

Ethno –Medicinal Use of Animal Resources

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Abstract: In modern society, zootherapy is considered as an alternative therapy for treatment of various diseases. Wild and domestic animals, their body parts like skin, hooves, feather, blood, milk, honey, excreta, urine, tusk, nails and several species' internal body parts are being used for curing various ailments. In India, 15-20% of Ayurvedic medicine is of animal-based product. Similarly in Brazil over 180 medicinal animals have been recorded. Rabari community of Rajasthan lead a migratory life uses domestic animals and its product as medicine for curing various diseases. They use cow, sheep, camel, honey bee, for curing cold, cough, anal infection, blood purification, jaundice etc. For them animal product are the cheapest way for curing various diseases. Most of the species used as medicinal drug belong to family *Bos gaurus gaurus* (Mammalia), *Buceros bicornis* (Bucerotidae), *Crocodylus palu* (Crocodylidae), *Pavo cristallatus* (Phasianidae), *Hystrix indica* (Rodentia), *Pterocarpus gigantus* (Chiroptera), *Sus scrofa domestica* (Mammalia), *Capra indica*. In the same burns, fracture, sun stroke, pneumonia, rheumatism, asthma, cold and cough, tuberculosis, ear pain, allergy, diarrhea and dysentery, paralysis, leprosy and stomach ache.

I. Introduction

W.H.O. estimates that 80% of the world's population depends on plant and animal based product for healing various ailments. Most of the people who spent their livelihood in remote areas and had no medical facility, for them animals are the cheapest way for curing various ailments. Unknowingly due to illiteracy and poor socio-economic condition various endangered species are also being exploited which is a serious problem for living world. Now an ecological imbalance is occurring which is a serious problem as many endangered animals are in the state of extinct stage. Here we discuss about some animals whose body part, its by-product are used for healing various ailments.

II. Ecological Approach

World is facing a massive loss of wild life due to over hunting. Due to demand for traditional folk medicine there is over exploiting of many domestic and wild life species which is considered as endangered species. Over 50% of the commercially available drugs are based on bioactive compounds extracted from animals based components. Of 252 essential chemicals that have been selected by WHO, 11.1% come from plants, 8.7% from animals. About 150 prescribed drug currently used in USA, 27 has been animal origin. Monetary values of animals sold for medicinal purposes in the country increases at each level of trade and socio-economic profile of traders varies accordingly.

III. Sanitary Approach

Little research has been done to prove clinical efficiency of animal product used for medicinal purposes. Many infectious diseases can be passed on from animals to human due to unsafe use of animal product (zoonoses). While using several organ, tissue, including bone and biles, can be a source of SALMONELLA infection causing chronic diarrhea and endotoxic shocks. Another wide spread disease may be Tuberculosis or Rabies when infected tissue or its body parts is used for curing various types of ailments.

List of Animals Used For Healing Ailments

Zoological Name	Common Name	Parts Used	Ailments
<i>Calotes versicolor</i>	Garden lizard	Fat	Rheumatism; acute pain
<i>Apis mellifer</i>	Honey bee	Honey sting	Tonic; paralysis; senselessness;
<i>Bos species</i>	cow	Dung; urine; ghee	Skin infection; bone fever; memory loss
<i>Cavia porcellus</i>	pig	fat	Paralysis; joint pain; burn; healing wounds;
<i>Climax species</i>	Bed bug	Chewed live	Acute asthma

<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>	Lady bird beetle	whole	Anemia;sexual tonic;
<i>Columba livia</i>	Blue pigeon	Flesh;ash feather	Paralysis;lymphatics ailments
<i>Corvus macrorhynches</i>	Jungle crow	tongue	Improve memory
<i>Desmodus rotundus</i>	Common bat	Flesh ;fat	Breathing and hearing problem
<i>Elephant maximus indicus</i>	Elephant	Dung; teeth past with honey on stone applied over gum	Skin infection;easy teething in kids
<i>Funambulus pennate</i>	Squirrel	Flesh	Epilepsy
<i>Manis crassicaudata</i>	Indian pangolin	Aqueous paste of scales	Swelling and inflammation

IV. Conclusion

Most of the tribal communities all over the world are totally dependent on domestic and wild animals, their body part for curing various ailment. Due to their poor socio-economic condition and lack of education, various endangered animals are also been exploited. So, judicious measure should be taken for conservation of domestic and wild animals. At the same time there should be awareness programs..

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