
Ethno medicine used by tribes of Navapur (District-Nandurbar, Maharashtra) to cure jaundice with *Caesalpinia crista L*

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ABSTRACT

Navapur is known as predominantly tribal taluka. More than 90% population of taluka is of tribal's. These tribal's reside small Padas in the interior forest areas. These tribal's mostly depend on the forest resources to fulfill their day-to-day basic needs. Traditionally they depend upon local herbal medicine man for the treatment of various diseases. These local medicines man known by various names as Viadu, Bahagat etc. This local medicine man knows very well about the medicinal properties of plants present in surrounding area. While studding ethno medicines of Navapur, it is observed that few of this local medicine man does practice on certain elements only. Their knowledge is confined to certain plant species and some herbal drug combinations only. But they are expert to treat these diseases. During the ethnic survey of this area author came into contact with such medicine man that treat for jaundice only. In this communication author discussed about ethno medicinal cure of jaundice.

Key words: Jaundice, Ethno botany, Navapur.

INTRODUCTION

Nandurbar is known as predominantly tribal district in Maharashtra. More than 80% population of the district is of tribal's. These tribal's reside small Padas in the interior forest areas. These tribal's mostly depend on the forest resources to fulfill their day-to-day basic needs. Traditionally they depend upon local herbal medicine man for the treatment of various diseases. These local medicines man known by various names as Viadu, Bahagat etc. This local medicine man knows very well about the medicinal properties of plants present in surrounding area. They have well preserved the valuable treasure of knowledge for generations. During the study of ethnobotany of this area it is observed that few of this local medicine man does practice on certain elements only. Their knowledge is confined to certain plant species and some herbal drug combinations only. But they are expert to treat these diseases. During the ethnic survey of this area author came into contact with such medicine man that treat for jaundice only. It is again observed that jaundice is a one of the major diseases in this tribal area. The main source to cure jaundice is seeds of *Caesalpinia crista L* with combination of other herbal plant parts and administrated with citrus.

METHODOLOGY

Frequently visits was organized with such local medicine mans who are confined their practice on jaundice only. A repeatedly talk with these people opens their secret about to cure jaundice. More than fifty patients were observed followed by their blood tests which shows surprisingly lowering of S.G.P.T. level within twenty four hours. And within three to ten days patients S.G.P.T. shows normal level.

The plant specimens were collected and preserved in the herbarium of department of botany of ACS College Navapur. Plants are identified with the help of standard flora.

Caesalpinia crista L is growing abundantly in the surrounding forest of Navapur.

ABOUT THE PLANT

An extensive climber; branches finely grey-downy, armed with hooked and straight hard yellow prickles. Leaves 1-2 ft. long; petioles prickly; stipules a pair of reduced pinnae at the base of the leaf each furnished with a long mucronate point; pinnae 6-8 pairs, 2-3 in. long, with a pair of hooked stipulary spines at the base. Leaflets 6-9 pairs, membranous, elliptic-oblong, obtuse, strongly mucronate, glabrous, above, more or less puberulous beneath; petiolules very short; stipules of short hooked spines. Flowers in dense long-peduncle terminal and supra-axillary racemes dense at the top, lax downwards, 6-10 in. long; Calyx fulvous-hairy; lobes obovate-oblong, obtuse. Petals oblanceolate, yellow. Pods shortly stalked, with wiry prickles. Seeds 1-2, lead-colored.



Fig.1 Young pod



Fig.2 Mature pod



Fig.3 Seeds

PREPARATION OF MEDICINE

Mature seeds of *Caesalpinia crista* L are collected from forest. These seeds were dried in shade and roasted in sand for 10 to 15 minutes. After roasting seeds are cooled down and grinded in very fine powder. In one kg. of seed powder 100 gm. powdered turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L) is mixed this is followed by 10 gm fine powder of black paper seeds(*Piper nigrum*). Again 5 gm. fine powder of Cinnamon (*Cinnamomum verum*). This mixture is mixed well and preserved in glass bottle. This glass bottle stored at cool place and protected from sunlight.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINE

1-2 gm. of above prepared mixture is poured on half cut lemon and asked to patient to suck this mixture along with citrus juice in morning with empty stomach. This is followed by at least two hours complete rest for patient. After two hours patient is advised to take a glass full of sugar cane juice. If the severity of daises is more the dose of medicine is repeated in evening. As per body response of patient doses are extended up to three to ten days.

CONCLUSION

While screening the references of medicinal value of *Caesalpinia crista* L not a single indication was observed that seeds of this plant will cure jaundice. This is a first ethno medicinal finding which will certainly helping pharmacologist to find exact drug action on liver.

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