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ETHNOVETERINARY USES OF SOME MEDICINAL PLANTS OF BANKURA DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL

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ABSTRACT:

The present work deals with the survey and search of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants used by folk communities of Bankura District, West Bengal. Information was collected from traditional practitioners of that area. Here as many as 14 plant species belonging to 11 families have been found along with their vernacular names, family, plant parts used and animal disease curing property.

KEY WORD: *Ethnoveterinary uses, medicinal plants, animal healthcare.*

INTRODUCTION:

Medicinal plants are associated with the local heritage all over the World. Medicinal plants provide raw material for use by pharmaceutical, cosmetic, and flavour industries. Medicinal plants are very much important for public health as well as for plant and animal protection. In the recent times, according to WHO, 3.5 billion people depend on plant based medicines for their health care. In India, Central Ministry of environment and health has set up the department of AYUSH covering ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy, unani, siddha, and homoeopathy. Besides human being this plants are used as medicines for many domestic animals. The District of West Bengal State, India has rich flora of indigenous medicinal plants. The Bankura is one of the District of such type. The ethnomedicinal practice is very common among the tribes of Bankura District of West Bengal. In this field survey we found 14 plants belonging to 11 families, and their herbal preparation are used as potent medicine to treat various disease and disorders of domestic animals. This is also an endeavour to draw attention for the in depth study on the concerned medicinal plants, the result of which could provide novel, better and efficient remedies for animal healthcare.

METHODOLOGY:

The work was based mainly on ethnobotanical field work in areas mainly inhabited by tribes of Jaypur, Jayrambati, Shihar, Baital etc in Bankura District. The plants used for medicinal purpose were recorded

through personal interview during field trips. Subsequently the medicinal values of the concerned plants were ascertained using appropriate medical terms. Firstly 14 plants were observed in those areas. Some specimens were dissected and some of the collected specimens were preservation and the rest worked out following standard taxonomic methods and authentic literature (Prain.1903). After correct identification the plant species were enumerated giving their local names, information about locality, ethnobotanical use etc. The local knowledgeable informants were the primary sources who were interrogated during field work and the data have been recorded along with their names, address and the medicinal uses recorded from them.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

TABLE 1: LIST OF ETHNOVETENARY MEDICINAL PLANTS OF BANKURA DISTRICT

Scientific name	Family	Common name (in Bengali)	Plant Part (s) used	Medicinal Uses (for domestic animals)
1) <i>Aegle marmelos</i>	Rutaceae	Bael	Fruit, seed	Flatulence, any type of gastric problems,
2) <i>Abrus precatorius</i>	Fabaceae	Kuch	Leaves, root	Acute colic, ephemeral fever, skin allergy
3) <i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Meliaceae	Neem	Leaf	Antipyretic, thrust, nausea, vomiting, skin diseases and ulcer.
4) <i>Calotropis procera</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Aakando	Leaf	Darrhea and dysentery
5) <i>Eclipta alba</i>	Compositae	Kesut	Entire plant	Blindness, bronchitis, leucoderma.
6) <i>Gloriosa superba</i>	Liliaceae	Ulatchandal	Leaves	Swelling, chronic ulcers, colic pain in bladder
7) <i>Scoparia dulcis</i>	Scrophulariaceae	Mithepata	Leaf, flowers	Anti-tumor, anti-viral, analgesic activities
8) <i>Centella asiatica</i>	Apiaceae	Thankuni	Leaf	Weakness, indigestion, ulcer
9) <i>Zingiber officinales</i>	Zingiberaceae	Ada	Rhizome	Dyspepsia, flatulence, colic and diarrhea
10) <i>Ficus glomerata</i>	Moraceae	Jaggya dumur	Fruit, leaf	Renal problems, dermatitis, diarrhea, ulcer, anthelmintic
11) <i>Lantana camera</i>	Verbenaceae	Saibanilata	Leaf, flower	Skin itches, as an antiseptic for wounds and scabies.
12) <i>Tagetes erecta</i>	Compositae	Ghada	Entire plant, mainly leaves	Cuts and wounds

13) <i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Fabaceae	Tetul	Fruits	Carminative, laxative and digestive properties.
14) <i>Cassia fistula</i>	Fabaceae	Badarlathi	Leaf, fruits	Insect bites, swelling, rheumatism and facial paralysis

CONCLUSION:

Medicinal plants are extremely useful for folk communities as ethnoveterinary medicine. Tribal people collect the medicine from their own localities when they grow medicinal plants at their own homesteads. As a result of no severe side effect and very low cost the herbal medicines have become very popular in urban areas throughout the world. These are become very useful especially in treating the day to day common ailments. There should be assessment of medicinal properties even of plants growing in and around the residences. So that they can be used for animal health cares. Thus it is encouraging to find growth of human interest in medicinal plants and their sustenance both rural and urban areas as well as laboratories. Proper identification of the species is absolutely necessary failing which may lead to casualty including death. For this involvement of taxonomist is always necessary. Application of appropriate taxonomic tool for identification followed up by clinical investigations and therapeutic proving of the herbal folklore plants can handover novel herbal medicines for animal health care.

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