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Full Length Research Paper**Plants in Asthma Cure among the Bhils from Jalgaon District (M.S.) India****Shubhangi Pawar***Department of Botany, Pratap College, Amalner, Dist-Jalgaon- 425401(M.S.)India***ABSTRACT**

Jalgaon district with its diversified topography has vast forest areas for ethnobotanical studies and large tribal population. The present paper deals with traditional ethno-pharmaceutical knowledge used to treat asthma by the Bhil communities. The present investigation reveals the knowledge of native Bhil tribals in regards to use of the plants as herbal drugs against asthma cure. In all total 16 plant species from 16 genera and 10 families have been enumerated. However these remedies should be verified scientifically.

Keywords: Ethno-medicinal plant, asthma, Bhils, Jalgaon district

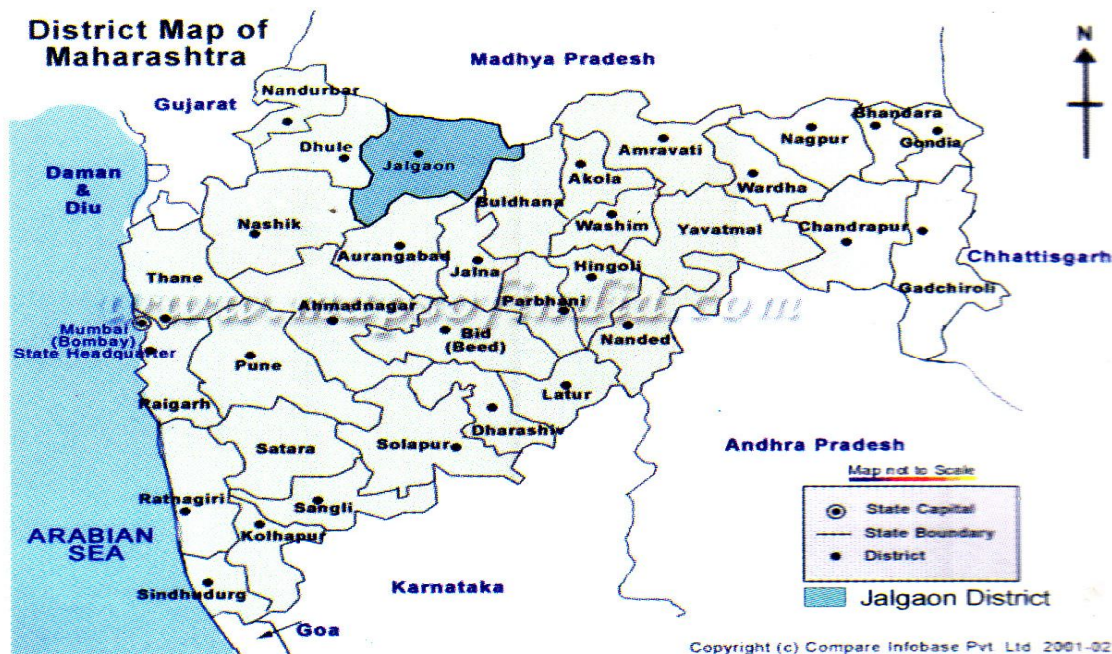
INTRODUCTION

Majority of world's population still depend on medicinal plants to fulfill most of the healthcare needs. In medical ethnobotany, the nature of plant and its application in traditional system is studied. Ethnobotanical inventories are made by conducting interviews the tribal people and formal surveys in the field and collection and identification of plant specimens used. Bhils are the largest tribe of western India and third largest in the country. In Jalgaon district they are spread all over Satpura Mountains and have also settled down in the plains. The present paper provides the information on some ethno-medicinal plants used in treatment of Asthma by

Bhil tribe of Jalgaon district (M.S.). Pawar and Patil published recently some ethnobotanical information on Jalgaon District (2000a,b, 2001,2003,2004,2005a,b, 2006a,b,c,d)

STUDY AREA

Jalgaon district is located on the northern part of the state of Maharashtra. It lies between 20° and 21° north latitude and 74° 55' and 76°28' east longitude. The Satupura Mountain extend northern parts of the district, whereas off shoots of Western Ghats do so in south east parts. The forests in the district are dry deciduous.

**Map II: Showing Jalgaon District in Maharashtra**

METHODOLOGY

Fields trips were conducted in tribal hamlets and villages in Jalgaon district. The information was gathered from the tribe single Bhil. Their medicinenmen, head of hamlets and villages, elder men and women were interrogated repeatedly. The plant collected has been housed in Herbarium of Pratap College, Amalner. They have been identified using various district and regional floras. Such as Patil (2003), Naik (1998), Cooke (1958). The data accrued has been compared with the Classical literature (Anonymous 1948 to 76) Watt, 1972, Ambasta 1986, Jain 1991) and other recent publications to point out new uses (asterisked under enumeration.)

ENUMERATION -

1. *Allium Sativum* L. (Liliaceae) 'Lasun',
Use - Fresh paste of bulblets is kept under the sole of foot of child. A pair of wollens socks and shoes are worn. It helps to cure asthma slowly.
2. *Asparagus recemossus* Willd. (Liliaceae) 'Shatavari'.
Use - root extract is mixed with equal amount of milk some grapes (*Vitis vinifera* L.) and seeds of *Buchanania larzan* are added in it, after boiling it, a spoon of this is consumed with honey per day of cure asthma.
3. *Achyranthes aspera* L.(Amaranthaceae) 'Aghada'.
Use dried leaves are smoked in asthma.
4. *Calatropis procera* (Ait.) R. Br. (Asclepiadaceae) 'Rui'
Use- Leaves of this plant, *Datura metal* L and common salt are burnt together. Ash obtained about one spoon with honey is given to asthma till cure.
5. *Cassia toral* L.(Caesalpiniaceae) Tarota.
Use- Powder of seed of this species and fruits of *Tribulus terrestris* L. are mixed in equal amount a spoonful per day it is consumed with honey for a week till cure asthma.
6. *Catunaregam spinosa* (Thunb.) Tirvengadam Gela. (Rubiaceae) 'Tunda'
Use - spoonful of fruit extract mixed in ground nut oil. Few drops are dropped in hose at morning to control asthma.
7. *Dalbergia sissoo* Roxb. ex. Dc. (Fabaceae) 'Shisam'.
Use- Gum and roots are Crushed together in water. One spoonful of filtrate is taken at night to treat asthma.
8. *Datura metal* L.(Solanaceae) Kala Dhotra.
Use - Leaf Powder is ueal as snuff for astma
9. *Euthoribia nerilfolia* L.(Euphorbiaceae) 'Sabar'
Use- Two drops of Latex in spoonful of cowghee. only at night for four days is advices for asthma
10. *Momordica dioica* Roxb. Ex. Willd. (Cucurbitaceae) 'Katirly'.
Use- Two fruits and spoonful of turmeric powder is pounded in Aloe vera (L) Burm.f.jet Pellets made from this mixture is taken daily for a week to cure asthma.
11. *Nerium indicam* Mill. (Apocynaceae)'Kanhar'.
Use - Spoonful of leaf powder is taken with honey twice a day for one month to cure asthma.
12. *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis* L. (Oleaceae) 'Parigat'.
Use -Spoonful of stem bark powder is consumed twice at day in the treatment of asthma till Cure.
13. *Petrocarpus marsupium* Roxb (Fabaceae) 'Bive'.
Use- Spoonfull of wood powder is taken twice a day with honey to cure asthma.
14. *Semecarpus anacardium* L.F. (Anacardiaceae) Biba

Use - A Spoonful of extract of seed is given with honey once daily for 5-6 days in the treatment of asthma.

15. *Solanum virginianum* L. (Solanaceae) 'Ran-wangi'.

Use- Half spoon stem powder is consumed in early morning once a day for asthma till cure.

DISCUSSION

Asthma is a respiratory disease which is caused due to allergy or respiratory problems. The present communication provides 16 species of interesting ethno-medicinal plants used in treatment of asthma by Bhil tribe of Jalgaon district. This knowledge may provide a clue to explore new drug related to phytochemistry, pharmacology and pharmacognosy and may help patient to get relief from this unbearable diseases. Out of 16 species. 9 species are marked with asterisk are found to be use for the first time for asthma. This study may offered clues for new leads for systematic pharmacotherapeutic and clinical research.

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