

## **Contribution of Oraon Tribe of Jashpur District in the Traditional Preparation of Medicines (Part- 11)**

Ekka Mary Kusum<sup>1</sup>, Tiwari Priti<sup>2</sup> and Prasad Harishankar<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar(Department of Botany, Research Centre - Government Nagarjuna (P.G.) College of Science, Raipur, PT. R.S. University, Raipur (C.G.) INDIA 492010,

<sup>2</sup>Principal, Govt. Rajiv Lochan College, Rajim, District-Gariaband (C.G.).

<sup>3</sup>Research Scholar(Department of Botany) Research Centre - Government Nagarjuna (P.G.) College of Science, Raipur, PT. R.S. University, Raipur (C.G.) INDIA 492010,

---

**Abstract:** The eastern most district of Chhattisgarh, Jashpur is inhabited by large a number of tribal's. Study on the ethnomedicine practices of medicinal plants was carried out in this area through questionnaire, personal interviews and conversation. A total number of plant species used by the aboriginal were enumerated. The major ethnic groups residing in the Jashpur area include Oraon/Kurunkh, Nagesia, Kanwar, Birhor, Baiga, Pahadi korwa and Munda, amongst which Oraon is the dominant tribe. During the investigation, a well developed system of ethno medicine practices was found amongst the Oraon tribe.

**Keywords:** Oraon tribe, Ethnomedicine, Medicinal plants, Jashpur, Chhattisgarh.

---

### **I. Introduction:**

From prehistoric ages, human culture has either directly or indirectly been influenced by the vegetational world (De, 1968). India is rich in its endemic flora. Tribal communities with various linguistic groups which survived with their specific traits, beliefs and myths through the rigours of time. Earlier investigations were carried out on different ethnobotanical aspects such as vegetation based tribal life (De, 1980a), plant food(Jain and De, 1964) minor fibers(De,1965), general ethnobotanical practices and ethno medicines to treat human disorders(Jain and De, 1966; De, 1967, 1979 and 1980a; Sur, *et al.* 1992a). Ethno medicinal studies were carried out in different village areas in the State of Chhattisgarh, India. The tribal people prefer to depend on the surrounding forests for bare subsistence in term of food, fodder, fiber, materials, culture rituals and medicines to treat human and livestock diseases (De,1965). In the present research study we report on information collected from traditional practitioners to cure various human diseases in Jashpur district, (C.G.).

### **II. Materials And Methods:**

#### **Study site**

Jashpur, the eastern most district of Chhattisgarh is situated between 20<sup>0</sup>2' at north latitude to 23<sup>0</sup>16' at north longitude and 83<sup>0</sup>28' at east longitude, covering an area of 5322.67sq km. the altitude of Jashpur upper ghat is 1000m above sea level. The temperature range is from 10<sup>0</sup>C in winter to 32<sup>0</sup> C in summer the total annual precipitation in between, 1200, 2396mm. The total annual rainfall ~ 95 days. The deciduous forests account for 2752.28sq km of total area.

#### **Survey**

Several field investigations have been conducted to explore the ethno botanical knowledge of the Oraon tribe of this area. The villages were visited in different seasons to avail the plant resources in their flowering conditions. During field visit, questions and suggestions were put to them regarding the use of medicinal plants and their products in folk medicine. Rare and less common plants were only photographed and spared. Common plants were taken to prepare herbarium. The data was verified and compared with the existing literature and identified by experts.

#### **Enumerations**

The plants studied are enumerated alphabetically with their botanical name, family name, local name and ethno medicinal uses.

**1. Fever, Bhula or chhinta,  
Fracture Plant used**

**Dhotto pako, (O) (*Ampelocissus tomentosa*, Vitaceae  
) Plant part used: Root**

**Medicinal used:** Root powder in water for high fever and also given to clear, yellow color of the urine. **Dose:** 1 cup twice a day for three days in empty stomach.

Root stalk is used for Bhula or Chhinta is a special disease category common in Oraon tribe of Jashpur. The people believe it is caused by spirits. Depending on the kind of the evil spirits they used various remedies. They stated that three types of spirits such as mild spirits, a little stronger spirits and very strong spirits need a combination of the plant with medical therapy, like application of medicine on the affected part or oral administration. For treating Bhula or chhinta root stalk of Dhotto pako is used. The root stalk of the plant, growing near ant-hill is uprooted in one breath, in the morning before any one sees; bring it home, touch the patient with rootstalk and then dump it in the foot-path such that it gets concealed. Uptill now, this treatment is not mentioned in any literature. This treatment mode is kept under special category. The required method of collection of root stalk is most likely a conservation strategy.

2 handful root paste is taken. From this, 1 teaspoon paste is dissolved in a cup of water and patient is given to drink. Rest of the paste is applied on the fracture site and bandage applied which is changed on every 3<sup>rd</sup> day till cure.

**2. Fever and Bed wetting.**

**Plant used**

**Ranpawan(O) or Ramdatun (*Smilax ovalifolia* Rox,  
Smilacaceae) Plant part used: Root**

**Medicine used:** Root paste with milk is given for fever and heat in stomach. 50 gm root is grinded in 200ml milk.

**Dose:** 50 ml twice a day, for three days.

Root decoction is given to clear urine after high fever.

**Dose:** half glass, once a day for three days in empty stomach.

Bread (Roti) preparation from the flour of red paddy (Lal dhan) and baked in leaf of ranpawan, which cures bed wetting at night. These patients can also be served meals on its leaves and are given its twigs as tooth sticks (Datun), for better results.

**3. Hair  
care Plant  
used**

**Jungli dhania (*Galium asperifolium*,  
Rubiaceae) Plant part used: Whole plant**

**Medicinal uses:** Paste of the whole plant dried under shade and powdered as well as the fresh plant, boiled with mustard oil are found to be effective for healthy growth of hair and control of baldness. The leaf paste is also used to make chatani.

**4. Irregular menstruation, Bone fracture, Joint pain and Abdominal diseases.**

**Plant used**

**Hathkana (*Leea macrophylla*, Vitaceae)**

**Medicinal uses:** Root powder with jaggery is given for irregular menstruation. **Dose:** 1 teaspoon, twice a day, for two days.

2 handful leaves or root paste is applied on bone fracture and bandage. Every third day bandage is changed till cure.

Hot vapour treatment of root decoction is useful in joint pain. Vegetable of tender leaf is used to cure abdominal diseases.

### 5. Malaria, Diabetes and Stone diseases

#### Plant used

**Kathkaranj (*Caesalpinia bonduc* (Linn.) Roxb.,  
Caesalpiniaceae) Plant part used: Seed**

**Medicinal uses:** Remove the seed coat of seed and divide the seed into four equal parts. Every morning one part of seed is taken in empty stomach till four days for treatment of malaria.

Flower's infusion is prepared and 15-20 ml from this solution is taken to cure diabetes. By using 10-15ml root decoction, small broken pieces of stones removed from renal tract. 1 gm seed powder of kathkaranj is mixed with 3 gm of honey is used to remove small pieces of stones from renal tract.

### III. Results And Discussion:

A total number of 5 medicinal plants belonging to 5 families were documented having declared curative properties against fever, bhula & chhinta, irregular menstruation, bone fracture, joint pain, abdominal diseases, bed wetting, hair care & baldness, malaria, diabetes and renal stones. Out of 5 families, each family is represented by 1 plant. Out of 5 plants, the majority of the plant species are climbers (3) followed by shrub (1) and herb (1). Most of the medicines are derived from whole plant (1), root (7), root stalk (1), plant twig (1), leaves (3), flower's infusion (1) and seeds (2). Root, leaves and seeds were reported as the most popular plant parts, followed by others, such as whole plant, root stalk, stick and flower's infusion. Pastes are the most popular method of preparation. Information on *Ampelocissus tomentosa*, *Leea macrophylla*, *Smilax ovalifolia*, *Galium asperifolium* and *Caesalpinia bonduc* are found to be new, from this area, when compared with the other literature on Indian medicinal plants.

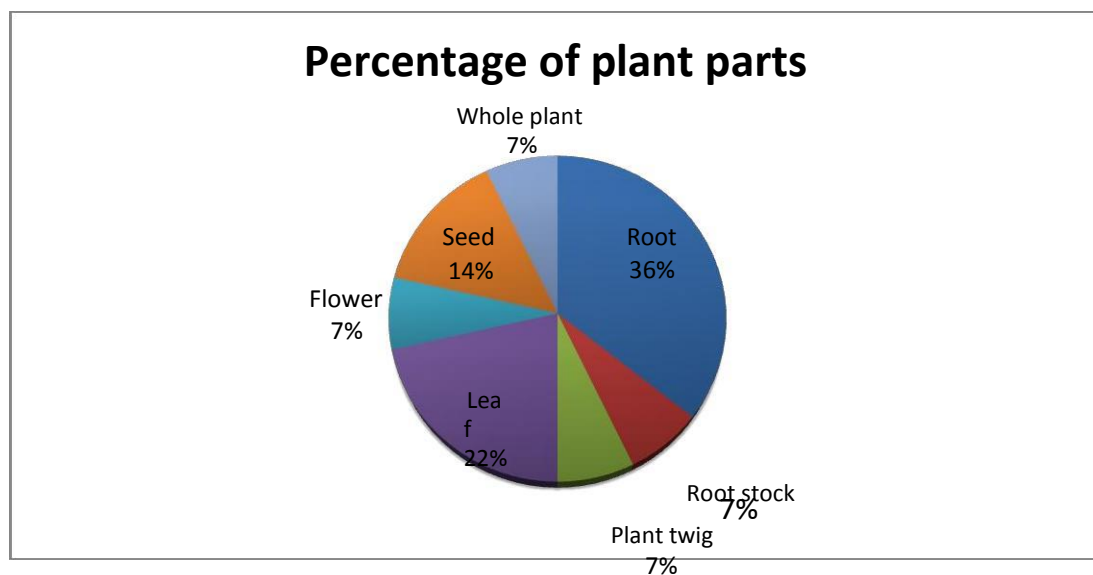
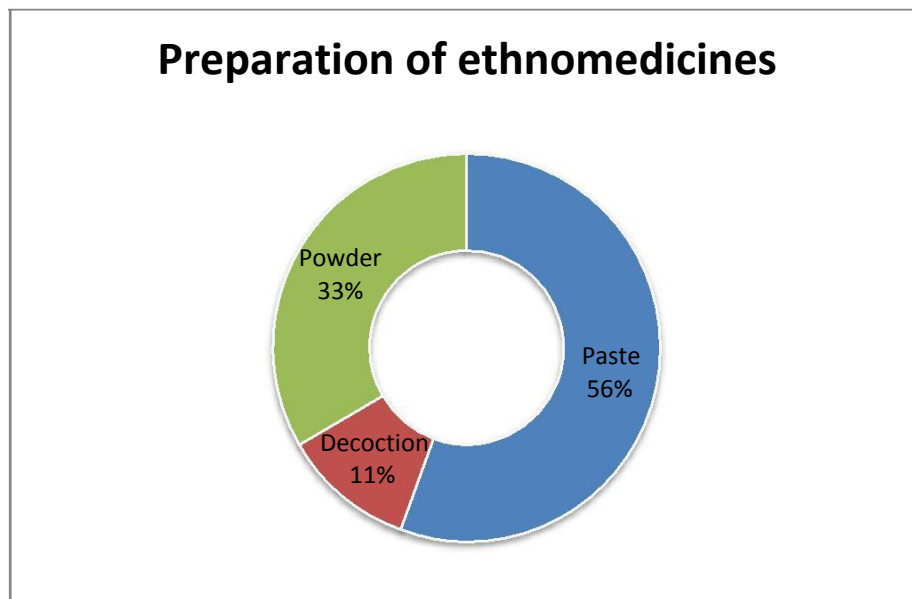


Figure1. Percentage distribution of plant parts used as ethno medicines.



**Figure2. Percentage distribution of methods of preparation of ethno medicines.**



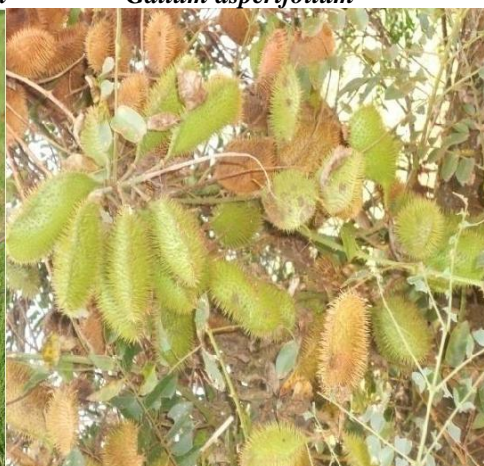
*Ampelocissus tomentosa*

*Smilax ovalifolia*

*Galium asperifolium*



*Leea macrophylla*



*Caesalpinia bonduc*

**Figure3. Ethnomedicinal plants.**

#### **IV. Conclusion:**

The ethnic group of Jashpur use a number of medicinal plants to treat a wide assemblage of ailments occurring in human beings. Although some rituals and beliefs are prevalent in this area, we have noted successful remedies of certain diseases by using the above mentioned preparations. Further-more some plants were found to be more effective when used in combination with other plant preparation.

#### **Acknowledgement:**

I am very thankful to the Oraon tribe of Jashpur district for the help received during the survey. Their knowledge and information is duly acknowledged. I am also thankful to my supervisor (Smt) Priti Tiwari, Principal, Govt. Rajiv Lochan College, Rajim Dist.-Gariaband (C.G.) and department of Botany, Govt. N.P.G. College of Science, Raipur for their suggestions and providing necessary facilities.

#### **References:**

- [1]. **De, J.N. (1965):** Some minor plant- fibres of aboriginal usage in the district of Purulia (West Bengal). Bull. Soc. Bengal, **19:** 67-72.
- [2]. **De, J.N. (1967):** Further observation on the ethno botany of Purulia district, West Bengal. Ind. For., **95:** 551-559.
- [3]. **De, J.N. (1968):** Ethno botany a newer science in Inda. Sci. Cult., **34:** 326-328.
- [4]. **De, J.N. (1979):** Ethnobotanical study of Purulia District, West Bengal. The Eastern Anthropol., **32(3):** 213-218.
- [5]. **De, J.N. (1980a):** The Vegetation- based Tribal Economics in the Purulia District, West Bengal. Bull.

- Cult. Res. Inst., **14(1 and 2)**: 37-42.
- [6]. **Jain, S.K. and De, J.N. (1964)**: Some less know plant foods among the tribals of Purulia (West Bengal). *Sci. Cult.*, **30**: 285-286.
- [7]. **Jain, S.K. and De, J.N. (1966)**: Observations of Ethnobotany of Purulia, West Bengal. *Bull. Bot. Surv. India.*, **8(3 and 4)**: 237-251.
- [8]. **Jain, S.K. and De, J.N. (1966)**: Observations of Ethnobotany of Purulia, West Bengal. *Bull. Bot. Surv. India.*, **8(3 and 4)**: 237-251.
- [9]. **Sur, P.R., Sen, R. and Halder, A.C. (1992a)**: Ethnobotanical study of Purulia district, West Bengal. *Ind. J. of Economic and Taxonomic Botany, Addl. Ser.*, **10**: 259-264.