

## ETHNO-MEDICO-BOTANICAL ENUMERATIONS FROM PATALKOT VALLEY IN CHHINDWARA DISTRICT OF MADHYA PRADESH

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The state of Madhya Pradesh has the largest concentration of tribal people in the country. Chhindwara district (680m above msl) is situated on Satpura plateau and lies between 18° 9' - 20° 9'N and 78°10' E respectively. Patalkot is situated on the slopes of Satpura mountains in the north-west corner of Chhindwara district. Nature has artistically carved out the deep valley amidst lofty mountain walls. It is like a fort in the subterranean, as is signified by the name Patalkot (Patal - subterrene, Kot- fort). The valley is located at about 60 km away from Chhindwara and is flanked by three mountain wings of Satpura range. It seems that the earth itself has sunken, encircling 20 villages, of which three are deserted. The Bharias, a little known tribe of valley utilize a large number of plant species occurring wild, as herbal remedies in various diseases and ailments. Earlier ethno-medicinal uses of plants in Madhya Pradesh were reported by Jain (1963, 1965), Saxena and Shukla (1971), Umesh Chandra and Mehra (1983), Maheshwari and Dwivedi (1988) and Umesh Chandra (1991). The present study, based on information gathered during an ethno-medico-botanical survey conducted in tribal villages of Patalkot valley, which is mainly inhabited by Bharia tribe, in November 1991, reveals ethnic uses of plants and plant parts in different kinds of ailments which is enumerated below :

Sequence : Botanical name, Vernacular name (if any), family (in bracket), uses/folklore, name of village.

*Achyranthus aspera*; Latzeera, (Amaranthaceae). Seed powder when taken for one week, it helps in curing bleeding piles. Rater.

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*Adina cordifolia* (Roxb.) Benthum & Hooker f. ex Brandis; Haldu, (Rubiaceae). Leaf juice is used to kill worms in sores. Pachgol.

*Aegle marmalos* (L) Correa; Bel, (Rutaceae). Green fruit powder when taken in water twice a day for six weeks, dysentery is cured. Also bark decoction is taken thrice a day for one week in intermittent fever. Chintipur.

*Aerva lanata* (L) Juss.; Chilarbhaji, (Amaranthaceae). The root paste when rubbed on forehead, relief in headache is experienced. Rater.

*Allium cepa* L.; Piyaj, (Liliaceae). Juice of the bulb with honey is used in cholera. Karrapani.

*Alstonia scholaris* R. Br.; Chatwa, Saptaparna, (Apocynaceae). Bark decoction when taken thrice a day for one week, malarial fever and dysentery are cured. Pachgol.

*Amaranthus tricolor* L.; Matabhaji (Amaranthaceae). Decoction of root cures clcer of throat when taken twice a day for one week. Rater.

*Argemone maxicana* L.; Bharbhara, (Papaveraceae). For healing wounds, the juice of stem is used twice a day for one week. Chhindi.

*Aristolochia indica* L.; (Aristolochiaceae). Root paste is applied as antidote in venomous insect bite. Jhiran.

*Barleria prionites* L.; Kantaphul, (Acanthaceae). Root and leaf paste is applied to disperse boils and glandular swellings. Chintipur.

*Bauhinia variegata* L.; Mohla, (Caesalpinaceae). The flower powder is used three times a day in haemorrhage, bark powder cures skin diseases. Chintipur.

*Blumea lacera* (Burm. f.) DC; Kukrondha, (Asteraceae). Plant juice is used to cure bleeding piles and diarrhoea. Sukhaband.

*Bombax ceiba* L.; Semal, (Bombacaceae). Resin powder is used thrice a day to cure diarrhoea. Chintipur.

*Cassytha filiformis* L.; (Lauraceae). Stem is powdered and mixed with *Sesamum* oil, it is used as hair tonic. Karrapani.

*Chlorophytum arundinaceum* Baker; Safed musli, (Liliaceae). The tuber is boiled with milk and is taken twice a day in cases of impotency. Chintipur.

*Hordeum vulgare* L.; Jau, (Poaceae). Parched and powdered grain is employed in the form of gruel in case of painful and atonic dyspepsia. Harrakacchar.

*Laggera alata* Schulz.; Sanpbuti, (Asteraceae). The leaf and root powder is taken thrice a day for one week in snakebite. Malni.

*Leucas aspera* (Willd.) Spreng.; (Lamiaceae). Flower with honey cures cough and cold in children; leaf juice is useful in skin eruption and painful swellings. Rater.

*Mitrgyna parviflora* (Roxb.) Korth.; Mundi, (Rubiaceae). Bark and roots for fever and colic pains. Jhiran.

*Opuntia stricta* var. *dillenii* (Ker.-Gawl.) Benson; (Cactaceae). Baked fruits are used in whooping cough, stem-joints paste in water as poultice in inflammation of joints; the paste when applied to boils, it hastens suppuration. Rater.

*Pergularia daemia* (Forsk.) Chiov.; (Asclepiadaceae). Leaf juice is useful in controlling excessive bleeding disorder. Dubba.

*Phragmites karka* (Retz.) Trin. ex Steud.; (Poaceae). Root paste is useful in fractured bone. Rater.

*Polygonum glabratum* Willd.; (Polygonaceae). Herb extract when taken thrice a day, pneumonia is cured. Rootstock is used to cure piles. Pachgol.

*Ricinus communis* L.; Arandi, Rendi, (Euphorbiaceae). Root paste is useful in curing eczema, skin diseases. Malni.

*Rivea hypocrateriformis* (Desr.) Choisy; Roots when inserted in vagina during childbirth, it cleans the womb. Karrapani.

*Swertia angustifolia* Buch. Ham. ex. D. Don; Chirayata (Gentiaceae). Plant decoction is used as tonic. It cures stomach disorder also. Harrakachhar.

*Tectona grandis* L.; Sagaun, (Verbanaceae). Wood extract is applied on swellings, wood ash in swollen eyelids. Chhindi.

*Tylophora indica* (Burm. f.) Merrill; Antamul, (Asclepiadaceae). Roots and leaves are used in treatment of dysentery, asthma and bronchitis. Rater.

*Vitex peduncularis* Wall. ex Schauer; Nagbail, (Verbanaceae). Bark paste is applied externally in chest pain, leaf infusion is used to cure malaria. Karrapani.

*Zizyphus mauritiana* Lamk.; Ber, (Rhamnaceae). Fruits have cooling effect, pulp is used as poultice in hard boils. Sukhaband.

*Zea mays* L. Sp.; Makka, (Poaceae). Grains nutritive, cooling. Chintipur.

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