

Investigation of Ethnomedicinal properties of *Mutella Occidentales* used by tribal peoples of Bhandara District Vidarbha region, Maharashtra, India

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Abstract

Use of faunal wealth for medicinal purposes have been employed since dawn of civilization for protecting life of man by combating various ailments. Ancient tribal societies around the world have learned to utilize their neighbourhood wealth for curative as well as offensive purposes. The knowledge developed in their human laboratories through century's perfectly documented from generation to generation as domestic practices. The present investigation deals with study of ethnomedicinal use of *Mutella occidentales* an insect from order hemiptera.

Keywords: - *Ethnomedicinal, Mutella occidentales, Vidarbha* .

Introduction

Today the system of allopathic is still unknown to the people inhabiting in interior areas. Most of the peoples depend on Ayurvedic, unani and traditional folk medicines to cure various human problems. In India we have rich tradition of medicine and health care for safety and efficacy. Tribal and rural peoples in the area of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. State uses the natural wealth for maintaining their health. The local practitioners used wild plants as well as some animals for ethnomedicinal purposes. The present paper deals with ethnomedicinal uses of *Mutella occidentales* an invertebrate insect from order Hemiptera. It is beautiful colored insect, which is smooth, small, shiny, and hairy in appearance measuring about 12mm in length. The insect is known by various names by tribal and innate peoples of district like Birbahuti, Indrawadhu, Vershakit etc. It is burrowing insect and can be observed during commencement of monsoon and comes out from soil after first showers during rainy season in month of June. It is present in mountains buried in soil and sandy loamy soils of gardens. After touching it becomes inactive and gets contracted. The present communication was done about ethnomedicinal use of *Mutella occidentales*. It is generally sold by unani and ayurvedic practitioners as "Kirme mukhmukh" or indrawadhu. The insect has several applications in rural and tribal health care.

Materials & Method

In the present investigation ethnomedicinal properties of *Mutella occidentales* were studied. The tribal people of district widely use this insect for curing various ailments. It is collected during monsoon season from various localities like mountains, gardens etc. where soil is rich in humus content. It is used for various ethnomedicinal purposes to cure diseases. It is preserved by drying and store for long time use wherever necessary. Generally it is eaten directly with fresh with water. The dried insect is eaten directly

or in powdered form. Some times other formulations are prepared by mixing together with honey, ghee, yogurt, or jiggery. It is also taken by mixing it with "Paan or vida". The present investigation has been done in Bhandara district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra state. The paper includes important medicinal animal, which is under study. It also include survey, conservation along with their utilization with respect to economic ethnomedicinal properties.

Result and Discussion

The innate people of Bhandara district of Vidarbha region are poor and mostly depend on agriculture. During their daily work they observe nature carefully and their folk knowledge is used for treatment of various ailments. They are nature loving and used natural wealth carefully.

Tribal peoples of Bhandara District of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State commonly use *Mutella occidentales*. The insect is used ethno medicinally as toner for various parts of body to tone up. The dried insect is mixed with milk and applies on part of body, which is affected. The peoples of District widely used this insect on inflammation. It is applied with Indian wax; it is generally boiled with Indian wax and applied on affected part. It is very effective on paralysis, joint pains and heart diseases and used internally by the tribal peoples. It is used as generally stimulated and used in improvement of mortality. Special oil is prepared by boiling it with coconut or sesame oil for massage. It is also used to cure acne and pimples by girls and women's of this region.

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