicines always played important role in human welfare. These systems are continuing at present and also play major role in future. The system of medicines which are considered to be Indian in origin or the systems of medicine which have come to India from outside and got assimilated in to Indian culture are known as Indian Systems of Medicine (1).

Now India has only six recognized systems of medicine namely Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Yoga, Naturopathy and Homoeopathy. Even though Homoeopathy came to India in 18th Century, it is completely assimilated into the Indian culture and got enriched like any other traditional system hence it is considered as part of Indian Systems of Medicine (1). This system consists of both internal and external medicines which are today available in market, manufactured by various companies. However there are traditional practioners still practicing with their self prepared drugs.

The ancient Indian system of medicine reports diverse medicinal plants ranging from higher plants to lower forms from which more than 70% of medicinal drugs are derived which have been used to treat various diseases for 6000–7000 years (2).

The indigenous knowledge of medicinal plants has been documented in different Indian system of medicines such as Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha (3).

Ethnobotanical investigations are a suitable source of information about medicinal plants for the treatment of various diseases. These studies give idea to enhance our traditional knowledge, skills and technology about cultivation and uses of medicinal plants for the welfare of local or tribal communities. The use of ethnobotanical information on medicinal plants has given considerable attention to research community (4). In Eastern Ghats and also Dharmapuri District, many ethnobotanical studies were conducted among the tribal communities and documented their indigenous knowledge on medicinal plants also. But the reports on indigenous knowledge of local people on medicinal plants are considerable less in number. Hence the present ethnobotanical study was aimed to conduct among the local communities in and around Marandahalli village, Dharmapuri District to document their indigenous ethnobotanical knowledge on the utilization of commonly available medicinal plants.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS
2.1. Study area
The present ethnobotanical study was conducted in and around Marandahalli village, Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu (Fig. 1). The study area lies between 12.4°N and 78°E. It has an average elevation of 581 meters above msl. Marandahalli is approximately 40 km away from Dharmapuri and 80 km away from Bengaluru.

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DOI:10.26524/krj253
2.2. Data collection and identification of medicinal plants

Periodic field survey for ethnobotanical exploration was conducted during December, 2016 to February, 2017 in Marandahalli village, Dharmapuri District. The local people and other traditional healers in and around the study area have been enquired and interviewed to collect the first hand information about vernacular name, medicinal uses, parts used and mode of administration of medicinal plants.

The data collection has been confirmed by contacting many people. The local people accompanied us to find out the right plant material from the study area and other nature habitat, the plants photographed in the field itself. The twigs of the medicinal plants are collected from study area and identification was done with the help of local and regional floras such as hand book of flora of presidency of Madras (5), the flora of the Tamilnadu Carnatic (6) and other flora of different areas (7,8). This identification was later confirmed by matching the plants with authentic specimen at Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, Coimbatore.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The present study revealed that a total number of 58 medicinal plants were documented in and around the study area. The details of medicinal uses, parts used and mode of administration of medicinal plants are presented in Table 1. In this study, 58 plants species belonging to 54 genera under 33 families have been reported. Most dominant families in the study area were Solanaceae (6 species) followed by Euphorbiaceae, Asteraceae, Fabaceae, Malvaceae and Cucurbitaceae (4 species each), Lamiaceae (3 species), Amaranthaceae, Asclepiadaceae, Rutaceae, and Apocynaceae (2 species each) and other families with 1 species are Annonaceae, Clusiaceae, Convolvulaceae, Combretaceae, Moringaceae, Passifloraceae, Salvatoraceae, Nyctatinaceae, Caricaceae, Moraceae, Areaceae, Piperaceae, Mimosaceae, Plumbaginaceae, Liliaceae, Lythraceae, Myrtaceae, Punicaceae, Verbenaceae, Menispermaceae and Rhamanaceae.

Table 1. List of medicinal plants present in the study area with their medicinal uses.

| S. No. | Species          | Family             | Parts used | Medicinal uses                               | Mode of administration |
|-------|------------------|--------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1     | *Acalypha indica* (Linn.) | Euphorbiaceae     | Whole plant | Skin Disease, Ulcer, Bronchitis              | Juice                  |
| 2     | *Aloe vera* (Linn.) Burm.f. | Liliaceae         | Leaf       | Sunburns, purgative, carminative             | Juice                  |
| 3     | *Alternanthera sessilis* Linn. | Amaranthaceae     | Whole plant | Leprosy, dyspepsia, Skin disease             | Powder                 |
| 4     | Amaranthus viridis Linn. | Amaranthaceae     | Whole plant | Diuretic, purgative                          | Powder                 |
| 5     | *Annona squamosa* Linn. | Annonaceae         | Fruit Whole | Constipation                                 | Raw                    |
| 6     | *Asclepias curassavica* L. | Asclepiadaceae    | Whole plant | Anodyne, antitumor                          | Juice                  |
| 7     | Azima tetracantha Lam. | Salvadoraceae     | Leaf       | Asthma, rheumatism                           | Juice                  |
| 8     | *Bidens pilosa* L. | Asteraceae         | Leaf Whole | Antitumor, antibacterial                     | Decoction              |
| 9     | Boerhaavia diffusa Linn. | Nyctatinaceae     | Plant      | Diabetes, jaundice                           | Decoction              |
| 10    | Cajanus cajan (Linn.) millsp. | Fabaceae         | Seed       | Tumours, oral ulcers, fever                  | Powder                 |
| 11    | Calotropis gigantea R.B.F. | Clusiaceae        | Seed       | Dermatitis, burning, sensation               | Decoction              |
| 12    | *Capsicum annuum* Linn. | Solanaceae        | Leaf       | Cough, asthma, Malarial, intermittent fevers, indolent ulcers | Powder                |
| 13    | *Capsicum annuum* Linn. | Solanaceae        | Fruit      | Malarial, intermittent                       | Powder                 |
| No. | Species                        | Family    | Plant Part | Uses                                                                 | Preparation |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 14  | *Carica papaya* Linn.          | Caricaceae| Fruit      | Skin diseases, dyspepsia, urinary, leprosy                            | Juice       |
| 15  | *Catharanthus roseus* (Linn.) G.Don | Apocynaceae| Whole plant| Leocoderma, cancer, chemotherapy                                      | Powder      |
| 16  | *Citrus limon* (Linn.)         | Rutaceae  | Fruit      | Diarrhea, cold, antibacterial                                         | Juice       |
| 17  | *Clitoria ternatea* Linn.      | Fabaceae  | Leaf       | Asthma, ulcers, pulmonary                                             | Tonic       |
| 18  | *Coccinea indica* (Wight & Arn.) Naud.) | Cucurbitaceae| Leaf      | Cough, asthma, diabetes                                              | Powder      |
| 19  | *Catharanthus roseus* Duchesne ex Lam. | Apocynaceae| Whole plant| Leocoderma, cancer, chemotherapy                                      | Powder      |
| 20  | *Citrus limon* (Linn.)         | Rutaceae  | Fruit      | Stomach, disorders, heart problems                                   | Decoction   |
| 21  | *Catharanthus roseus* Linn.    | Apocynaceae| Whole plant| Skin wounds, fevers                                                  | Paste       |
| 22  | *Catharanthus roseus* Linn.    | Apocynaceae| Leaf      | Asthma, bronchitis                                                    | Paste       |
| 23  | *Catharanthus roseus* Linn.    | Apocynaceae| Whole plant| Dysentery, diarrhea                                                  | Juice       |
| 24  | *Catharanthus roseus* Linn.    | Apocynaceae| Flower     | Bowel diseases                                                       | Powder      |
| 25  | *Catharanthus roseus* Linn.    | Apocynaceae| Whole plant| Dyspesia, ophthalmopathy                                             | Powder      |
| 26  | *Catharanthus roseus* Linn.    | Apocynaceae| Flower     | Venereal diseases, skin diseases                                      | Tonic       |
| 27  | *Catharanthus roseus* Linn.    | Apocynaceae| Leaf      | Uterus, stomach aches                                                | Powder      |
| 28  | *Catharanthus roseus* Linn.    | Apocynaceae| Leaf      | Snake bites, stones                                                  | Paste       |
| 29  | *Catharanthus roseus* Linn.    | Apocynaceae| Flower     | Skin diseases, ulcers, dysentery                                      | Tonic       |
| 30  | *Lycopersicon lycopersicum* (Linn.) karsten | Solanaceae| Fruit      | Liver, kidney, stimulant, asthma                                      | Decoction   |
| 31  | *Mukia madraspatanas* (Linn.) Roem. | Cucurbitaceae| Whole plant| Neuralgia, nostalgia colic                                            | Tonic       |
| 32  | *Mukia madraspatanas* (Linn.) Roem. | Cucurbitaceae| Leaf      | Ulcer, colic, peptic ulcer                                            | Juice       |
| 33  | *Mukia madraspatanas* (Linn.) Roem. | Cucurbitaceae| Leaf      | HIV, cancer, peptic ulcer                                             | Decoction   |
| 34  | *Mukia madraspatanas* (Linn.) Roem. | Cucurbitaceae| Leaf      | Antioxidants, lower cholesterol                                      | Decoction   |
| 35  | *Mukia madraspatanas* (Linn.) Roem. | Cucurbitaceae| Leaf      | Vomiting, leprosy, skin disease                                      | Tonic       |
| 36  | *Mukia madraspatanas* (Linn.) Roem. | Cucurbitaceae| Leaf      | Asthma, leprosy, ulcer                                                | Juice       |
| 37  | *Mukia madraspatanas* (Linn.) Roem. | Cucurbitaceae| Leaf      | Dyspesia, gastric disease, vomiting                                   | Decoction   |
| 38  | *Mukia madraspatanas* (Linn.) Roem. | Cucurbitaceae| Leaf      | Skin inflammation, dysentery                                          | Decoction   |
| 39  | *Mukia madraspatanas* (Linn.) Roem. | Cucurbitaceae| Leaf      | Diarrhea, debility                                                   | Decoction   |
| 40  | *Mukia madraspatanas* (Linn.) Roem. | Cucurbitaceae| Leaf      | Blood purifier, diabetes                                              | Raw         |
| 41  | *Mukia madraspatanas* (Linn.) Roem. | Cucurbitaceae| Leaf      | Jaundice, ulcer problems, urinary diseases                            | Paste       |
| 42  | *Mukia madraspatanas* (Linn.) Roem. | Cucurbitaceae| Leaf      | Constipation fever                                                    | Decoction   |
| 43  | *Mukia madraspatanas* (Linn.) Roem. | Cucurbitaceae| Leaf      | Cancer, lung cancer, rheumatism                                       | Powder      |
| 44  | *Mukia madraspatanas* (Linn.) Roem. | Cucurbitaceae| Leaf      | Vomiting, vitamin c, antimalarial                                     | Tonic       |
| No. | Scientific Name                        | Family       | Part Used | Medicinal Uses                                      | Preparation |
|-----|---------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 45  | *Punica granatum* (Linn.)              | Punicaceae   | Seed      | Urinary infections, treat sore throats              | Raw         |
| 46  | *Ricinus communis* Linn. *Sesbania grandiflora* (Linn.) Poir. | Euphorbiaceae | Seed      | Skin diseases, guina, fever                        | Powder      |
| 47  | *Sida acuta* Burm.f *Solanum melongena* (Linn.) | Malvaceae    | Whole plant | Anaemia, gastralgia, diarrhoea, guina              | Juice       |
| 48  | *Solanum nigrum* Linn. *Solanum trilobatum* (Linn.) | Solanaceae   | Leaf      | Ulcer, neuralgia, asthma, cholera                   | Powder      |
| 49  | *Solanum turvum* Linn. *Stachytarpheta indica* (L.) vahl | Fabaceae     | Leaf      | Backache, swelling                                 | Powder      |
| 50  | *Terminalia catappa* L. *Tinospora cordifolia* (Wild). Miers ex Hook. F. & Thoms. | Combretaceae | Seed      | Liver diseases, ulcers                             | Powder      |
| 51  | *Synadenium grantii* Hook.f. *Synedrella nodiflora* (L.) Gaerth. | Verbenaceae  | Whole plant | Ulcers, allergy                                    | Tonic       |
| 52  | *Synedrella nodiflora* (L.) Gaerth. | Asteraceae   | Leaf      | Rheumatism, stomach pains                         | Powder      |
| 53  | *Ziziphus jujuba* Linn. *Menispermaceae* | Verbenaceae  | Stem      | Anaemia, asthma, skin disease                      | Tonic       |

Herbs were considered as a primary source of medicine (45%) followed by trees (26%), climbers (15%) and shrubs (14%) (Fig.2). It indicates that the study area contains more number herbs as compared to other life forms namely trees, shrubs and climbers. Among the reported plants, the leaves were mostly used for the preparation of medicine (36.20%) followed by whole plant (32.75%), fruit (17.24%), seed (10.34%), flower (6.89%) and stem (1.72%) (Fig.3). This may be due to the easy collection of leaves than that of other parts of plants such as underground parts, flowers, barks, flowers, fruits and seeds (9). Many local people throughout the world also use leaves for the preparation of herbal medicine. The mode of preparation and parts used were grouped into five categories (Fig.4). Of these, mostly used method of preparation was powder (29.31%) followed by decoction (22.41%), juice (18.96%), raw (6.89%) and paste (5.17%).

Out of 58 medicinal plants documented in the study area, only 27 plants have been used by local people inhabiting in around the study area for the treatment of various diseases like fever, intermittent fever, cough, asthma, jaundice, gastric problems, urinary disorders, dry skin disease, psoriasis, skin allergies, leucoderma, burning skin, liver disorders, snake bite, memory power, ulcer, diabetes, stomach aches etc., The plants were also to be used in different forms such as juice, decoction, powder and past (Table 1).
The list of following some medicinal plants documented from the study area viz., *Acalypha indica*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Ocimum Sanctum*, *Lawsonia inermis*, *Solanum trilobatum* and *Clitoria ternatea* are commonly used by local people in the treatment of fever, cough and asthma. The following plant species such as *Acalypha indica*, *Aloe vera*, *Capsicum annuum*, *Carica papaya*, *Clitoria ternatea*, *Murraya koenigii* and *Ocimum sanctum* are also used for the treatment of dry skin disease, psoriasis, skin allergies, leucoderma, burning skin and other skin diseases.

4. CONCLUSION

The overall results of the present ethnobotanical investigation indicated that, the study area is rich in plants having ethno-medicinal properties that may be used to treat various diseases. But the results of present study also indicate that only less number (27) of medicinal plants is used by local people in the treatment of various ailments. Hence the people must be motivated to use more number of medicinal plants instead of using allopathic medicine and also suggested that priority must be given to conserve these medicinal plants for the welfare of humanity.

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