

## Research Article

## Traditional Knowledge of Medicinal Plants Used for the Treatment of Skin Diseases in Nizamabad District, Andhra Pradesh

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### ABSTRACT

The present survey provides information on the therapeutic properties of 29 crude drugs used for by the natives of Nizamabad District. Of the Twenty nine species that presented here, 15 had not been previously reported. Information on botanical names, vernacular name, family, part used, mode of drug preparation and administration is provided.

**Keywords:** Skin disease, Indigenous folklore, Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh.

### INTRODUCTION

Nizamabad district is situated in the northern part of the Andhra Pradesh and is one of the 10 districts of Telangana region in the state of Andhra Pradesh. It lies between 18-5' and 19' of the northern latitudes, 77-40' and 78-37' of the eastern longitudes. The district is bounded on the North by Adilabad district, East Bay Karimnagar District, South by Medak district and West by Bidar District of Karnataka and Nanded district of Maharashtra. The geographical area is 7956 Sq. Km's i.e. 19,80,586 acres spread over 923 villages in 36 mandals. Major rivers, such as, Godavari and Manjeera crosses Nizamabad district with some other streams Kalyani, Kaulas, Peddavagu also exist in the district.

### Forests

The forest is covering an area of 1.67 lacs hectares (4,18,450 acres) forming 22% of the total geographical area of the district. The forests fall under the category of Southern Tropical dry deciduous type. Thick forest belt produces a major population of *Dalbergia*, *Tectona*, *Terminalia*, *Rhynchosia* species. The forest produce, which includes timber, fuel, bamboo and *Diospyros* leaves, yields good revenue. Mangoes and Custard apples grow well in the district.

### Forest Dwellers

As per 2001 census the total population of the district is 23.55 lacs. Of these tribal population is 1.65 Lacs. Lambada, Naikpod, Yerukalas are major tribal groups in the area. Of these, Lambada is found most abundant throughout the area. Besides these tribal groups, several

other communities are residing as forest dwellers.

### Methodology

For documentation of ethno-botanical information and collection of plant material, several tours were undertaken during the period 2009- 2012. Data presented here is based on personal observations and interviews with traditional healers (Viz. medicine men, hakims and old aged people) and methodology used is based on the methods available in literature (Jain 1989) and (Jain and Mudgal 1999).

Ethnobotanical information about skin disease gathered was documented in datasheets prepared. For collection of plant material, local informer accompanied to authors. Plant identification was done by using regional flora and flora of adjoining districts (Pullaih and Rao 1995), (Cooke 1958).

Plants used in skin disease were compared with major published literature (Ambasta 1992), (Anonymous 1948-1976), (Asolkar *et.al.* 1992), (Chopra *et. al.* 1956 & 1969), (Jain 1991), (Jain 1996), (Jain 1999), (Kapur 2001), (Kirtikar & Basu 1933), (Pradhan *et. al.* 2005), and (Sharma & Singh 2001).

Uses which are not mentioned in the literature are considered as uses less known in India and are marked by asterisks in the present paper.

### Enumeration

The present ethno-botanical explorations conducted in forest areas of Nizamabad resulted in the traditional plant uses in skin disease of 29 plant species belonging to 22 families. Following data includes botanical

name of the species, vernacular name, family, plant part used, method of preparation of medicine and mode of administration and details about its application.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The drug yielding plants was arranged in alphabetical order followed by botanical name, local name, family and mode of drug administration (Table 1).

Our taxonomic analysis of crude drugs yielded 29 species belonging to 22 families used for skin disease. Among them Fourteen viz; *Andrographis paniculata*, *Annona squamosa*,

*Artocarpus heterophyllus*, *Cassia absus*, *Cassia alata*, *Cassia tora*, *Cocculus hirsutus*, *Cordia dichotoma*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Mucuna pruriens*, *Solanum nigrum*, *Tabernaemontana divaricata*, *Thespesia populnea* and *Vitex negundo* had been previously reported for skin disease (Ambasta1992), (Anonymous 1948-1976), (Asolkar *et.al.* 1992), (Chopra *et. al.* 1956 & 1969), (Jain 1991), (Jain 1996), (Jain 1999), (Kapur 2001), (Kirtikar & Basu 1933), (Pradhan *et. al.* 2005) , (Sharma & Singh 2001) and (Prashantkumar & Vidyasagar 2008.)Information on the remaining 15 crude drugs was not found in the literature.

S. No.	Botanical Name	Family	Local Name	Uses
1.	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Uthareni	*Leaves crushed in cow urine and applied in black dots.
2.	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm. f.) Wall. ex Nees	Acanthaceae	Nelavemu	One tea spoon of leaf powder taken with water in curing skin diseases like scabies, ringworm and itch.
3.	<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	Annonaceae	Seethapalam	Leaf paste applied for treating ringworm & itch.
4.	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Lam.	Moraceae	Panasa	Paste of fruit epidermis applied externally on ringworm twice a day to cure.
5.	<i>Cassia absus</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Chanubala	Seed paste applied externally on Ringworm and itch.
6.	<i>Cassia alata</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Tamara chattu	Leaf paste applied for treating ring worm.
7.	<i>Cassia tora</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Tilasu, Tagirisa	Paste of roots with lemon juice applied externally on ringworm.
8.	<i>Cissus elongata</i> Roxb.	Vitaceae	Adavi draksha	*One tea cup extract of roots with <i>Phoenix sylvestris</i> toddy taken for skin disease 'Allergy' once a day for 3 days.
9.	<i>Cleome viscosa</i> L.	Capparaceae	Kukka vaminta	*Paste of leaves applied externally to cure on ringworm.
10.	<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (L.) Theob.	Minispermaceae	Dussara teega	Leaf paste applied twice a day until cure on ringworm.
11.	<i>Cordia dichotoma</i> Forst. f.	Boraginaceae	Iriki	50-60 ml extract of handful stem bark with 7 drops oil taken orally, another dose after an interval of 3 days, total 3 doses taken for cure scabies.
12.	<i>Cymbopogon citratus</i> (DC.) Stapf	Poaceae	Nimma gaddi	Paste of leaves with curd applied externally on Ringworm.
13.	<i>Emblica officinalis</i> Gaertn.	Euphorbiaceae	Usiri	*Fruits (1 to 2) and equal amount of jaggery crushed and 'Laddus' prepared, taken regularly for 25-30 days as anti-allergic.
14.	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L.	Moraceae	Ravi chettu	Latex applied on ring worm and boils.
15.	<i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i> L.	Malvaceae	Pulla kooru	*Paste of leaves applied externally on ringworm twice a day to cure.
16.	<i>Indoneesiella echioides</i> (L.) Sreem	Acanthaceae	Noogu nelavemu	*Leaf paste applied externally on ringworm and itch twice a day until cure.
17.	<i>Ipomoea nil</i> (L.) Roth	Convolvulaceae	Katuka gingalu	*Seeds paste applied externally on ring worm and skin diseases to cure.
18.	<i>Jasminum officinale</i> L.	Oleaceae	Jaji malli	*Leaves and flowers crushed and paste applied externally on ring worm twice a day for 7 days.
19.	<i>Launaea procumbens</i> (Roxb.) Ramaya & Rajgopal	Asteraceae	Nela eurusu	* Leaf paste applied externally on skin disease twice a day for 6 days.
20.	<i>Lepidagathis cristata</i> Willd.	Acanthaceae	Nakka pindi gadda	*Ash of inflorescence with oil applied externally to cure black patches on face.
21.	<i>Leucas aspera</i> (Willd.) Link	Lamiaceae	Tummi	*60-70 ml extract of leaves taken orally once a day for 5-8 days for skin disease.
22.	<i>Mucuna pruriens</i> (L.) DC.	Fabaceae	Dulagondi	Root extract with cow milk is taken orally for skin diseases like ring worm and scabies.
23.	<i>Passiflora foetida</i> L.	Passifloraceae	Gajuteega	*Fine paste of leaves applied externally for 5 days for treating ringworm.
24.	<i>Sansevieria roxburghiana</i> Schult. & Schult.	Agavaceae	Chaganara	*Leaf paste with <i>Curcuma longa</i> turmeric powder applied externally twice a day to cure for treating Itch.
25.	<i>Sesbania grandiflora</i> (L.) Poir.	Fabaceae	Avisa chettu	*Leaf paste with coconut oil applied externally for treating itch.
26.	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Nalla buddakashi	Leaf paste applied on ring worm and itch
27.	<i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i> (L.) R. Br.	Apocynaceae	Nandivardhana mu	1 teaspoon powder of its root powder taken orally once a day for 31 days for treating skin disease.

28.	<i>Thespesia populnea</i> (L.) Soland. ex Corr.	Malvaceae	Gangaravi	Seed paste applied externally twice a day for 7 days for treating ringworm.
29.	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Vavili	Leaf juice applied externally to cure ringworm and itch.

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