



Traditional Uses of Some Plants of Hamirpur District as a Blood Purifier

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(Received 01 October, 2014, Accepted 14 November, 2014)

ABSTRACT: Hamirpur district is the smallest district of Himachal Pradesh due to its area. This district falls in the range of Shivalik hills. This district is surrounded by thick forest and act as good reservoir for various medicinal plants and herbal wealth. The practices of the use of local plants and their products for treatment of various health problems has been an old practice. But the people of this district still depends on the local plants for treatment of various health problems. This paper provides the formation about the traditional uses of 14 plant species belong to 13 families for purification of blood.

Keywords: Traditional uses, Health problems, Blood purifier, Shivalik hills, Hamirpur

I. INTRODUCTION

Blood is a connective tissue that consists of cells suspended in the liquid matrix. Blood consists of plasma and floating cells in it. The cells are delivered from the extra vascular site and then enter the circulatory system. Plasma consists of some proteins known as plasma proteins such as albumins, globulins and blood clotting proteins. The cells are present in the blood are -Red blood cells, White blood cells and blood platelets thrombocytes. Impurities in the blood and contamination in blood cause many disorders. Therefore purification of blood is necessary for elimination of blood disorders.

It has been found that from the ancient times the documentation of traditional knowledge related the medicinal uses of plants has provided the many important drugs of modern times. Yet, 80% population of the developing country depend on the use of local plant resources for primary wealth of medicinal flora and the traditional knowledge about the plant which constitute the Himalayan state is a rich reservoir of medicinal flora. Hamirpur district is also well known region the western Himalaya which is surrounded by thick forest having rich floral diversity (Kumar and Choyal 2012). Due to the favourable climatic conditions and environmental conditions this district possesses unique medicinal wealth. The old village of this area has huge knowledge associated with the use of

these medicinal plants. This unique medicinal wealth study area provide material for pharmaceutical, phytochemical, food, flavoring and cosmetic industries (Kaur *et al*, 2011). This paper emphasized the traditional use of 14 plant species belonging to 13 families for purification blood and as a blood purifier.

II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

Study Area. Hamirpur district is situated between 76°18' – 76°44' East longitude and 31°52'30" North Latitudes. This region is rich in diverse flora he area is hilly covered by Shivalik range and the elevation varies from 450—1,000mtrs meters. This region possesses unique floral diversity and rich herbal or medicinal wealth which needs exploration. This paper explore about the 14 plant species of study area which are used in case of blood purification or as blood as purifier.

Methodology. The ethanobotanical survey were conducted throughout the study period in different localities of Hamirpur district. The plant specimen were collected mostly in the flowering and fruiting stage. The plant specimen collected during the survey were preserved in the form of herbarium. The collected specimens through field work were identified with help of H.J. and Wadhwa Flora of Himachal Pradesh, Flora of FRI Dehradun and Flora of BSI which were frequently consulted one.



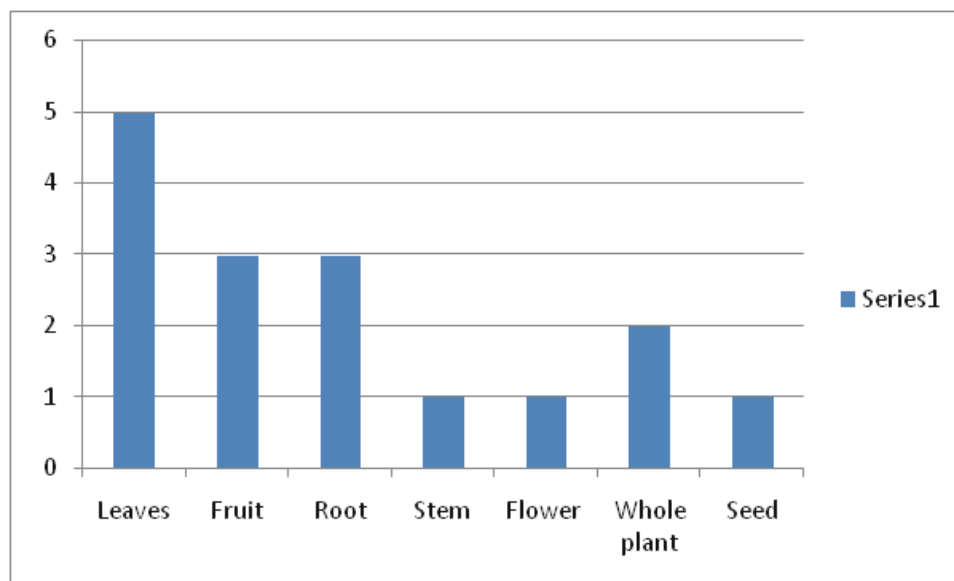
III. RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS

The ethanobotanical investigation revealed the use of –14 plant species belonging to 13 families for the purification of blood or as purifier.

Table 1: A list of medicinal plants along with their part used for the purification of blood as purifier.

Sr no.	Scientific name	Family	Local name	Parts used	Folk use
1.	<i>Aloe vera</i> (L.) Burm.f.	Liliaceae	Kwarya	Leaves	Dried powder of leaves is used as blood purifier.
2.	<i>Aristolochia indica</i> Linn.	Aristolochiaceae	Sunanda	Whole plant material	Whole plant material extract is beneficial in case of blood purification.
3.	<i>Berberis aristata</i> DC.	Berberidaceae	Kashmalaya	Root	The powdered root extract is used for purification of blood.
4.	<i>Cassia fistula</i> Linn.	Fabaceae	Aliah	Seed	Powder of seeds are used as blood purifier.
5.	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> Roxb.	Fabaceae	Tahli	Leaves	Decoction of leaves and powder of dried leaves is used in case of blood purification.
6.	<i>Fumaria parviflora</i> Linn.	Papaveraceae	Pit papra	Whole plant material	Dried and powdered whole plant material is taken with water twice in a day for two weeks which helps in purification of blood.

7.	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i> Linn.	Acanthaceae	Basuti	Leaves, roots and flowers	The extract of leaves, roots and flowers is used for the purification of blood or as blood purifier
8.	<i>Mallotus Philip pensis</i> Murl.Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Kamala	Fruit	Half spoon of powdered fruit with "ajwain" and black paper is taken for half of month.
9.	<i>Momordica charantia</i> Linn.	Cucubitaceae	Karela	Fruit	Fruit juice which is taken daily in case of blood purification.
10.	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> Wigg.	Asteraceae	Dulal	Roots	Dried powder of roots used as blood purifier.
11.	<i>Thevetia neriiifolia</i> Juss.	Apocynaceae	Peelikaner	Leaves	One tea spoon of powdered leaves with honey is as blood purifier.
12.	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> (Willd.) Miers.	Menispermaceae	Giloe, Guljya	Stem	Dried stem powder is used in case of purification of blood and as blood purifier.
13.	<i>Syzyium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels.	Myrtaceae	Jamun	Fruit	Fruit juice is used for purification of blood
14.	<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> Kurtz.	Lythraceae	Dhataki, Dhavi	Leaves	Decoction of fresh leaves is used for the purification of blood.



Graph 1. Quantity of different plant parts used for blood purification.

IV. DISCUSSION

This table and graph shows that the leaves of maximum plant species (with 5 plant species) are used as blood purifier which are followed by fruit and root

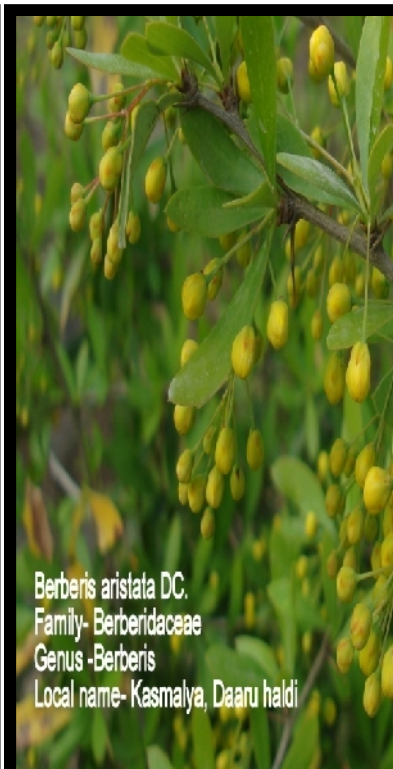
(with 3 plant species) and other plant part with minimum quantities which are used as blood purification.



Aloe vera (L.) Burm. f.
Family - Xanthorrhoeaceae/Liliaceae
Genus - *Aloe vera*
Local name - Kawarya, Kurian



Aristolochia indica L.
Family - Aristolochiaceae
Genus - *Aristolochia*
Local name - Sunanda



Berberis aristata DC.
Family- Berberidaceae
Genus - *Berberis*
Local name- Kasmalya, Daar haldi



Dalbergia sisoo Roxb.
Family-Fabaceae
Genus- *Dalbergia*
Local name-Talhi



Fumaria parviflora Lam.
Family- Papaveraceae
Genus- *Fumaria*
Local name- Pitpapda



Mallotus philippensis (Lam.) Muell. Arg.
Family- Euphorbiaceae
Genus- *Mallotus*
Local name- Kaambal



Momordica charantia L.
Family- Cucurbitaceae
Genus- Momordica
Local name- Karela



Syzygium cumini (L.) Skeel.
Family- Myrtaceae
Genus- Syzygium
Local name- Jamanya, Jaman



Taraxacum officinale Webber ex. Wigg.
Family- Asteraceae
Genus- Taraxacum
Local name- Dulal, Doodhli



Thevetia nerifolia Juss.
Family- Meliaceae
Genus- Thevetia
Local name- Peeli kaner



Tinospora cordifolia (Thunb.) Miens
Family- Menispermaceae
Genus- Tinospora
Local name- Gloye, Gulje



Woodfordia fruticosa Kurtz
Family- Lythraceae
Genus- Woodfordia
Local name- Dhavi, Dhataki

V. CONCLUSIONS

The use of herbal remedies among the rural people in Hamirpur district of Himachal Pradesh show their great interest in the primary health care. The scientific validation and knowledge of these local phyto-remedies may help in discovery of new drugs from the local plant species which form the basis of pharmaceutical industry. The information on traditional uses of plants may provide a great knowledge for discovering new drugs which helps in promoting awareness among the local people to use them as primary health care. Therefore the documentation and recording of traditional knowledge associated is necessary step for the preservation of traditional knowledge about the use of local plant wealth and conservation of threatened plant species of study area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Authors are thankful to Principal, Dr. Rajneesh Gautam, Gautam Group of Colleges, Hamirpur and local people of study area for his valuable guidance and help at each stage of their work.

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