

Traditional Uses of Abrus precatorious L.

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Abstract— Abrus precatorius L. is the plant species belonging to family Leguminosae (Fabaceae). Data analysis indicates that, this plant species is traditionally used for the treatment of about 50 diseases and ailments.

Keywords— Abrus precatorious, Traditional use.

I. INTRODUCTION

Abrus precatorius L. is the plant species belonging to family Leguminosae (Fabaceae). It is twiner, perennial, Leaves up to 8-12 cm long; leaflets oblong or elliptic- oblong, glabrous above, hairy beneath. Flowers are pinkish- purple, fading white in racemes. Pods are two to four cm long, linear oblong, beaked. Seeds, 3-5, ellipsoid, bright scarlet with a black spot. Fls. & Frts.: August – March.







TABLE 1

Sr No	Name of Country	No of records
1	Ethiopia	1
2	Nigeria	1
3	India	50*

*Assam (1), Chhattisgarh (1), Gujrat (1), Himachal Pradesh (1), Jammu and Kashmir (1), Jharkhand (1), Karnataka (1), Kerala (1), Sikkim (1), Tripura (1), Uttar Pradesh (1), West Bengal (1), Uttrakhand (2), Madhya Pradesh (4), Rajasthan (4), Andhra Pradesh (5), Orissa (5), Maharashtra (8) and Tamil Nadu (10).

The present review is on the basis of total 58 research papers in which traditional medicinal plant *Abrus precatorius* L. was reported as traditional medicine in India as well as from Nigeria and Ethiopia (Table 1). This plant species was reported from different parts of India for various types of diseases and ailments. The detail is given in the following paragraphs.

Abdominal Pain: Tribal and Non tribal medicine men of Tripura state give fresh roots with betel leaf to patients to treat abdominal pain (Majumdar *et al.*, 2006).

Abortion: People of Sekhawati region of Rajastan used small quantity of seed powder for abortion (Katewa and Galav, 2005). In Southern Rajastan seeds taken for 2 days (Meena and Yadao, 2010). People of lower foot hills of Himachal Pradesh also used for the same purpose (Prakash and Aggarwal, 2010).

Ammenorrhegia: For the treatment of Ammenorrhegia seed powder is taken with water daily in the morning for seven days by Banjara tribe of Yavatmal district of Maharashtra (Bhogaonkar and Kadam, 2006).

Antiseptic: Birhore tribes of Jharkhand used root paste as antiseptic (Mairh, 2010).

Asthma: Fresh or dried leaves eaten by people of Akole tahsil of Ahmednagar District (Khyade, 2010). Jaunsari tribe of Garhwal Himalaya, Uttranchal used leaves, seed and root decoction to treat asthma (Bhatt and Negi, 2006). Leaves



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reported from Chatara block of Sonebhadra district, Uttar Pradesh by Singh (2010).

Blood purification: Root, seed and leaves used for blood purification by locals of Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir (Bhellum and Singh, 2012). Concentrated seed extract is taken reported from Mokhada, District Thane (Sonawane *et al*, 2012).

Bronchitis: Seed powder is given in small quantity to reduce pain due to asthma (Rout *et al*, 2009).

Cold and Colic: To relieve from cold, pounded leaves are used by Malamalasar tribe of Parambikulam wild life sanctuary Kerala, (Yesodharan and Sujana, 2007).

Conception: People of Chandaka Denudated forest patches of Bhubaneshwar Orissa used root extract with the root extract of 'satawar' (Asparagus racemosus Willd.) and plant of Nirmuli (Cuscuta reflexa Roxb.) one tsp, thrice a day, for three days after menstruation to check conception (Behra et al, 2008).

Conjunctivitis: Leaf decoction reported from Katei baba sacred grove and nearby area of Adhalwadi from Akole taluka Ahmednagar, Maharashtra for the treatment of Conjunctivitis (Waghchaure *et al.*, 2011).

Contraceptive: Malasar tribals of Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu used seeds as contraceptive (Venkatswamy, 2010). Murthy (2012) also reported seeds as natural contraceptive.

Cough: Tribals of Nimasar region of Madhya Pradesh used roots for the treatment of cough (Ray et al, 2011). Mali (2012) reported from Peth and Trimbakeshwar of Nasik district (MS), roots, leaves and seeds used for curing of throat and dry cough. Singh (2010) also reported leaves for the same from Chatara block of Sonebhadra district of Uttar Pradesh. Joshi and Tyagi (2011) also reported from Himalayan region.

Diarrhea: Mukesh Kumar (2014) reported fruits given with fodder to animals to treat diarrhea from Khordha district of Odisa.

Diabetes: Leaves and seeds reported from Himalayan region for the treatment of diabetes (Joshi & Tyagi, 2011).

Dysentery: Root paste mixed with cow milk and given to treat dysentery by people of Shrikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh (Rao & Shreeramlu, 1985).

Exzema: Seed paste is applied to cure eczema by Alagarkoli hills reserve forest of Tamil Nadu (Ganeshan *et al*, 2007-2008).

Eye Disease: Leaf decoction is used to wash eyes early in the morning for one month to cure poor eyesight (Tirkey, 2006). Reddy *et al* (2011) reported root extract for the treatment of conjunctive and irritation of eye from Sheshachal hill range of Andhra Pradesh.

Fever: Leaf used by People of Chatara block of Sonebhadra district of Uttar Pradesh for the treatment of fever (Singh, 2010). Dey *et al* (2010) reported for the same from Tribals of Ajoydha hills region Purulia district of West Bengal.

Hair fall: Murthy (2012) reported that seed powder is applied by Gond people of Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh to reduce hair fall and to improve hair growth. Malasar tribals of Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu used seed as hair tonic (Venkataswamy, 2010).

Headache: Root paste is applied on forehead to get relief from headache by Birhore tribes of Jharkhand (Mairh, 2010).

Hydrophobia: In Madhya Pradesh of Betul district, Seeds with jaggery prescribed in treatment of Hydrophobia (Jain *et al*, 2010).

Indigestion: Seed decoction is taken orally to clean the stomach during indigestion and food poisoning by People of Udaigiri forest in Eastern Ghat of Odisha (Shadangi *et al*, 2012).

Intestinal worms: Tribes of Bijagarh of West Nimar district of Madhya Pradesh used seeds in treatment of worms (Mahajan, 2007).

Joint pain: Warmed seed paste is applied over the affected joints by people of Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger reserve, Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu (Sutha *et al*, 2010). For Sciatica, Stiffness of shoulder joints and paralysis seed paste is applied by villagers in Southern districts of Taminl Nadu (Rajendran *et a*, 2008).

Jaundice: Irula tribe of Thirumurthi Hill of Western Ghats, Tamil Nadu used root paste in Jaundice (Vijayalakshmi *et al*, 2013). Natarajan *et al* (2012) reported Malayali tribe of Kalrayan hill; Tamil Nadu used root paste for the same.

Kidney Stone: Leaf juice taken early morning for 15 days for kidney stone by indigenous folklore of Nizamabad district of Andhra Pradesh (Vijaygiri & Sharma, 2010).

Laryngitis: Fresh leaves crushed in Til (*Sesamum indicum*) oil and extract is mashed on the throat to relieve laryngitis by people of Karanji Ghat area of Patharadi tahsil in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra (Salave *et al*, 2011).

Leucoderma: Root paste with rhizome of Curcuma longa taken to treat leucoderma until cure by Paliyars aboriginal communities in Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu (Maria et al, 2014). In Rajastan, Traditional medicinal practitioners used seed paste and roots of Plumbago zeylanica for the treatment of leucoderma (Sharna & Kumar, 2007). Mairh (2010) reported root paste used by Birhore tribe of Jharkhand. Venkataswamy (2010) reported seed paste used by Malasar tribals of Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu while Prakash and Agarwal (2010) reported root paste from lower foot hills of Himalchal Pradesh.

Menstrual Diseases: Birhore tribe of Jharkhand used root paste in treatment of menstrual diseases (Mairh, 2010).

Mouth Ulcer: People of southern Rajasthan chewed leaves in mouth ulcer (Meena & Yadao). Negi *et al* (2012) reported leaf or seed of red variety chewed to help cure tongue or mouth ulcer. Punjani (2002) also reported for mouth ulcer treatment from Aravalli hills in North Gujarat.

Nervous Disorder: Tribals of Ajoydha hills region of Purulia district of West Bengal used roots in nervous disorder (Dey et al, 2010). Rajendran et al (2008) also reported for nervous system disorder used by villagers in southern districts of Tamin Nadu.

Paralysis: Rajendran *et al* (2008) reported seed locally applied in paralysis.

Poisonous bite: Dried seed powder is used as antidote for poisonous bite by medicine men of Tripura state (Majumdar *et al*, 2006). For any poisonous bite people of Sirumalai hills of Dindugul district, Western Ghats, Tami Nadu used fresh roots with seeds in the form of paste and consumed with water or cow milk for five to seven days (Vikneshwaran, 2008).



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Prevent Implantation: A teaspoon of decoction or root taken internally with honey for two days to prevent implantation by Paliyars aboriginal communities in Virudhunagar district of Tamil Nadu (Maria *et al.*, 2014).

Rheumatism: Punjani (2002) published data from Arawali hills of North Gujarat, people of the study area used leaf paste with edible oil on painful part of the body. People also planted for ornamental purpose in their garden. Tribals and non tribals of Tripura state taken root powder with one glass of cow milk before going to bed for three days to patients suffering from rheumatic pain, joints or muscular pain (Majumdar *et al*, 2006). Purkayashtha *et al* (2007) also reported root paste for rheumatic pain.

Sciatica: In Chatara block of Sonebhadra district of Uttar Pradesh people used seeds in treatment of sciatica (Singh, 2010). Rajendran *et al* (2008) also reported seeds for the same. Scorpion bite: Harney (2013) reported root used in scorpion bite. Singh (2010) also reported for the same from Chatara block of Sonebhadra district of Uttar Pradesh.

Sedative: Small amount of seed powder used as sedative in Sekhawati region of Rajasthan (Katewa & Galav, 2005).

Skin Disease: Tribals of Ajoydha hills of Purulia district of West Bengal used root on skin infection (Dey et al, 2010). Iyer reported as seeds pounded with water and paste is applied on various skin diseases by tribals of India. Yadav et al (2012) also reported same from Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh. Prakash and Aggarwal (2010) reported root paste used by people on skin infection from Lower foot hills of Himachal Pradesh.

Snake bite: Root paste is applied as antidote against snake bite by tribals of Betul district of Madhya Pradesh (Jain *et al*, 2010).

Spermatogenesis: Indigenous people of Nizamabad district of Andhra Pradesh used four to five leaves and small root piece of taken orally for a week time in spermatogenesis (Vijaygiri & Sharma, 2010).

Stomach trouble: Seed decoction is used by Birhore tribes of Jharkhand in stomach trouble (Mairh, 2010).

Strengths: Seed powder of Annona squamosa, Mucuna pruiens and Abrus precatorius is given to men for strength in Gond tribe of Bhandara district of Maharashtra (Gupta et al, 2010).

Swellings: Root decoction is taken internally by tribals of Bidar district of Karnataka as remedy for swellings of legs and hands (Prashyantkumar and Vidyasagar, 2006). From Maharashtra of Kadegaon Sangali, Jadhav (2016) reported seed paste for the same.

Throat pain: Fruits chewed or fresh root juice given orally during throat pain by Limboo tribe in South West of Khangchendzonga biosphere Reserve Sikkim (Badola Pradhan, 2013). While Punjani (2002) reported from Arawali hills in North Gujrat as leaves used in case of hoarseness or sore throat. Rao & Shreeramalu (1985) and Jadhav (20160) also reported leaves for the same from Shrikakulam district of Andra Pradesh and Kadegaon Sangali of Maharashtra respectively.

Toothache: People of Ivanur Panchayat in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu used leaves in toothache.

Poisonous Plant: In some places of Lower foot hills of Himalchal Pradesh, it is considered as poisonous plant and kept away from households (Prakash and Aggarwal, 2010).

II. CONCLUSION

Data analysis on the basis of the present review shows that, *Abrus precatorious* L dominantly used as traditional medicine to cure ailments in Tamil Nadu followed by Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and other states of India (Table 1). This plant species is also used in veterinary practices throughout the country. Present review indicates that *Abrus precatorious* L is distributed throughout the India and other countries and utilized as traditional medicine since long time. About 50 diseases cured by this plant species by local and tribal people.

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