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## An ethnobotanical study of asteraceae family Korba district (C.G.)

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### Abstract

The current study examines 24 plant species from 23 genera in the Asteraceae family that are used to treat 43 illnesses in humans that are known to exist in traditional medicine. Additionally, it was noted that these plants were becoming less common at a very concerning rate. Thus, there is an urgent need to conserve the medicinal plants employed in the ancient healthcare system.

**Keywords:** Ethnobotany, medicinal plants, asteraceae, Korba

### Introduction

The study of the interaction between humans and plants is known as ethnobotany, which derives from the terms "ethno" (people study) and "botany" (plant study). One subfield of ethnobiology is regarded as ethnobotany. The intricate relationships (and uses) between plants and cultures are the subject of ethnobotany research. Ethnobotany is the study of how plants have been and are used, maintained, and perceived in human civilizations. This covers how plants are utilized for building, tools, currency, clothing, rituals, food, medicine, cosmetics, dyes, and textiles.

Korba district was accorded the status of a full-fledged revenue district with effect from 25 May, 1998. The district headquarter is Korba city, which is situated on the banks of the confluence of rivers Hasdeo and Ahiran. Korba is the power capital of Chhattisgarh. The district comes under Bilaspur division. The headquarter of Korba districts situated about 200 KM. from the capital city Raipur. The latitude of Korba, Chhattisgarh, India is 22.363848, and the longitude is 82.734840. Korba, Chhattisgarh, India is located at India country in the *Cities* place category with the gps coordinates of 22° 21' 49.8528" N and 82° 44' 5.4240" E. This district is situated between 22°38' N latitude to 24°20' N latitude and 30°28' E Longitude to 82°12' E longitude. Korba district is situated in the northern half of the Chhattisgarh state and surrounded by the districts Korea, Surguja, bilaspur, Janjgir etc. The headquarter of Korba districts situated about 200 KM. from the capital city Raipur. The District's total area is 7, 14,544 hectare out of which 2, 83,497 hectares is forest land.

During ethnobotanical field studies in the study area we came across a large number of "tribal and local people" who are using wild and semi-wild plants for medicine and other purposes. They are very experienced in traditional medicine and are actually prescribing these plants materials to cure different diseases. The present paper is restricted to the medicinal uses of 24 such plants. The data were collected either from local medicine men or ordinary people who accompanied us in the field. This is the first time ethnobotanical research was carried out on Asteraceae family in the study area. All data cannot be observed about this research. The aims of the study are: A). To make an investigation about the present ethnobotanical status in the study area. B) Documentation of medicinal plants available in the study area. C) To know the extent of use of medicinal plants by the tribal and local people.

### Materials and Methods

The present work is mainly based on information gathered from the interview with the "Tribal and local people" on the plants having economic importance to them. Relevant plants were collected from the study area, identified and preserved at the Herbarium of the Department of Botany, Govt. College, Barpali, Distt. Korba, Chhattisgarh, India.

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**The present investigation is divided into two parts:**

**Part I: Interview with "Tribal and local people", collection, study, identification and preservation of plants.**

Publication of Roy & Roy (1957) <sup>[11]</sup>, Jain (1981 & 1986) <sup>[4-5]</sup>, Agharkar (1991) <sup>[1]</sup>, Kirtikar (1987) <sup>[9]</sup>, Jain and Singh (2010) <sup>[6]</sup>, Panda A. and Mishra (2011) <sup>[10]</sup>, Khaple *et al.* (2012) <sup>[8]</sup>, Tirkey *et al.* (2014) <sup>[12]</sup> and Chauhan *et al.* (2014) <sup>[2]</sup> were consulted for plant identification and information about of medicinal uses of the taxa.

**Part II: Study of ethnobotanical aspects:** For the present investigation interviews were taken from the "Tribal and local people" in the study area about different aspects.

**Results and Discussion**

Information about the traditional uses of plant species for various ailments has been gathered through ethnobotany, including abscesses, burning sensations, abortions, blood pressure, coughing, chickenpox, constipation, dysentery, diarrhoea, diabetes, eczema, fever, fractures, headaches, heart problems, skin diseases, snakebite, sex problems, tooth diseases, vomiting, wounds, worms, and more. Various ethnobotanical and ethnomedicinal data were gathered through the use of survey, interview, collecting, and identification techniques. The following is a description of the check stated details of the plant materials that were obtained from the study location.

**1. *Ageratum conyzoides* Linn.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Entire plant, leaf, stem, root.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The juice of the root is said to possess antilithic properties. The leaves and stems are also used in skin diseases, more particularly leprosy. The plant is used to counter stomach disorder. Also, an extract of the entire plant is taken as a tonic. The leaves applied to wounds act as a styptic and heal them quickly.

**2. *Blumea lacera* (Burm. f.) DC**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Leaf, root.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The expressed juice of the leaves is used as an anthelmintic, febrifuge, astringent, and diuretic; mixed with black pepper, it is given in bleeding piles. The root mixed with black pepper is given in the treatment of cholera. Some people use of the herb in bleeding piles.

**3. *Blumea laciniata* (Roxb.) DC.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Whole plant, root.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** Its use to cures bronchitis, blood diseases, fevers, burning sensation, thirst. The root kept in the mouth cures diseases of the mouth.

**4. *Callistephus chinensis* (Linn.) Nees.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Root.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The tribal use the root for coughs and pulmonary affections, and in the treatment of malaria and haemorrhages.

**5. *Calendula officinalis* Linn.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Whole plant, flower.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The plant is signally valued for healing

wounds, ulcers, burns, and other breaches of the skin surface; it is a precious vulnerary.

**6. *Caesulia axillaris* Roxb.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Whole plant, leaf, root.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The leaves applied to wounds act as a styptic and heal them quickly. The juice of the root is said to possess antilithic properties.

**7. *Chrysanthemum coronarium* Linn.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Bark, flower, leaf, root.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The bark is purgative and is used in syphilis. The leaves are applied topically to lessen inflammation. The flowers are a tolerable substitute for chamomile. The root chewed communicates the same tingling sensation to the tongue as pellitory.

**8. *Cosmos caudatus* Kunth.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Flower, leaf, stem.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The leaves and stems are also used in skin diseases, more particularly leprosy; and they are prescribed as a bath to patients with ecchymoses.

**9. *Circium arvense* (L.) Scop.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Leaf, stem.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** Mainly used as fuels. Stem and leaves of this plant are antiscorbutic.

**10. *Dahlia variabilis* (Willd.) Desf.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Flower, leaf.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The leaves and stems are also used in skin diseases. A poultice of the leaves is applied on boils.

**11. *Eclipta alba* (L.) Hassk.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Leaf, root, whole plant.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** Paste of leaves are used in skin disease and wound. The plant juice of the leaves is rubbed on the shaven scalp for the purpose of promoting the growth of hair. The juice of the leaves is given in one teaspoonful doses in jaundice and fevers. The root is given to relieve the scalding of wine.

**12. *Grangea maderaspatana* (Linn.) Poir.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Whole plant, leaf.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** In native practice it is used in ovarian disorders. The juice of the leaves is employed as an instillation for earache. A decoction of the roasted leaves is given in cough and is used as an emmenagogue.

**13. *Helianthus annuus* Linn.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Flower, seed.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The oil of sunflower is used in the treatment of heart disease. The flower is pungent and hot; anthelmintic, cures skin diseases, itching, ulcers, leprosy, hysteria, fever with rigor, biliousness, asthma, bronchitis, urinary discharges, anaemia, good for burning sensation in the vagina, worms in the ears, scorpion-sting. The sunflower is

prescribed in snake-bite. The seeds are diuretic and expectorant. This drug has successfully been used in bronchial laryngeal, and pulmonary affections, coughs and colds.

**14. *Launaea asplenifolia* (Willd.) Hook.f.**

**Habit:** Perennial herb.

**Part used:** Whole plant, root.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The root of this plant in combination with other drugs is given as a lactagogue.

**15. *Lactuca sativa* Linn.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Whole plant, leaf,

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The whole plant is used as salad and vegetables. It is used for headache, troubles of the nose, bronchitis and cough due to heart disease.

**16. *Parthenium hysterophorus* Linn.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Whole plant.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** Mainly used as fuels.

**17. *Sonchus asper* (L.) Hill.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Whole plant.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** It is use in jaundice.

**18. *Sonchus arvensis* Linn.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Whole plant.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The plant is slightly bitter, diuretic, good in chronic fevers.

**19. *Spilanthes paniculata* Wall. ex DC.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Flower-heads, whole plant, leaf.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** It is used as an antiscorbutic, diuretic, sialagogue, odontalgic, tonic and digestive.

**20. *Tagetes patula* Linn.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Flower, leaf.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The leaves are good remedy for piles, kidney troubles, muscular pain; their juice is used for earache and ophthalmia. The leaves are used as an application to boils and carbuncles; their juice is given in earache.

**21. *Tridax procumbens* Linn.**

**Habit:** Perennial herb.

**Part used:** Whole plant, leaf, flower.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** Its expressed juice is used in bleeding. The leaves are good for piles, kidney troubles, muscular pain; their juice is used for earache and ophthalmia. The flowers are employed in diseases of the eyes and for unhealthy ulcers, internally they are said to purify the blood, their juice is given as a remedy for bleeding piles.

**22. *Vernonia cinerea* (Linn.) Less.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Whole plant, flower, root.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The flowers are administered for conjunctivitis; the root is given for dorpsy.

**23. *Xanthium indicum* Linn.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Whole plant, stem, fruit, root, leaf.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The young stem is used as diabetes. The root is a useful in cancer and strumous diseases. The herb is prescribed in snake-bite and scorpion-sting.

**24. *Zinnia peruviana* (L.) L.**

**Habit:** Annual herb.

**Part used:** Leaf, stem.

**Ethnobotanical uses:** The leaves and stems are also used in skin diseases, more particularly leprosy; and they are prescribed as a bath to patients with ecchymoses. A poultice of the leaves is applied on boils; it is said to prevent tetanus if applied to a wound.

**Discussion**

In the present study 24 plant species 23 genera of the family Asteraceae have been recorded which are used by the local people in the ailment of human diseases and 18 species have been recorded which are used in the ailment of diseases of domestic animals. On the other hand 53 human diseases recorded by traditional medicine have been recorded. Among them very common diseases are wounds cured by 11 plant species, diuretic by 7 plant species, tonic by 6 plant species, bronchitis by 6 plant species, fever by 6 plant species, cough by 5 plant species, leprosy by 4 plant species, snake-bite by 4 plant species, ophthalmia by 4 plant species, skin disease by 4 plant species, piles by 4 plant species, asthma by 4 plant species, jaundice by 3 plant species, toothache by 3 plant species, earache by 3 plant species, burning sensation by 3 plant species, ulcers by 3 plant species, inflammations by 3 plant species, anthelmintic by 2 plant species, blood disease by 2 plant species boils by 2 plant species, pulmonary affections by 2 plant species, gonorrhoea by 2 plant species, colds by 2 plant species and scabies by 2 plant species. It has also been observed that a single species is used in the ailment of one disease.

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