

Medicinal plants used in cure of skin diseases

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ABSTRACT

Skin diseases are most common form of infections occurring in people of all ages. The aim of the study is not only to prescribe remedies for skin diseases in human beings but also to draw attention for the need towards a detailed study on medicinal plants, which could provide novel remedies leads for other dreadful diseases. This review has highlighted the role and utilities of some medicinal plants on different skin diseases.

Key words: Traditionally, ethno-medicinal, nature, knowledge

INTRODUCTION

World Health Organization estimate over 80% of the people in developing countries depend on traditional medicines for their primary health needs [1]. India is one of the largest producers of medicinal herbs and is rightly called the botanical garden of the world as it is sitting on a gold mine of well-recorded and traditionally well practiced knowledge of herbal medicine. About 17,000 species of Indian flora about 7500 species of higher plants are reported to possess medicinal value and in other countries it is projected about 7% and 13% [2]. There are estimated to be around 25,000 effective plant-based formulations, used in folk medicine and known to rural communities in India [3].

Since medicinal plants are nontoxic and easily affordable they play a vital role not only for pharmacological research and drug development, but also when plant constituents are used directly as therapeutic agents and as starting materials for the synthesis of drugs [4].

In the present paper, an attempt has been made to document the list of ethno-medicinal plants used to cure in skin diseases.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The authors have conducted an extensive field survey in the tribal area and other interior villages areas to collect information about ethno-medicinal plants used by the tribals to heal skin diseases. Simultaneously, actual applications of plant parts to treat skin diseases were also observed during the field work. The plant species are enumerated alphabetically by family followed by their tribal name, plant part used and mode of administration.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The study that a total of 22 species were identified. For each species the botanical name, family name, plant part used, and usage were recorded. In the present study was used for the treatment of skin diseases. The results of the

present study provide evidence that medicinal plants continue to play an important role in the healthcare system of this tribal community.

Table 1. List of some ethno medicinal plants used in cure of skin disease

S.N.	Botanical name	Family	Uses
1.	<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	Fabaceae	Seeds are used in skin diseases
2	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Amaranthaceae	Leaves crushed and applied directly for skin diseases.
3	<i>Aloe Vera</i>	Liliaceae	The leaf juice is used for skin diseases
4	<i>Argemone Mexicana</i>	Papaveraceae	Roots are given for skin diseases
5	<i>Aristolochia indica</i>	Aristolochiaceae	Leaves are made into paste and then boiled with coconut oil and it can be applied externally.
6	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Meliaceae	Leaves, bark and oil from seed is used in the treatment of skin diseases
7	<i>Carica papaya</i>	Caricaceae	Latex is useful in skin diseases
8	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	Caesalpiniaceae	Roots ground with water made into paste and applied to cure skin diseases. Leaf juice and flowers are also useful in skin diseases.
9	<i>Catheranthus roseus</i>	Apocynaceae	Leaves paste are applied externally as a cure to pimples
10	<i>Centella asiatica</i>	Apiaceae	Crushed leaves applied orally for skin diseases.
11	<i>Clerodendrum viscosum</i>	Verbenaceae	Decoction of the leaves are useful in skin diseases.
12	<i>Clitoria ternatea</i>	Fabaceae	Fresh leaves pounded and made into paste and applied to cure skin diseases.
13	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Cyperaceae	Rhizome made into paste with water and applied externally.
14	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	Fabaceae	Bark and heartwood are useful in skin diseases.
15	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i>	Moraceae	Bark and latex is useful in skin diseases.
16	<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	Moraceae	Paste of powdered bark is good for skin diseases.
17	<i>Marsilea quadrifolia</i>	Marsileaceae	Whole plant is useful in skin diseases.
18	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Oil extracted from the seeds is used in children for skin diseases.
19	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Solanaceae	Leaves are used for skin diseases.
20	<i>Solanum suratense</i>	Solanaceae	Whole plant is used.
21	<i>Tactona grandis</i>	Verbenaceae	Leaves extract and Bark is used for skin diseases.
22	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i>	Fabaceae	Roots and seeds are used as a remedy for skin diseases.



Figure 1: [A] *Achyranthes aspera* [B] *Aloe Vera* [C] *Catheranthus roseus* [D] *Cyperus rotundus* [E] *Ricinus communis* [F] *Solanum suratense*

CONCLUSION

People not only disturbed mentally and physically due to skin disease but also expand lot of money for their cure when these are at chronic stage. If these diseases are cured at initial stage then we can save lot of money. So the herbal drugs, which are cheap with less side effects, will be helpful to cure diseases of all the people including countries of the third world. In the present study we identified some of medicinal plants used by people to cure skin diseases. This could help in creating mass awarness regarding the need for conservation of such plants.

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