ARIOPSIS PELTATA NIMMO (ARACEAE)-AN ADDITION TO THE FLORA OF GUJARAT

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Cooke (1908) in his ‘Flora’ covering present States of Maharashtra, Gujarat & parts of Karnataka recorded Ariopsis peltata Nimmo a monotypic species from Konkan (Maharashtra) only. J.D. Hooker (1893) reported this from West-tropical Himalaya (from Nepal to Sikkim) and in Western Ghats (from Konkan to Travancore). Fischer (1931) had given the localities for this species as W. Coast and Ghats; from near sea level to 1219.2 m.

So far this species has not been reported from Gujarat (Shah, 1978 & Raghavan et al. 1981). It is being recorded here for Gujarat State based on a specimen sent by Dr. More, collected from a hillock in Dharampur forest, Bulsar district, Gujarat State on 3-7-1977.

A description accompanied by figures and plates has been provided by Rao & Hajra (1976) while reporting this species from Arunachal Pradesh.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are thankful to Dr. S.K.

JAIN, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah for facilities, Dr. B.D. Sharma, Deputy Director, Botanical Survey of India, Pune for encouragement and to Shri S. Karthikeyan, Systematic Botanist, Botanical Survey of India, Pune for going through the manuscript and also for making valuable suggestions.

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ISCHAEMUM IMPRESSUM HACK. (POACEAE) —A NEW RECORD FOR GUJARAT STATE

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J.D. Hooker (1897) included Ischaemum impressum Hack. on the basis of Huegel’s collection from the Concan but with a question mark on the locality. Blatter & McCann (1927) reported the above mentioned species from Western Ghats and commented “We think it is quite safe to say that I. impressum Hack. is endemic in the Western Ghats”. Bor (1960) also considered it to be endemic and gave the distribution as “Bombay State, Purandhar, endemic”. The present report from Dangs district extends the distribution of I. impressum Hack. to Gujarat and also forms a new record for the state (Raghavan et al. 1981).

Specimen examined: Gujarat, Dangs dist., 1 km from Satpura to Ahwa, 3 Oct. 1979, P. Ramanandan 4624 (CAL).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are thankful to Dr. P.R. Sur for confirming the identity.

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ETHNOMEDICAL NOTES FROM THE TRIBAL INHABITANTS OF THE NORTH GUJARAT (INDIA)

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ABSTRACT

The information collected from the tribal inhabitants of north Gujarat about the medicinal uses of some common species, is given.

INTRODUCTION

Ethnobotanical studies have been carried out for some parts of India (Jain, 1963a-d; 1964a-b, 1965a-b, 1967a; b; De 1968; Shah and Joshi, 1971; Pal and Srivastava, 1976; Borthakur, 1976; Vartak and Gadgil, 1980), but such studies are meagre in the Gujarat State in western India (Bedi, 1979; Shah et al., 1981; Shah and Gopal, 1982) despite of the fact that these studies help in elucidating the cultural position of the tribes (Harshberger, 1896). Intensive ethnobotanical studies were therefore, carried out for 2 years in various parts of north Gujarat with this end in view. Much ethnobotanical information was collected from the inhabitants during outings, particularly the medicinal uses of plants, giving a scientific name, followed by a vernacular name, the voucher specimens with the collector's name(s), collection number(s) and place of collection are also cited.

CLIMATIC AND EDAPHIC CONDITIONS

North Gujarat lies between 23°-25°N latitude and 73°-75°E longitude (see Map 1). The annual rainfall is up to 30 cm with moderately to extreme cold winters and hot summers. The soil is sandy loam, gravelly or laterite. Most of the area is flat or undulating, with scrub or semi-arid forest vegetation. The hills are few, more commonly up to 100 m, seldom 300-500 m high, but the vegetation of these hills is dry deciduous. It is these forests which are commonly inhabited by the tribals.

THE PEOPLE

The inhabitants in these areas are bhils, rabaries, gharashias, gharashia bhils and dublas, the former being the main tribe. The bhils are good archers. They are spread over in the hilly regions. The konkanies, once a heroic tribe, now live a peaceful settled life on the plains with agriculture as the main occupation. The gharashias look after cattle and sell milk and milk products. They seem to have better knowledge of herbs and their uses than other tribes have. The main occupation of rabaries is to maintain herds of cows and to sell milk and milk products. They are an orthodox tribe which believe that diseases are God-created and, therefore, they find the remedies for them in their surroundings.
Gharashia bhils are hybrids between bhils and gharashias. Dablas are labourers.

These inhabitants worship idols made from mud, called "Pathorn" because their shape resembles somewhat a horse (Fig. 1), and logs of Triloba grandis (TEAK) arranged in rows in the middle of the "forest" are known as "Rhamone rodev" (Fig. 2).

METHOD OF STUDY

Knowledge about medicinal plants is a secret treasure of these people. And they do not easily part with it unless intimate contacts are established with them. Many times the local guides and informants, bluff us to please us, but repeated queries were made, from time to time, from the people and local doctors.

And we developed close intimacy, stayed with them for days together to obtain the facts. The plants collected during various explorations have been deposited in the herbarium of the Bio science Department, Sardar Patel University, Vallabhi Vidyanagar, Gujarat State. Plants are arranged according to Bentham and Hooker's system of classification under each family, species are arranged alphabetically. The botanical name is followed by the local name (in brackets) as far as they could be ascertained from the inhabitants.

ENUMERATION OF PLANTS

Cissampelos pareira L. (Venivel Pobadevel)

Leaf juice applied externally on sores and on abdominal pains. Yogi 351 (Mansa); Yogi 2356 (Idar).

Coeuces hirsutus (L.) Diels. (Vachhvel, Vachhanvel)

Leaf infusion a blood purifier. Leaf juice applied externally on forehead to relieve headache. Yogi 2739 (Idar); Yogi 2169 (Khadi).

Tinospora cordifolia (Willd.) Hk. f., (Gulvel, Gudha)

Stem decoction taken 2 times a day before meals as tonic. Yogi 1014 (Idar).

PAPAVERACEAE

Argemone mexicana L. (Daruli)

Yellow sap and seed powder applied in eczema and other skin diseases. Oil obtained by boiling powdered seeds applied on leucoderma. Seed powder mixed with 2-3 drops of oil used as ointment for eye diseases. Gopal 972 (Khedbrahma).

FUMARIACEAE

Fumaria indica (Hausk.) Pugsley, (Pitapapda)

Paste prepared with water from powdered stem mixed with powder of pepper seeds applied to forehead for malaria. Yogi 2536 (Khedbrahma).

CRUCIFERAE

Brassica campestris L. var. sarson Prain, (Sarsoy)

Oil from seeds is deobstruent, depurative and also used as massage on chest for cough and cold. Yogi 2550 (Khedbrahma).

CAPPARACEAE

Macrca oblongifolia (Forsk.) A. Rich., (Hemkund)

Roots are sweet and used as stimulant. Their juice given to children for convulsion. Yogi 2329 (Idar).

FLACTOURTIACEAE

Cascaria graecolens Dalz. (Kirmira, Saptangli)

Root paste applied to treat piles, but its juice administered internally for jaundice. Gopal 1251 (Devagadh Baria).
STERCULIACEAE
Sterculia urens Roxb., (Kadlo).
Gum dissolved in milk and given for piles as astringent. YOGI 987 (Pahada).

TILIACEAE
Corchorus capsularis L., (Shun).
Fresh plant, together with pieces of stem of Alangium salviifolium (L. f.) Wang. (Ankol) and Tectona grandis L.f. (Sag), powdered in wooden bowl and mucilaginous powder mixed with sugar. This mixture given in complaints of seminal discharges. SAXION 537 (Talod).

ZYGOPHYLLACEAE
Tribulus terrestris L., (Mithugokhru, Akanti.)
Fruit juice for urinary complaints. YOGI 2166 (Idar).

OXALIDACEAE
Biophyllum sensitivum (L.) DC., (Lajri, Zarero.)
4-5 drops of fresh leaf juice put in eyes twice a day to treat chronic purulent discharges. Leaf decoction given twice a day to treat dysentery, chronic uterine discharges and ordinary fevers. GOPAL 1259 (Kanjata).

Oxalis corniculata L., (Naveri, Changeri.)
Leaf juice mixed with sugar and given to children in diarrhoea or prolapsed rectum. YOGI 2416 (Khedbrahma).

BURSERACEAE
Boswellia serrata Roxb., (Gugal, Dhupelo).
Wood is rubbed with water and resultant ointment applied to face as tubefacient. YOGI 2187 (Idar).

CELASTRACEAE
Celastrus paniculatus Willd., (Malankani, Jivavel).
Oil from seeds used for massage to treat rheumatism and paralysis. YOGI 31 (Mahudi).

MORINGACEAE
Moringa oleifera Lam., (Saragava)
Stem and root are powdered and made into paste which is applied for rheumatic pains. Powder given in doses of 50 mg with water twice a day for asthma and cough. Gum from bark mixed with milk and rubbed on forehead to relieve headache. GOPAL 5002 (Rajpipia).

MYRTACEAE
Syzygium cumini (L.) Skeels, (Jambu).
100-250 mg seed powder 3 times a day with water, after food for diabetes. YOGI 570 (Mansa).

Syzygium bheynanum Wall. ex W. & A., (Jaljamba).
Bark decoction given for chronic dysentery; used in gargling sore mouth and spongy gums. YOGI 1853 (Khedbrahma).

CARICACEAE
Carica papaya L., (Papayu).
Seed powder has anthelmintic properties. GOPAL 1267 (Piperghota).

CACTACEAE
Opuntia elatior Mill., (Hathlo, Fafko thor)
Warm poultice of longitudinally cut stem pieces mixed with turmeric powder applied to local swellings and muscular pains. GOPAL 4596 (Rajpipia).

ALANGIACEAE
Alangium salviifolium (L.f.) Wang., (Ankol, Ankoli)
Leaves used as poultice for rheumatism, GOPAL 1145 (Saghana).

RUBIACEAE
Borreria stricta (L.f.) K. Schum., (Ganthiya).
Paste of flowers and flower buds with water applied as ointment on cuts and wounds.
Hymenodictyon excelsum (Roxb.) Wall., (Boisal, Kokadi).

Powder of intensely bitter bark given for dysentery and to kill tapeworms. Gopal 53 (Junagadh).

COMPOSITAE

Ageratum conyzoides L., (Dhali Sadedi, Makadari)

Plant extract used externally for skin diseases and leprosy. Gopal 886 (Khedbrahma).

Echinops echinatus Roxb., (Utikonto)

Fruit powder of Tribulus terrestris L. (Mithugokhrui and underground parts of Curculigo orchioides Gaertn. (Kalimusli) mixed in 1:2 proportion. This mixture with the root juice of Echinops administered internally for acute debility after childbirth. Gopal 1076 (Vijayasagar).

Eclipta prostrata (L.) L., (Bhangro).

Leaf juice with water of buttermilk given as an antidote in snake bites, whereas root juice with water is given for liver complaints. Gopal 880 (Sharneshwar).

Launaea procumbens (Roxb.) Ram. & Raj., (Pilibhopatri, Mustibhopatri)

Leaf paste applied to treat skin diseases i.e. eczema and ringworm. Taken internally leaf juice presumed to kill tapeworms. Gopal 917 (Himmatnagar); Gopal 1034 (Posina).

Pulicaria wightiana (DC.) Cl., (Sonafali, Sonali)

2-3 drops of plant extract put in eyes for minor ailments. Gopal 15 (Junagadh).

Sonchus brachyotus DC., (Dudhli, Shonki)

Plant juice given for fevers and as tonic during convulsions. Latex applied to wounds. Gopal 1043 (Khedbrahma).

PLUMBAGINACEAE

Plumbago zeylanica L., (Chitrok)

Bruised root mixed with oil, obtained from seeds of Pedalium murex L. made into paste, is rubefacient and antirheumatic. Yogi 2506 (Khedbrahma).

APOCYNACEAE

Holarrhena antidysenterica (L.) Wall., (Kadva Indrajav, Chudo)

Bitter bark juice is febrifuge, tonic and antidysenteric, 2-tablespoonful dose of infusion of roasted seeds, daily after meals, acts as astringent for constipation and allays vomiting in cholera. Yogi 670 (Mansa).

Wrightia tinctoria R. Br., (Narerli, Mitu Indrajav)

Bark made into paste and applied to wounds. Latex applied for skin diseases. Yogi 2581 (Idar).

ASCLEPIADACEAE

Calotropis gigantea (L.) R. Br., (Akdo)

Flower juice with water used as detergent, latex paste used as poultice for inflammatory swellings, latex mild rubefacient, but also believed to be an abortifacient. 2-4 drops of latex given with any eatable or capsule. It works efficaciously for coughs, cold and even asthma. Slightly warmed leaves, smeared with castor oil, are tied round abdomen for 2-3 hours to treat acute stomachache. Treatment continued until positive results achieved. Gopal 1583 (Khedbrahma), Yogi 2530 (Khedbrahma).

Holostemma annularium (Roth) K. Schum., (Buriel, Khirdodi)
Latex applied externally to heal obstinate ulcers and wounds:

PERIPLOCACEAE

Hemidesmus indicus (L.) R. Br., *(Dudhvel, Anantmuli)*

Plant extract applied for various cutaneous diseases; Root infusion given internally to treat venereal diseases. GOPAL 968 (Balaram); YOGI 986, 1975 (Pahada).

GENTIANACEAE

Canescora diffusa (Vahl) R. Br., *(Zinku)*

Bitter plant extract given in fevers and nervous debility and to children as laxative. GOPAL 2039 (Himmatnagar).

Enicostemma hyssopifolium (Willd.) Verdc., *(Mamajva, Zimu Kariyata)*

Plant extract extremely bitter and is given in fevers, stomachache and diabetes. GOPAL 1074 (Chitrnasani).

EHRETIAEACE

Cordia dichotoma Forst.

Mucilaginous fruit juice used to treat cough, bark decoction is astringent and used for gargling sore mouth. YOGI 659 (Mansa).

CONVOLVULACEAE

Argyria nervosa (Burm. f.,) Boj., *(Samadarsog, Samudrasok)*

Hairy undersurface of fresh leaves applied to hasten suppuration of wounds and glabrous uppersurface used to heal them. Root powder said to increase semen fertility; leaf paste is rubefacient; root decoction taken as tonic. GOPAL 482 (Shayamalaji).

Merremia turpethum (L.) Shah and Bhatt, *(Nasoter)*

1 ml of plant extract with water in the morning acts as purgative. GOPAL 236 (Sharanshwar); GOPAL 735 (Vireshwar).

Solanaceae

Datura innoxia Mill., *(Kalo Dhaturo)*

Leaf paste, mixed with lime, applied to local swellings in mumpis. YOGI 521, 748 (Mahudi).

Withania somnifera (L.) Dun., *(Ghodasan, Asuntho, Ahan, Asvagandha)*

Leaf and root powders are narcotic, diuretic and deobsttruent, leaf paste applied to fester boils. YOGI 242 (Mansa).

BIGNOIACEAE

Dolichandron falcata Seem. var. lawii (Seem.) Haines, *(Medswingh)*

Leaf juice massaged on abdomen of pregnant women to ease delivery, fruit and leaf juices are also fish poisons. SEDGWICK 347 (Dhansura Road).

MARTYNIAEACE

Martyia annua L., *(Vinichhudo)*

Two tablespoonful doses of root decoction twice a day given to treat skin diseases. YOGI 197 (Mansa); YOGI 1389 (Himmatnagar).

ACANTAEEACE

Petalidium barlerioides (Roth) Nees

Stem and leaf infusion, obtained by keeping them in cold water for 2 days, given in acute fevers, plant extract a bitter tonic. GOPAL 2615 (Khedbrahma).

VERRENACEAE

Gmelina arborea Roxb., *(Sivan)*

Root a bitter tonic and laxative; fresh juice used as demulcent, chiefly in gonorrhoea. YOGI 2951 (Kadi).

PLANTAGINACEAE

Plantago ovata Forsk., *(Isabgul, Ispagul, Ghoda Jira)*
EUPHORBIAE

Baliopespermum montaum (Willd.) Muell.-Arg., (Danti. Dantin.)
Stem when chewed, relieves toothache, seeds are strongly purgative. Yogi 1474 (Khedbrahma).

MORACEAE

Ficus benghalensis L., (Vad)
Root decoction said to be used for diabetes, milky latex applied for muscular pains and as anodyne in rheumatism. Gopal, 1651 (Ghadawadi).

LILIACEAE

Asparagus racemosus Willd. var. javanicus (Kunth) Baker, (Satavari)
Fresh juice with honey is demulcent and presumed aphrodisiac. Yogi 2932 (Kadi).

Glirisa superba L., (Vachhna, Vadhrad)
Root decoction for gout, seed paste gently rubbed on abdomen of pregnant women for quick delivery. Yogi, 114, 821, 914 (Mahudi).

ARECACEAE

Borassus flabellifer L., (Tad)
Fresh sap: cooling, astringent, refreshing and useful in hyperacidity. Yogi 2922 (Kadi).

TYPHACEAE

Typha angustata Bory & Chaub., (Gabhasirai, Ramban)
Husk of flowers, mixed with honey, said to be good for amenorrhoea. Gopal, 951 (Balaram).

CYPERACEAE

Cyperus rotundus L. ssp. rotundus, (Chido, Moth)
Roots are diaphoretic and astringent. Yogi 441 (Mansa).
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank CSIR for providing financial assistance.

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