



Ethnomedicinal studies of mangroves of Coringa wild life sanctuary, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, India

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Abstract

The present report describes medicinal uses of mangroves of coringa wild life sanctuary used by the local people of coringa village, East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh, India. Information collected through a survey of seven plant species used for various ailments, aches and disorders with their botanical name, family name, vernacular name, habit and mode of administration have been enumerated.

Key-Words: Coringa, Mangroves, Ethno medicine, East Godavari District

Introduction

Mangroves are salt-tolerant forest ecosystem of tropical and subtropical intertidal regions of world. They normally occur between high water level and near about mean sea level along the sheltered shores, estuaries, tidal creeks, back-water lagoons, marshes and mud-flats, where conditions favour the mangroves to form extensive and productive rest in the sheltered coastal lines. The mangroves contain a highly specialized community of plants associated with animal species which are not capable of surviving in any other situations.

Mangroves occur in Andhra Pradesh in estuaries of Krishna and Godavari rivers. Andhra Pradesh has got an area of 582 sq. km. of mangrove forests, accounting for about 9% of total forest area of the state, which amounts to just about 2% of the total geographical area of the state. Even the entire land under mangroves do not contain fully the mangrove vegetation. The area includes forest of open blanks, sandy patches and mud-flats. The district wise distribution of mangrove forests are as , East Godavari district (33.266 areas in ha.), Krishna district (16.463 areas in ha.), Guntur district (8.490 areas in ha.). Previous reports only described the structure and species distribution in coringa mangrove forest¹. In the present paper, an attempt has been made to document the list of mangrove plants from coring wild life sanctuary used in ethno-medicine in East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh, India.

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Description of study area

Coringa sanctuary, named after a tiny village coringa in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh, India. Coringa wildlife sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary and estuary situated in Andhra Pradesh, India^{2,3}. It is the second largest surviving stretch of mangrove forests in India with 35 species that belong to a group of 24 families. Coringa wildlife sanctuary is located 18km from the port city kakinada, on the kakinada- yanam state highway, nestling on the deltaic branches of gouthami and godavari rivers at kakinada bay. The sanctuary is a part of the godavari estuary and has extensive mangrove and dry deciduous tropical forest. A part of Godavari Mangroves was declared as a wild life sanctuary by Government of Andhra Pradesh vides G.O.Ms.No:-484, Forest and Rural Development (For.III) Department dated 5-7-1978 it's to conserve the mangrove vegetation. It consist area of about 235.70Sq.kms. It is located 16-30' to 17-00' North latitudes and 82-14' to 82-23' Eastern longitudes.

Methodology

Field trips were conducted from February 2012 through January 2013 in parts Coringa wild life sanctuary of East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh, India. Collection data included local name, plant part used and mode of administration. The information was given by Local rural people and who are the *Vaidhya* or elderly village people in this district, Fishermen communities living near the coringa Forest, and who have knowledge about folk medicines.

At the time, actual applications were also observed during the field work. Herbarium Voucher specimens are deposited in Department of Botany, Government

Degree College, Mandapeta East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, India. The plant species are enumerated alphabetically by family followed by their Local names and uses.

Results and Discussion

In the present account, 7 species of angiosperms belonging to 5 families are reported (Table 1). They are used as ethnomedicines for various several diseases like snakebite, stomachache, joint pains, asthma, urinary disorders, etc. by employing the leaf preparations in the form of extracts, pastes, juices, etc. Other common diseases and health complaints like fever, stomachache, skin diseases, are cured by using the different modes of preparations of various plants found in the coringa wild life sanctuary. Present investigation indicates that mangrove plants that grow in the coringa wild life sanctuary are used to cure various ailments, diseases. The present study will give new incentive to the folklore medicine.

Acknowledgement

The authors are grateful to the local herbalists of thallarevu, coringa village of east Godavari district who whole heartily co-operated in sharing their knowledge and in helping the collection of the plant material for study. Thanks to the FRO, Coringa wild life sanctuary of Kakinada division; Principal, Government Degree College, Mandapeta. and students of B.Sc (BZC).

References

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Table1: Ethnomedicinal uses of mangrove plants in coringa wild life sanctuary, East Godavari district

Sl. No.	Plant Name / Family	Local Name	Habit	Medicinal value
1.	<i>Avicennia alba</i> Bl. (Avicenniaceae)	<i>Vilvamada</i>	Tree	Stem extract and Resinous substances uses for birth control.
2.	<i>Avicennia officinalis</i> . L (Avicenniaceae)	<i>Nallamada</i>	Tree	Tree bark used for Snake bite, Leaf past used for joint pains, knee pains, stomach disorders, asthma, and smallpox sores and urinary disorders.
3.	<i>Clerodendron inerme</i> Gaertn. (Verbanaceae)	<i>Fensing chettu, Prahari chettu</i>	Shrub	Leaf paste used skin diseases, and joint pains. Leaves are used for controlling joint pains.
4.	<i>Excoecaria agallocha</i> L. (Euphorbiaceae)	<i>Tilla</i>	Tree	Leaves and stem controlling stomachache, skin diseases and Loose motions
5.	<i>Ceriops decondra</i> (Griffith) Ding Hou (Rhizophoraceae)	<i>Thogaru</i>	Shrub	Stem used to tooth brush and relief from toothache.
6.	<i>Rhizophora conjugata</i> . L (Rhizophoraceae)	<i>Ponna, Uppa ponna</i>	Tree	Stem bark extract is used for control vomiting and diarrhoea.
7.	<i>Bruguiera gymmorhiza</i> Lamk. (Rhizophoraceae)	<i>Oorudu</i>	Tree/Shrub	Leaves contain alkaloids that are tumours inhibitors. The whole plant decoction is given twice daily after meals to relieve constipation.