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## Folklore claims of some ethnomedicinal plants used by Tribes of Karwi district (Uttar Pradesh) India

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### Abstract

An ethnobotanical survey was carried out during 2022-2023 in the some ethnomedicinal plants used by tribal communities of Karwi district, Uttar Pradesh. This paper focuses solely on the traditional medicinal plants utilized by the Kol, Gond, Mawasi, and Khairwar communities to treat a wide range of ailments in their daily lives. These settled agriculturists possess a deep understanding of utilizing plant-based resources for their survival, a knowledge that has been passed down through generations. In the course of the investigation, a comprehensive record was compiled, documenting the presence of 26 plant species spanning across 26 genera and 22 families. These botanical treasures have long been revered by the esteemed ethnic community for their medicinal properties. Additionally, the documentation also acknowledges the utilization of certain plants for alternative purposes.

**Keywords:** Agriculturists, utilization, plants

### Introduction

The district lies between the latitude 24°53' and 25°23' north and 80°44' and 81°34' east longitudes. The northern boundary of the district is formed by the river Yamuna, across which lie districts of Fatehpur and Kaushambi. In the east the district borders with Allahabad and the state of Madhya Pradesh and on its westside lies the mother district Banda. The southern boundary of the district consists of Vindhyan plateau across which lie districts Satna and Rewa of Madhya Pradesh state. Most of the sacred places of Chitrakoot religious complex are in fact in the state of Madhya Pradesh. Northern part of the district is a flat expanse and southern part is mainly the Vindhyan plateau, which is full of hills and forest cover. On the plains of the district Karwi lies at about 120-125m., Rajapur and Mau at 100-105m above the level of sea each. As usual in rest of U.P., the lowland in the district is made of alluvium deposited by many streams coming down from southern hills and flowing into Yamuna. Paisuni is the chief stream among these. The lowland formed is uneven in nature and riversides full of ravines.

There are several tribal communities like Kol, Gond, Mawasi and Khairwar inhabit in district and utilize wide variety of plant resources for food, fodder, fibre, medicine etc. The indigenous people of the forest traverse their natural surroundings to fulfill their daily needs, engage in cultural traditions, and partake in sacred ceremonies. These tribes dwell in close proximity to the wilderness and rely heavily on its diverse flora and fauna for sustenance. They make use of a vast array of plants for essential purposes like sustenance, animal feed, textiles, construction materials, healing remedies, adhesives, tanning agents, coloring agents, and housing materials.

Literature survey of ethnobotanical work was done (Srivastava 1984, 1985, Jain 2004, Jadhav 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, Satya *et al.* 2010, Kalakoti *et al.* 1986, Maheshwari *et al.* 1986, Gupta *et al.* 1999, Jain *et al.* 2010, Samvatsar *et al.* 2004, Wagh *et al.* 2010, Singh and Sharma, 2011, Bala and Singh, 2015a & b, Gupta and Singh, 2021a) [21-22, 13, 5-9, 18, 14, 15, 4, 10, 17, 24, 20, 1-2, 3]. The present communication given results of ethnobotanical survey done in Karwi district of Uttar Pradesh.

### Materials and Methods

Field research in ethnobotany was conducted over the course of 2022-2023, spanning various seasons. Interviews were conducted to collect data on the non-medicinal uses of plants.

Traditional healers were consulted in the field to gather information on the medicinal properties and methods of administration of various plants, which was then compared with existing literature. Each medicinal practice was meticulously verified and corroborated through cross-referencing. Plant specimens were collected, identified with the help of Herbarium and Floras (Mudgal *et al.*, 1997; Verma *et al.*, 1993; Singh *et al.*, 2001; Jain, 1991) <sup>16, 23, 19</sup>.

<sup>12</sup>. Herbarium following standard method (Jain and Rao, 1977) <sup>[11]</sup>.

Deposited in the herbarium of the Department of Botany, Govt. P.G. College, Satna (M.P.). Information on ailments, parts used, and doses prescribed, time and days of administration of dose efficiency of the drug etc. gathered from tribal have been enumerated (Table-1)

**Table 1:** Medicinal plants used against various ailments.

S. No.	Plant name (Family)	Local name	Uses
1.	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L., (Fabaceae).	Ghughuchi	Root power is given for the treatment of whooping cough with slightly warm water, two teaspoonful a day for seven days.
2.	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L. (Amaranthaceae)	Chitchita	Decoction of plant root along with bark decoction of <i>Terminalia bellirica</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb. <i>T. chebula</i> Retz. and <i>Ficus religiosa</i> L. mixed with one-kilogram cow or goat milk and heated to prepare curd. 100 to 200-gram curd is given at morning of 'Sharad purima' for the treatment of Asthama. The vertically parted root of the plant inserted inside vagina for early and painless delivery.
3.	<i>Aconitum rotundifolium</i> Kar. & Kir., (Ranunculaceae)	Bachhnag	Root of plant is chewed seven days every morning to cure cough, cold and mild bronchitis.
4.	<i>Adhatoda vasica</i> L. (Acanthaceae)	Arusa	Leaf paste mixed with equal parts of old molasses and prepared pills of ten gram each. Two pills are given twice a day for ten days for the treatment of whooping cough.
5.	<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Correa. (Rutaceae)	Bel	fruit mixed with powder of black peper, is given for a month every evening for the treatment or Syphillis or Gonorrhea.
6.	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm.f.) Wall.ex Nees. (Acanthaceae)	Kalmegh	Leaf-juice is given twice a day for 3 days to cure fever.
7.	<i>Annona squamosa</i> L. (Annonaceae)	Sitaphal	Seed powder mixed with water is given twice a day to kill the intestine worms.
8.	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Willd. (Liliaceae)	Satawari	Root extract with water is given twice a day for 3-4 days to cure typhoid and jaundice.
9.	<i>Baliospermum montanum</i> Muell Arg., (Euphorbiaceae)	Jamal ghotra	The seeds are used as a drastic purgative.
10.	<i>Borassus flabellifer</i> L. (Asteraceae)	Tad	Inflorescence of male plant is given once day to woman in early morning in the empty stomach to cure for menstruation cycle.
11.	<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam.) Taub. (Fabaceae)	Palash	Seed paste with water is taken twice a day for 3 day to cure kill intestinal worms.
12.	<i>Cassia fistula</i> L. (Caesalpiniaceae)	Amaltas	Dry seed powders are used on burn to smoke take they do not dream.
13.	<i>Celastrus paniculatus</i> Willd. (Celastraceae)	Malkangni	Seed oil is used on healing wounds to cure skin disease.
14.	<i>Chlorophytum tuberosum</i> (Roxb.) Baker. (Liliaceae)	Safed musli	Dried root powdered mixed with milk or water is taken orally once a day in early morning in the empty stomach for a month to cure health tonic.
15.	<i>Curculigo orchioides</i> Gaertn. (Hypoxidaceae)	Kali musli	Root powder is given with cow's milk for 3 days to cure spermatorrhoea, impotency and tonic in weakness.
16.	<i>Curcuma angustifolia</i> Roxb. (Zingiberaceae)	Jangli haldi	Powder of dried rhizome with honey mixed is made in to paste. The paste is applied and bandaged to cure arthritis and fracture.
17.	<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i> (L.) Jeffrey. (Cucurbitaceae)	Shivlingi	Seeds are given with water to cure promote conception.
18.	<i>Enicostema axillare</i> (Lam.) Raynal. (Gentianaceae)	Naikui	Extract of whole plant is given with water to cure typhoid.
19.	<i>Geodorum densiflorum</i> (Lam.) Schultr. (Orchidaceae)	Salam mishri	Powder of tubers with ghee mixed is also made in to "Laddu". These Laddu with cow's milk is take once a day in early morning in the empty stomach by male to cure increase male potency.
20.	<i>Gloriosa superba</i> L. (Liliaceae)	Kalihari	Paste of roots is also applied against to cure Snake-bite and Scorpion-sting.
21.	<i>Helicteres isora</i> L. (Sterculiaceae)	Marorphali	Root past with leaf juice mixed is given twice a day for a week to cure diabetes.
22.	<i>Madhuca longifolia</i> (Koen.) Mac. (Sapotaceae)	Mahua	Boiled flower and hot poultice leaves are tied in the cure for abdominal pain, chest pain due to cough and cold.
23.	<i>Nyctanthes arbortristis</i> L. (Oleaceae)	Harsinghar	Fruits and flower mixed with water is given twice a day for 3 days to cure cough and cold.
24.	<i>Vitex quadrangularis</i> Wall. (Vitaceae)	Hadjod	Aqueous solution of plant is given, one glass a day, till relief to treat bone fracture. Decoction of stem is given twice a day for 15 days to treat irregular menstruation.
25.	<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i> R.Br. var. <i>rothii</i> (G. don.) Hook. (Apocynaceae)	Kali dudhi	The plant is used as antimicrobial, parakeratosis, psoriasis, astringent, stomachic, tonic febrifuge and seeds are used for kudal vriddhi and pittavayu diseases.
26.	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lam. (Rhamnaceae)	Ber	The leaf is paste with little water and administered throughout the body once a day for three days. Latex of leaves is used to cure pimples on eye lid.

## Results and Discussions

The present study includes information on the total 26 plant species belonging to 26 genera and 22 families. Generally local medicine men are known as 'Gunia' and 'Ojhas' or Vaidyas. The rich treasure of indigenous knowledge of local medicinal plant is also under serious threat in rural areas due to the availability of allopathic medicines and treatment of ailments and disease. The indigenous knowledge of the tribal communities must be properly documented and

preserved so that their knowledge could be passed on the future generation. Such studies and documents provide important for understanding the complex heritage of tribal communities and their association with environment and nature. It is also observe that were uses roots of 7, seeds of 5 species, barks, Inflorescence, leaves, rhizomes, fruits of 2 species each and whole plant of 1 species.



**Fig 1:** Author visiting in medicinal plant nursery.



**Fig 2:** Author is interacting with tribal.

## Conclusion

The important medicinal plants were used again cough and cold 3, abdominal pain, piles, intestinal worms, typhoid, scorpion sting, menstrual cycle, tonic of 2 species each and dog bit, respiratory problem, fever, skin disease, arthritis, male impotency, snake bite, diabetes and leprosy of 1 species. Such information should be spread among other societies living in urban and remote areas.

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