

ETHNOVETERINARY PRACTICES IN ARJINI/MOR TALUKA OF GONDIA DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Indigenous communities of Arjuni/Mor Taluka possess ethnoveterinary knowledge about usage of plants and plant products. They depend on traditional animal healthcare practices due to inadequate advanced animal healthcare facilities in rural area.

A total number of 52 ethnoveterinary medicinal plant species under 51 genera belonging to 37 families are used to cure 23 different diseases in the study area. Caesalpiniaceae, Fabaceae, Mimosaceae and Solanaceae were the dominant families with 3 species each and in life form category herbs stand dominant with 20 species followed by trees (16 species), shrubs (10 species) and Climbers (06 species) respectively. Leaf is the most frequently used plant part for medicinal purposes. 31(59.61%) of the ethnoveterinary plants showed a use value (UV) of equals to or more than 0.50. This indicates the high acceptance of these plants in the primary healthcare of domestic animals.

Keywords: Indigenous, Healthcare, Ethnoveterinary, Domestic animals.

INTRODUCTION

Ethnoveterinary knowledge is the investigation of the plants used by traditional healers in preventing and treating animal diseases, fractures, wounds, in encouraging fertility, productivity, appetite, and so forth. Ethnoveterinary medicine covers peoples knowledge, skills, methods, practices and beliefs about the care of their animals (Mc Corkle, 1986).

This traditional knowledge plays a crucial role in establishing sustainable relationship between man and nature (Wath and Jambu, 2014). Ethnoveterinary medicine often provides cheaper options than comparable western drugs, and the products are locally available and more easy to handy without any side effect (Zschocke et al., 2000; Masika et al., 2000; Tabuti et al., 2003; Yineger et al., 2007; Kone and Atindehou,

2008). May be therefore the dependence of rural mass on the plant based medicines for treating animal is observed which has forced the scientific community to search some promising answers in this direction (Maydeel, 1990).

The characteristics, complexity and intensity of the Ethnoveterinary systems vary greatly among individuals, societies, and regions. Hence, documentation of Ethnoveterinary medicine from regions having a rich ethnographic and biodiversity setting would be of great significance (Gadpayale et al., 2014). Despite the fact that Ethnoveterinary medicine has been very crucial for the animal healthcares of most developing countries, it has not yet been well documented and much effort is needed in research and integration activities in these countries (Yineger et al., 2007). This

knowledge is disappearing rapidly due to socio-economic, environmental and technological changes. Now a time, the young generation is not showing interest in conserving this knowledge therefore, it becomes essential to document it before vanishing (Marathe and Deshmukh, 2020). The traditional healers also continued to depend completely on forests and common natural resources to access the plant materials and expressed deep concern over the fact that many of the plants they needed were becoming scarce. (Ghotge and Ramdas, 2008). Keeping the aforesaid facts in view, the present study was undertaken to record and explore the knowledge of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants used by the traditional healers as prominent alternative medicine for cattle to cure various diseases in the study area.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study area

Gondia district is situated on north-eastern side of Maharashtra State and shares the state borders with Madhya Pradesh on north and Chattisgarh in east. It covers an area of about 5859 sq.km and lies between 20°39 and 21°38 north latitudes and 79° 52' to 80°42 east longitudes. This study was conducted in 12 villages in Arjuni/Mor Taluka of Gondia district, Maharashtra state, India. Surban, Bondgaon, Gothangaon, Pratapgad, Navegaon, Dewalgaon, Khairi, Morgiaon, Sukadi, Dabhana, Tidka and Kesori are the villages in study area (Fig.1). All these villages are surrounded by dense forest.

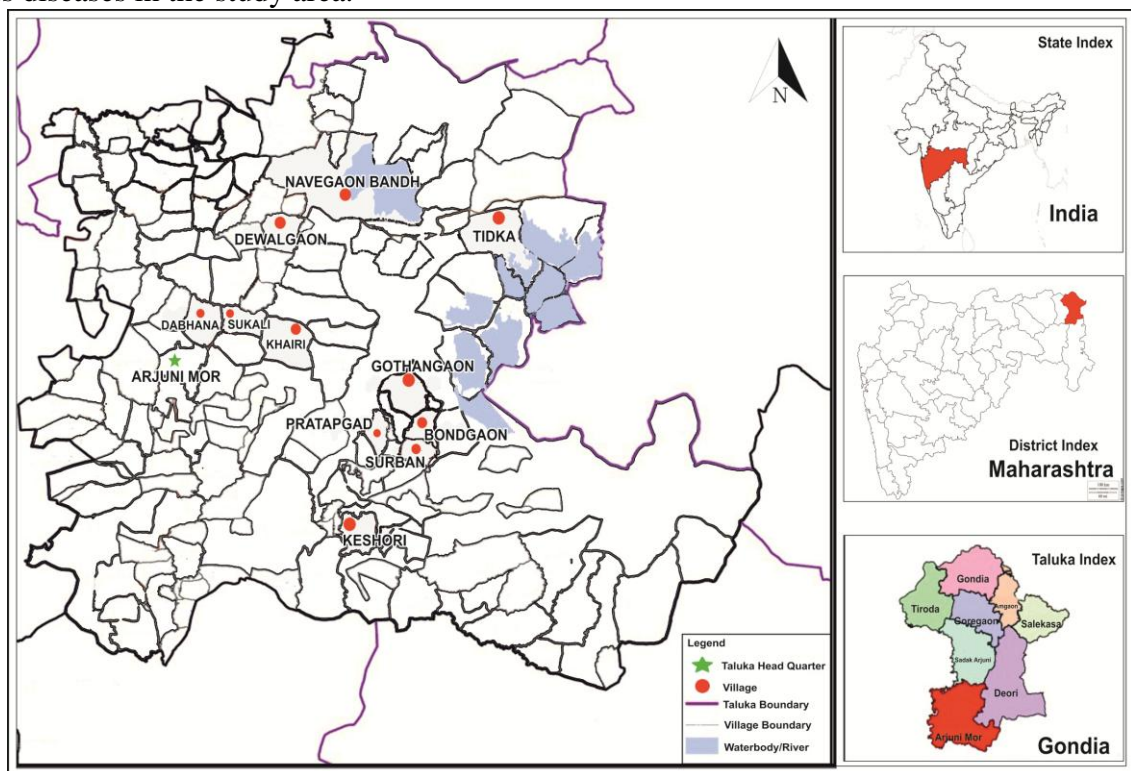


Fig 1: Map of Arjuni/Mor. Taluka of Gondia district, Maharashtra state, India.

Ethnic background of study site

Gondia district was under the privilege of 'Gond Raja'. Most of the village habitants of Arjuni/Mor taluka belong to Gond tribes

which is second largest tribe in India (Choubey, 2013). According to the the survey of census during 2011 by Indian Government, total population of the

Arjuni/Mor Taluka is 148265. Out of which total scheduled tribes are 33201 comprising 22.39% of total population. The Gond tribes belonging to the minor communities are among the least advanced socially and economically. However, they harbor a lot of knowledge on ethnoveterinary medicinal plants. The whole study area is blessed by nature with its diversified and rich flora including natural tourist places like Navegaon Bandh National Park and Bird Sanctuary, Itiyadoh Dam, Pratapgarh Temple and Nagzira National Park.

Data collection

The present study was carried out during 2017-2019. Information on ethnoveterinary medicinal plant species is collected by ethnobotanical field survey and interviews among old tribal peoples, traditional healers and practitioners. The field survey covered different seasons. Plant samples were collected and photographed from their natural habitat and identified with the help of floras (Cook, 1958; Ugemuge,1986; Sharma,1996; Singh,2001).

Ethnobotanical information was collected by using a semi structured questionnaire

developed by Jain (1989). A total of 36 inhabitants have been interviewed. The ages of the participants range from 34 to 81 (Table 1). Notes were recorded on local names, useful plant parts, and their utilization by showing photographs of some collected specimens to informants and local peoples. The identified plants are arranged alphabetically with Scientific name, family names, local names, life form, useful plant parts, diseases for which used, mode of treatment and use value (UV) (Table 2).

Use value (UV)

The use-value (UV) for each species was used to calculate the citation of plants during interviews, proposed by Phillips et al. (1994) and adapted by Ferreira et al. (2009). It is calculated as follows:

$$UV = \frac{\sum U}{n}$$

Where ‘U’ is the sum of the total number of use citations by all informants for a given species, divided by the total number of informants (n). This method evaluates the relative importance of each plant species based on its relative use among informants and does not depend on the opinion of the researcher (Ferreira et al., 2009).

Table.1.

Characteristics of the study sample, N = 36.

Socio-economic variables		Number	%
Gender	Female	0	0
	Male	36	100
Age (years)	26-35	1	2.78
	36-45	6	16.67
	46-55	12	33.33
	56-65	10	27.78
	66-75	5	13.89
	76-85	2	5.56

Table. 2. List of Ethnoveterinary plants used by tribal and local people of study area.

Scientific name	Family	Local name	Life form	Useful plant parts.	Diseases for which used	Mode of treatment	UV
<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Fabaceae	Gunja	Herb	Seeds, Leaves	Stomach problems, Swellings.	Seed powder is given orally. Leaf paste is applied on swellings.	0.44
<i>Abutilon manihot</i> (L.) Medik	Malvaceae	Ranbhendi	Shrub	Fruits	Blood dysentery	Powder of 2-3 dried fruits with Nilgiri (<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>) is given orally.	0.50
<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L) Willd.	Mimosaceae	Babhul	Tree	Leaves	Mouth ulcer	Paste of Fresh leaves with chicken egg white applied on ulcer.	0.67
<i>Acanthospermum hispidum</i> DC.	Asteraceae	Bokharu	Herb	Leaves	Worms in wounds	Leaf ash is applied on wounds.	0.72
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Aghada	Herb	Leaves	Eyes problems.	Leaf extract is pour in eyes.	0.81
<i>Adhatoda vasica</i> Nees	Acanthaceae	Adulsa	Shrub	Leaves, Stem	Fever	Decoction of leaf and stem are given orally	0.72
<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr.	Rutaceae	Bel	Tree	Leaves	Worms in wounds	Leaf paste is applied on wounds.	0.58
<i>Aerva lanata</i> (L.) Juss.	Amaranthaceae	Safed-phuli	Herb	Leaves	Fever	Leaves given to eat.	0.42
<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> Roxb.	Simaroubaceae	Maharukh	Tree	Stem	Enteritis	Stem is given to eat.	0.50
<i>Allium sativum</i> Linn.	Amaryllidaceae	Lasun	Herb	Bulb	Pneumonia	Extract of heated bulb pour in nose.	0.86
<i>Ampelocissus latifolia</i> (Roxb.) Planch.	Vitaceae	Randraksha	Shrub	Fruit	Flatulence	Fruit-powder mixed with fodder is given to eat	0.19
<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> Nees.	Acanthaceae	Bhuineemb	Herb	Entire Plant	Fever and cough	Decoction of whole plant is given orally	0.89
<i>Annona squamosa</i> L.	Annonaceae	Sitaphal	Shrub	Leaves	Worms in wounds.	Leaf powder is applied on wounds.	0.61
<i>Aristolochia bracteolata</i> Lam.	Aristolochiaceae	Kidmari	Herb	Leaves	Skin infection	Leaf paste mixed with pepper and ginger is applied on infected site.	0.61
<i>Asparagus racemosus</i> Willd	Liliaceae	Shatavari, Marbat	Herb	Root	To longer lactation period	Root powder mixed with safflower cake is given orally.	0.67
<i>Azadirachta</i>	Meliaceae	Kadunimb	Tree	Leaves	Skin	Leaf paste mixed	0.83

<i>indica</i> A. Juss.					infection.	with pepper and ginger is applied on infected site.	
<i>Balanites aegyptiaca</i> (Linn.) Del.	Balanitaceae	Hinganbet	Tree	Fruit	Tympany	Fruit powder is applied on head	0.42
<i>Bambax ceiba</i> L.	Bombacaceae	Kathesawar	Tree	Stem	Dysentery.	Bark powder is given to eat	0.53
<i>Caesalpinia decapetala</i> (Rothl)	Caesalpiniaceae	Sagargoti	Shrub	Leaves	Enteritis	Leaves given to eat.	0.64
<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> L.	Asclepediaceae	Rui	Shrub	Latex	Skin infection	leaf latex is applied on wounds and infected parts.	0.39
<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i> L.	Sapindaceae	Kapalphuti	Climber	Leaves	Fever	Paste of leaf, pepper and garlic is given to eat.	0.44
<i>Cassia fistula</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Bahava	Tree	Stem, Fruit	Fever, Gastric Problems	Paste of stem, fruit, pepper and garlic is given to eat.	0.44
<i>Cassia tora</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Tarota	Herb	Seed	Skin infection	Seed paste is applied on infected parts.	0.56
<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> G. Don.	Apocynaceae	Jagannath, Sadafuli	Herb	Leaves	Dog bite.	Paste of fresh leaves mixed with lemon juice is applied on wounds.	0.63
<i>Choroxyton swietenia</i> DC.	Rutaceae	Bhera	Tree	Leaves	Mouth infection.	Leaf extract is applied on mouth.	0.52
<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L.	Vitaceae	Haddijod	Climber	Stem	Bone fracture.	Stem banded to fractured parts.	0.69
<i>Clitoria biflora</i> L.	Fabaceae	Gokarn	Climber	Entire Plant	Ticks and lice	Extract of the plant is used.	0.25
<i>Commelina forskalaei</i> Vahl.	Commelinaceae	Keri	Herb	Entire plant.	Cough.	Paste of a plant and turmeric is given orally.	0.19
<i>Coriandrum sativum</i> L.	Apiaceae	Sambhar, Kothambir	Herb	Entire plant.	Warms in Foot and Mouth.	Plant extract is applied on foot and mouth.	0.58
<i>Curcuma aromatica</i>	Zingiberaceae	Halad	Herb	Rhizome	Wounds and cuts, Skin infection	Rhizome powder is applied on the wounds and infected parts.	0.92
<i>Datura metel</i> L.	Solanaceae	Dhotra	Shrub	Fruit	Dysentery and cough	Roasted fruits are given orally	0.58
<i>Eclipta prostrata</i> (L.) L.	Asteraceae	Bhrungaraj	Herb	Root	Wounds and cuts	Root paste applied on wounds and cuts.	0.31

<i>Ficus bengalensis</i> L.	Moraceae	Wad	Tree	Leaves	Bone Fracture	Leaf rubbed with oil gently warmed on flame is banded to fractured parts.	0.50
<i>Gloriosa superba</i> L.	Colchicaceae	Kallawi	Herb	Rhizome	Wound	Rhizome mix with wheat flour is applied on wounds.	0.50
<i>Grewia hirsuta</i>	Tiliaceae	Ghoturli	Herb	Roots	Cough and wounds.	Root paste is given orally.	0.33
<i>Helicteres isora</i> L.	Sterculiaceae	Muradsheng	Tree	Fruit	Dysentery	Fruit Paste in lemon juice is given orally.	0.52
<i>Ipomea hederacea</i> Jacq.	Convolvulaceae	Godhan	Climber	Stem	Wounds	Paste of stem is applied on wounds.	0.42
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L.	Linaceae	Jawas	Herb	Seeds	Tympany	Linseed oil given in food.	0.47
<i>Melia azadirachta</i> L.	Meliaceae	Bakan	Tree	Leaves	Enteritis, Tympany	Leaves given to eat.	0.50
<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L.	Mimosaceae	Lajalu	Herb	Leaves	Fever	Paste of leaf, pepper, garlic and onion is given to eat.	0.36
<i>Momordica diocia</i> Roxb.	Cucurbitaceae	Katwal	Climber	Rhizome	Black quarter	Extract of rhizome and tobacco is given to drink.	0.22
<i>Pergularia extensa</i> (Forssk.)	Asclepiadaceae	Utaranvel	Climber	Leaves	Conjunctivitis	Leaf juice is applied on the eyes	0.33
<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> L.	Fabaceae	Karanji	Tree	Leaves	Fever, Dysentery	Leaf and pepper paste is given orally.	0.75
<i>Psidium guava</i> L.	Myrtaceae	Peru	Tree	Leaves	Enteritis	Leaves given to eat	0.28
<i>Ricinus communis</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Erandi	Shrub	Leaves	Wound, Indigestion	Leaf paste is applied on wounds, and given orally for indigestion.	0.72
<i>Rumex nepalensis</i> Spreng	Polygonaceae	Ranpalak	Herb	Root	Food poisoning	Root juice is given orally.	0.22
<i>Salanum xanthocarpu</i> m Schrad & Wend	Solanaceae	Dorali	Herb	Fruit	Fever	Decoction of fresh boiled unripe fruits is given orally.	0.19
<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i> L.f.	Anacardiaceae	Bibba	Tree	Fruit	Mouth & Foot diseases.	Paste of Fruits, Coriander and asafoetida is applied on infected parts.	0.56
<i>Tamarandus indica</i>	Mimosaceae	Chinch	Tree	Leaves, Fruit	Stomach and	Leaves and Fruits are mixed with	0.72

					digestive problems.	fodder and given orally.	
<i>Terminalia bellirica</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb	Solanaceae	Behada	Tree	Stem	Dysentery.	Stem decoction with Eucalyptus oil is given orally.	0.44
<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Nirgudi	Shrub	Leaves	Muscular pain.	Warm extract of leaf is applied on muscles.	0.50
<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i> (L.) Kurz.	Lythraceae	Dhayati, Dhak	Shrub	Flower	Dysentery.	Flower extract with stem extract of <i>Azadirachta indica</i> is given to drink.	0.28

Table 3: Life form /Habit wise distribution of Ethnoveterinary plants in study area

Sr.No	Habit	No. of plants	%
1.	Herb	20	38.46
2.	Shrub	10	19.23
3.	Tree	16	30.76
4.	Climber	06	11.53

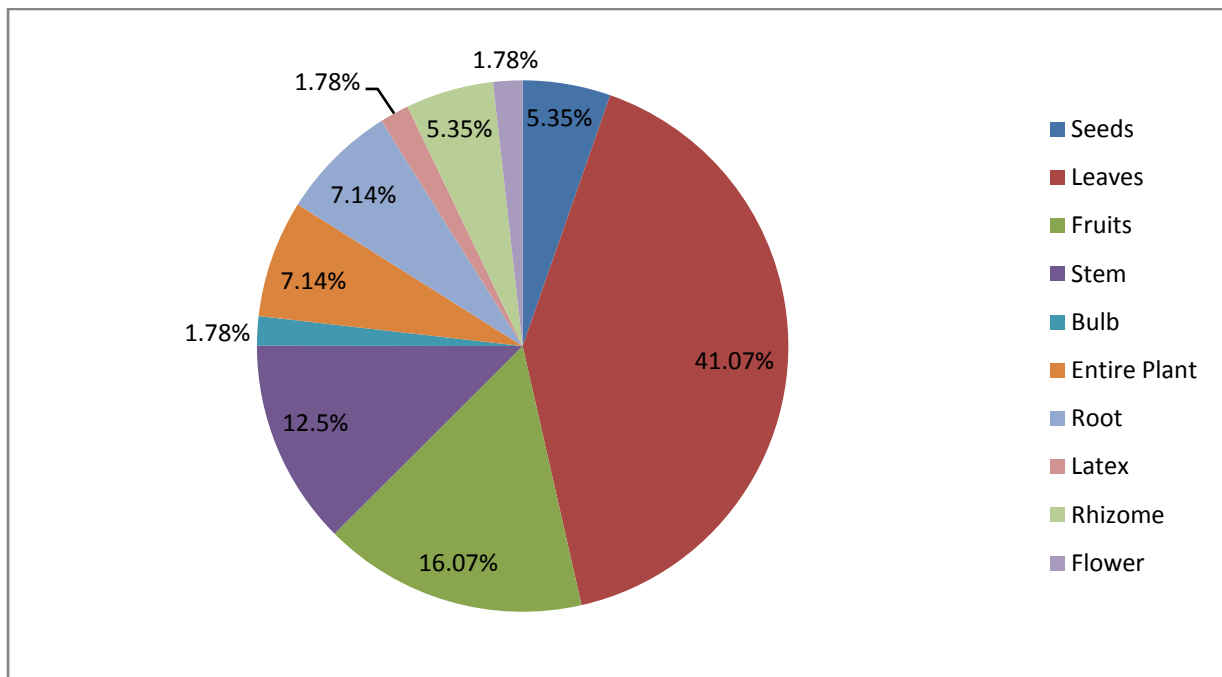


Fig.2: Classification of Ethnoveterinary plants on the basis of plant parts used.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A present study was undertaken to identify and document the ethnoveterinary

medicinal plants in Arjuni/Mor Taluka of Gondia district, Maharashtra state, India. A total number of 52 ethnoveterinary medicinal plants from 37 families

belonging to 51 genera were recorded. Among the 37 families, the most widely utilized plant species belong to Caesalpiniaceae, Fabaceae, Mimosaceae and Solanaceae with 3 species each followed by Acanthaceae, Amaranthaceae, Asclepiaceae, Asteraceae, Meliaceae, Rutaceae and Vitaceae with 2 species each, and the rest of the twenty six families with single species (Table.2).

Many researchers also recorded the dominance of Caesalpiniaceae, Fabaceae, Mimosaceae and Solanaceae among ethnoveterinary medicinal plants (Prasanna and Vishnuvardhan., 2017; Gadpayale et al., 2014; Deshmukh et al., 2011; Patil and Patil., 2001; Patil and Patil., 2013). Dhore and Undal (2017) have also recorded that the species under the Euphorbiaceae, Asteraceae, Solanaceae, Convolvulaceae, Poaceae, Fabaceae, Amaranthaceae, Caesalpiniaceae, Mimosaceae and Tiliaceae families are frequently used as medicinal plants.

A total of 36 informants (at age of 28 to 83), having rich knowledge and experience of the use of ethnoveterinary medicinal flora were interviewed (Table 1). 46-55 year age group were dominant (33.33%) among the informants. The observations from the study show that the traditional knowledge about medicinal plants and their uses was declining day by day among the younger generation. The same observation was made by Wath and Jambu (2014); Marathe and Deshmukh (2020).

While analyzing the life forms, it was noticed that 20 species were herbs, 16 trees, 10 shrubs and the remaining 6 were climbers (Table.3). Several researchers also found similar results with this study regarding the dominance of herbaceous plants in the Ethnoveterinary uses (Reang et al., 2016; Pranjale and Dube., 2016).

These ethnoveterinary medicinal plants in the study area were used to cure about 23

different ailments of livestock like wounds, dysentery, fever, cough, skin infections, enteritis, mouth and foot infection, stomach problems, tympany, bone fracture, black quarter, conjunctivitis etc. Ramalah and Patil (2005); Pawar and Vidhyamandirs (2020); Mishra (2011); Bharali et al.(2015); Kamble and Kulkarni (2016) also reported the same ailment categories in different parts of India. Tribal and local peoples in study area uses different preparation methods i.e. decoction, extract, juice, powder, infusion, paste and Oil.

The parts of the plants used for medicinal purposes were stem, leaf, root, fruit, seed, entire plant, rhizome, bulb, flower and latex. Among the total plant parts leaves were the most frequently used plant parts (23 spp.) followed by fruit (9 spp.), stem (7 spp.), Entire plant (4 spp.), root (4 spp.), seed and rhizome(3 spp. each), bulb, flower and latex (1 spp. each) (Fig.2., Table 2). Leaves and roots were the most preferred plant parts as they contain a high concentration of the bioactive compounds (Ullah et al. 2013). In India the principal use of leaves was reported by many researchers (Somkuwar et al. 2015; Hema et al. 2016; Swaminathan et al. 2016; Nigam and Sharma., 2010; Sehgal and Sood., 2013).

From this study, it was confirmed that the aerial part of the plant is the most preferred plant parts (78.57%) than that of the underground and whole plant parts (21.43%). Ethnoveterinary medicinal plants in life form category herbs stand dominant with 20 species followed by trees (16 spp.), shrubs (10 spp.) and Climbers (06 spp.) respectively. This study result shows coherence with the study conducted by Pranjale and Dube (2016). Showkat et al.(2013); Galav et al.(2013); Dhore and Undal (2017) are also recorded predominant use of herbs, trees, shrubs and climbers as ethnoveterinary medicinal plants.

The use value of the plant was appraised to study the importance of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants used in the study area. The plants with high use value indicate the frequent use whereas the low use value indicates least prefer. It is observed that about 31 plant species (59.61%) show the use value of more than 0.50 (Table 2). This result shows that tribal and local peoples in study area used these plants frequently for curing various ailments of domestic animals. The present study reported *Curcuma aromatic* has the highest use value (0.92), followed by *Andrographis paniculata* (0.89), *Allium sativum* (0.86), *Azadirachta indica* (0.83) and *Achyranthes aspera* (0.81). The lowest use value reported species are *Salanum xanthocarpum*, *Commelina forskalaei* and *Ampelocissus latifolia* with use value 0.19 each. Several researchers have reported the use of *Curcuma aromatic* in a different treatments such as wounds, cuts and skin infection (Hema et al., 2016; Reang et al., 2016; Mishra., 2011; Bhatt et al., 2019; Phondani et al., 2010).

Several plants are already examined for their pharmacological activity, but further research on many more plant species are needed to test them for phytochemical and pharmacological importance.

CONCLUSION

Live stocks play an important role in tribal culture and livelihood. This study revealed that most of the tribal and local peoples in and around the study area use plants for their ethnoveterinary medicinal practices due to the unavailability of modern ethnoveterinary medicinal facilities. Inhabitants of study area were using 52 ethnoveterinary medicinal plants belong to 37 different families. The use value of 31 plant species is more than 0.50. This imply that study area have rich diversity of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants and populace had great traditional knowledge

regarding the uses of these plants. This knowledge survived by being passed from word of mouth but get vanishing very rapidly because young generation does not take interest in such practices. Therefore it is necessary to record such type of valuable verbal information before it get lost forever. This traditional knowledge of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants is a potential source to discover new drugs and will be helpful for further phytochemical and pharmacological investigation of new bioactive compounds for the treatment of various ailments.

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