

# Ethnomedicinal Uses of Asteraceae Taxa as Traditional Medicine in Davipatan Division of U.P.

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**Abstract-** *Traditional medicine plays an important role in health care provision in the developing countries. The aim of the present investigation was to document the indigenous medicinal plants traditionally used by Tharu tribe of Davipatan division of U.P. to treat various diseases. The present paper deals the medicinal use of plants belonging to family Asteraceae growing in Gonda, Balrampur, Shravasti and Bahraich districts of U.P. Total 14 common species belonging to 10 genera of family Asteraceae were reported in these districts of U.P.*

**Indexed Terms-** *Ethnobotany, Tharu, Asteraceae,*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Therapeutic use of plants and their products as traditional medicines has been common since time immemorial by the people all over the world and the people of India too. The tribal medicine of India, particularly, the local health traditions and the written traditions such as Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Amchi utilizes a large number of medicinal plants and animals products in the preparation of curative, protective and preventive medicines. Medicinal and ethnomedicinal plants are widely used in worldwide in numerous disciplines of healthcare from thousand years. Ethnobotany, a modern branch of plant science, is very old in concept but is new in its execution. Ethnobotany study highlights how the plants found in tribal areas and their communities could be conserved and utilized for the betterment of tribal races who exploit nature for their survival (Singh *et al.*, 2019). Ethnobotany is a multidisciplinary science defined as the interaction between plants and people. The relationship between plants with human cultures is not limited to the use of plants for food, clothing and shelter but also includes their use for religious ceremonies, ornamentation and health care (Schultes, 1992; Singh *et al.*, 2018). It plays an important role in maintaining the health of mankind and there are so

many ethno- medicinal plants which plays significant role in the manufacturing of herbal medicine. The Indian sub-continent ranks first amongst 12 mega phyto biodiversity countries of the world and consisting more than 17,000 flowering plant species. This comprises nearly 8% of the global biodiversity with only 2.4% of total land or plant cultivation suited area in the world (Reddy, 2008; Sumeet, *et al.*, 2010). In present paper an attempt has been made to document the taxa belonging to family Asteraceae as well as their ethno medicinal use from Davipatan division of U.P.

## II. MATERIAL AND METHODS

An extensive survey was made in Tribal belts of Davipatan division of Eastern Uttar Pradesh covering number of villages of Gonda, Balrampur, Shravasti and Bahraich districts. The ethnomedicinal information and associated folk claims were collected either by personal contact with local healers, village headmen, elder person of various tribal communities (Tharu) of this area. Information of aboriginals was collected from District Officers and Block Development Officers regarding their location, population and social structure. Interviews were arranged through the help of senior persons of the communities. In each and every district, the different tribes were interviewed from as many localities as possible to obtain accurate and elaborate information regarding the drugs derived from various species of plants, mode of their application and therapeutic used in cancer disease. Field visits were also carried out to collect claimed plants for identification purpose. Whenever language difficulty arose, the services of interpreters were utilized.

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The 55-65 years old people of tharu community was interviewed and the information regarding indigenous

medicinal plants belonging to family Asteraceae used against different types of diseases. The different plants and their parts used by tribal people to make their medicinal products for treating the various diseases are given in the Table 1. It has been observed that 14

species belonging to 10 genera of family Asteraceae commonly grow in district of Balrampur, Gonda, Shravasti and Bahraich districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh (Table. 1) .

Table 1. Medicinal plants belonging to family Asteraceae and traditionally used by tribal population of Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

S.N	Botanical name (Common name) / Habit	Part Used	Medicinal use
1.	<i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> Linn. (Gandhili, Neela Phool)/ Herb	Leaves, Flowers, Stem,	Hypolipidemic; Leaves and flower extract is used as an antidote for snake bite, to cure anal itching in children, cure hair fall problem. Decoction or infusion used in diarrhoea, dysentery, rheumatism and fever.
2.	<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i> Mill. (Neela mink)/ Herb	Plant Juice	Fresh juice is applied to cuts and wounds.
3.	<i>Artemisia scoparia</i> Waldst. & Kit. (Seeta-Bani)/ Herb	Flowers	Used as purgative, flowers yields oil.
4.	<i>Blumea lacera</i> (Burm. f.) DC.	Leaves	Decoction of plant has antihelmenthic properties; leaves paste used to stop external bleeding as well as excessive bleeding during delivery.
5.	<i>Blumea laciniata</i> (Roxb.) DC./ Herb	Root, Leaves	Powdered root paste is used as an antidote for snake bite. Leaves juice applied superficially on bitten portion.
6.	<i>Eclipta alba</i> (Linn.) Hassk. (Bhringraj) / Herb	Stem extract, Leaf extract	Hypolipidemic; Plant extract helps in promoting hair growth and urinary tract infections, skin diseases. Plant Juice also has property to cure jaundice issue in children.
7.	<i>Launaea procumbens</i> (Roxb.) Ram. (Van-Gobhi) / Herb	Whole Plant	Plant is good fodder; also used in curries
8.	<i>Parthenium hysterophorus</i> Linn. (Congress-grass)/ Herb	Whole Plant	Used as an analgesic, to treat urinary tract infection, diarrhoea, dysentery. Also have strong allelopathy effect.
9.	<i>Sonchus brachyotus</i> DC. (Dodak)/ Herb	Plant latex, Root	Latex are used to treat eye problems and roots are used to treat cough and asthma.
10.	<i>Sonchus asper</i> (Linn.) Hill (Kali-jibbi)/ Herb	Stem, leaves	Good substitute of salad; chopped plant applied to wound and cuts.
11.	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> Linn. (Aakadiyo)/ Herb	Root	Root is used to cure ulcer and wounds and also helpful to treat digestive problems.
12.	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> Linn. (Sda-hari)/ Herb	Leaves	Antithrombic; Plant used to treat toothache. Leaves paste applied in treatment of boils.
13.	<i>Vernonia cinerea</i> (Linn.) Less. (Sadodi)/ Herb	Root, Leaves	Root and leaves are used to treat kidney problems, fever, and stomach discomfort.
14.	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> Linn. (Bharut)/ Shrub	Fruit	Fruits relieve constipation, helps in leprosy, rheumatoid arthritis and diarrhoea.

The members of family Asteraceae have multiple utility in curing various ailments and diseases including not only skin related but also abdominal, cardiac, hepatic and renal related issues. Some plants were found helpful in treatment of abdominal issues like diarrhea, dysentery etc., Some species helpful in healing wounds and cuts and stop excessive bleeding, skin allergy and hair related problems as antidote against snake bite, Few species are helpful in treatment of rheumatism and arthritis, analgesic and antihelmenthic properties.

#### CONCLUSION

In the present paper an attempt has been made to record the members of family Asteraceae as well as their ethno medicinal and pharmacological values from district. It can be concluded that with 14 species, of Asteraceae family have a significant representation in flora of District Bhiwani.

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