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Rutaceous Plants from Tribal Medicine of Andhra Pradesh

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ABSTRACT: *This paper describes the ethnobotanical importance of 6 Rutaceous plants common in Andhra Pradesh. For each plant its popular name/local name and manner of use are described. Data are based on personal survey, observation and discussion with chenchu, Yanadi, Erukala and sugali tribes of this area.*

INTRODUCTION

Plants have been used in medicine throughout the world for more than 5000 years and still continue to occupy an important place it traditional as well as modern system of medicine/. There are about 2000 plant species tat have been found to possess the medicinal value, in all the four systems of indigenous medicine, Vi Ayurveda, Unani, siddha and homeopathy. Interestingly, the tradition a system of medicine using plants as a source has acquired greater significance in the last three decades, as excessive use of synthetic drugs and antibiotics has been found to cause a number of side effects sometimes even proving fatal. The species of *Dioscorea, Digitalis, Mentha, Rauwolfia, Coptis* have come in worldwide use, the plants which are commonly seen in forests have great medicinal potential (Reddy 1995).

The present communication deals with the systematic survey and medicinal potential of some rutaceous plants viz *Aegle marmelos, Atalantia monophylla, Limonia acidissima, Naringi crenulata, Pleiospermum alatum* and *Toddalia asiatica*.

These plants are used by tribals of different regions for a variety ailmients, However the reports of their uses are scattered. The authors provide the complete information on occurrence, identifying field characters, phenological data and important medicinal uses.

***Aegle marmelos* (1.) Cor.**

Constipation: Fruit extract, given orally.

Diabetes: Leaf extracts, given orally.

Mad dog bite, Snake bite: Root bark extract, given orally.

Dysentery and Diar5hoea: The pulp of the fruit, given orally. (Singh et al 1992, Jain 1992).

Chronic diarrhoea and Dysentery: Fruit extracts, given orally. (Sharma & Sharma 1992).
Atalantia monophylla (L) Cor.

Dysentery: Leaf extract, given orally.

Post – natal complaints : stem Bark along-with plant of *Andrographis paniculata* and stem bark of *Pleiospermium alatum, Soymida febrifuga*, *Azadirachta indica* and *Euphorbia nivulea*, boiled in water, decoction given orally.

***Glycosmis pentaphylla* (Ret.) Dc.**

Diarrhoea: Root bark, stem bark of *Cassia fistula* and *Bauhinia racemosa*, dried, powdered and given orally with water or as decoction.

Fever: Root bark decoction given orally.

Jaundice: Stem bark extract given orally.

***Limonia acidissima* L.**

Asthma: Young shot extract given orally.

Body Pain: Root extract given orally.

Digestive complaints: Fruit extract given orally (Mukopadayay and Ghosh (1992).

***Naringi cremulata* (Roxb) Nicolson**

Dysentery: Fruit extract given orally

Body pain: Root extract given orally

***Pleiospermium alatum*: (Wt. and Arn) Swingle**

Past-natal complaints: Stem Bark along with that of *Azadirachta indica*, *Soymida febbrifuga*, *Atalantia monophylla*, *Euphorbia nivulea* and whole plant of *Andrographics paniculata*, boiled in water and the decoction given orally.

***Toddalia asiatica* (L.) Lam**

Bloody stool: Root bark powered and given orally wit water or as decoction

Flatulence: Leaves ground in butter milk and given orally.

The interesting medicinal properties of the above mentioned potential source of medicine leave scope for further research. But most of them are found in interior forests. Based on the information it would easy to undertake further studies like phytochemistry and bioassay to evaluate the active principle involved in the property.

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