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ANTI - CANCER DRUGS FROM TRADITIONAL PLANTS OF SITAPUR DISTRICT (UTTAR PRADESH)

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***ABSTRA CT**: The paper deals with some important medicinal plants growing in the Sitapur district of Vttar Pradesh province used as an anti cancer activities. 10 spaceies are reported along with doses and mode of administration. Neither the putative plant remedies evaluated nor any chemical principles identified.*

Keywords : Herbal medicine, Cancer, Sitapur.

INTRODUCTION:

The Sitapur district of Uttar Pradesh province of northern India starches between latitudes 26° 30' - 28° 45' north to longitude 79° 55' - 82° east with an area of 15235.2 squire kilometer. The district consist of 5 sub districts (Tehsil) namely Sitapur (also the district head quarter) Biswan, Sidhouli, Misrikh and Mahmooddabad.

Cancer is regarded as an emerging health problem in India [1 - 4] so a major activity in its control will be to detect cases as easily as possible. In India majority of the population (about 80%) lived in villages. So the modern method to detect the cancer is beyond their approaches, people contact the herbalist and they diagnose the disease on their personal experiences basis and treat them through herbal traditional plants. The efforts have been made to reveal folk medicines through ethno botanical exploration. The Sitapur districts have never been surveyed from the ethno botanical point of view. The expeditions have been undertaken primarily by investigator interested in valuable information regarding the use of plants for the treatment of Cancer. [5-6].

METHODOLOGY:

Data were obtained during 1989 to 1995 from native informants who were healers, hakims (herbal medical practitioners) and common people who have knowledge of the therapeutic value of plants. Because of the fact that majority of the population in rural areas is illiterate, oral interviews were held in the villages and derived information was recorded. Plant specimens were collected and identified by the authors and deposited in the Botany Department herbarium, Aligarh Musilm University, Aligarh. Data were collected from every village of the Sitapur.

RESULTS:

The catalogue that embodies the information is arranged as follows: botanical name / local name / family, locality, accession number, plant parts used, preparation and medicinal uses of the plant reported by the local people. Mostly the treatment continued for long duration even a month or 2.

1. Azadirachta indica A. Juss., Neem, Meliaceae, Biswan, Ace. No. 163.

About 10-15 young leaf twig grind with water and make mixture of about 100ml. Light warm mixture with a pinch of common salt (sodium chloride) used for gargle 4 to 5 times a day in case of oral cancer. Paste of the grind seeds and young tender leaves is also applied externally over the affected portion where abnormal cell growth occurs.

2. Catharanthus roseus (Linn.) G.Don, sadabahar, Apocynaceae, Biswan, Ace.No. 1547.

Roots dried under shade, about 200 g roots grind and make fine power. A dose of 5 g power taken orally with goat milk 3 times a day in case of intestinal and stomach cancer. Fresh latex applied externally to the affected portion where abnormal cell growth takes place. Flowers dried under shade and make fine power. About 2 - 5 g power taken orally 2 times a day.

3. Deionix regia (Boj. ex Hook) Raf., Gulmohar, Casealpiniaceae, Biswan, Ace. No. 932.

About 500 g root bark dried under shade and boiled in 2 liter water till its quantity becomes around 200 ml. dose of 5 -10 ml. decoction given to the patient of stomach and intestinal cancer 3 times a day. The paste of the young buds applied externally to the affected portion where abnormal cell growth takes place and its decoction is also prepared. 10 - 15 ml. Decoction is used 4 times a day. Seed coat (pericarp) of the young seeds collccled and make fine paste mixed with caster oil Ricinus communis (Linn.) and applied externally to the affected area.

4. Euphorbia nerifoliaLinn.. Sehund, Euphorbiaceaes, Sidhouli, AccNo. 1136.

Fresh latex collected and applied externally to the affected portion where abnormal cell growth takes place. Paste prepared with neem oil cake and applied in the same manner.

5. Glycyrrhiza glabraLinn., Mulheti, Papilonaceace, Sitapur, Ace. No. 876.

About 100 g rhizomes dried under shade and make fine powder. 2-5 g powder is used 4 to 5 times a day in case of stomach and intestinal cancer.

6. Hydrolea zeylancia (L.) Vahl, Jal - santha, Hydrophylaceace, Biswan, Ace. No. 265.

Poultice of leaves is applied over affected portion, root paste is made and mixed with the oil extracted from the seeds of Azdirachta indica Linn, and applied externally over the portion where abnormal cell growth takes place.

7. Lygodium flexuosum Swartz, Balkesh, Schizaceae, Sitapur, Ace. No. 1672.

About 250 g frond boiled in 2 liter water until its quantity becomes 100ml. and mixed with any vegetable oil preferable mustard oil (Brassica campestris). The ointment is applied externally over the affected portion for dressing where abnormal growth of the cells are becoming. About 2-3 ml. frond decoction is mixed with 150 ml. of goat milk and taken orally 3 times a day. Both the treatment will run simultaneously.

8. Ocimum sanctum Linn., Tulsi, Lamiaceae, Sitapur, Ace. No. 1019.

Fresh leaves are chewed in case of mouth cancer. This treatment is used for the time being relief.

9. Papaver somniferum Linn.. Posta, Papaveraceae, Manpur, Ace. No. 521.

Seeds removed from the mature capsule. About 20 g dried empty capsule boiled in 500 ml. water about 15 to 20 minutes. The decoction is used for gorgle to the patient of oral cancer 4 to 5 times a day. The fresh latex is collected from the young plant and applied to the affected portion externally for dressing.

10. Polygonum barbatum Linn., Safed mirchi, Polygonaceae, Ace. No. 756.

About 250 g fresh shoot boiled in 1 litre water for 15 minutes. Decoction is used for gorgle to the patient of oral cancer every after 4 hours.

DISCUSSION:

Ethno - botanical survey of the rural areas of the Sitapur district reveals that plant species have effective drugs used by the rural population. The information on the folk use of plants described is based on observation and records taken during the field trips. Ethno medicine is very much fascinating in itself and many new medicinal uses of plants in the treatment of cancer can be tested for their efficacy. Since the rural community often observe the positive effect of their preparation, they have strong faith in their recipes, thus the acceptability of these preparation is quit high in population. These observations are of special significance for the rich herbal flora of India and there is need for their critical scientific examination. Such contribution would be of great utility.

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