Ethno-veterinary medicinal plants of mahal village of dang district, Gujarat, India
Paresh Gayakvad1, D.B.Jadeja1, B.Thakre2, S.Bhalawe3 and D.Nayak3

1Department of Silviculture and Agroforestry, 2Vanbandhu College of Veterinary Science & Animal Husbandry, 3Department of Natural Resource Management, ASPEE College of Horticulture and Forestry, Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari-396450 India
*e-mail: nutan.nayak@gmail.com

(Received: January 04, 2014; Revised received: April 12, 2014; Accepted: April 14, 2014)

Abstract: The present study deals with the identification and investigation was aimed to find out the ethno-veterinary medicinal plants of Mahal village of Dang District, Gujarat, used to treat the various veterinary diseases. In the present study, 32 medicinal plants belonging to 28 families used as veterinary medicines have been documented. According to this study, documenting the medicinal plants and associated indigenous knowledge can be used for conservation and sustainable use of medicinal plants in the area and for effective treatment of various disease and disorders of domestic animals.

Key words: Ethno-veterinary medicinal plants, tribes

Introduction

The Dangs forest Tails on the extreme northern part of Western Ghats, various aspects of floral and faunal diversity, socio-cultural status and ethnobotany in the forests of Dang district of Gujarat state has also been investigated (Nirmal et al., 2000; Nirmal et al., 2004). The eastern part of Gujarat state has been extensively studied with respect to the ethnobotanical and medicinal values of various plant species (Gopal, 1983 and Reddy, 1986). The forests of Mahal village are unique and rich biodiversity areas of Gujarat, which serve as gene pool of biodiversity. These forest areas are mainly spread over Dangs district, which fall on the extreme northern part of Western Ghats. Mahal village area tribal populations of Bhil, Kunbi, Konkani, Gamit, Kolcha, Kukana and Warli etc. Plants are used for medicinal purposes by local peoples since ancient times. It is an established fact that plants serve a potent medicine for curing various diseases of local people as well as livestocks. Ethno-Veterinary Medicine is a system based on folk traditional skills, knowledge, and practices for curing various diseases and disorders and maintaining good health of our domestic animals (Tabuti et al., 2003; Kumari Rita et al., 2011; Kumari Reshmi et al., 2011; Bhardwaj et al., 2011).

Materials and Methods

The present study mainly based on botanical field trips in the blocks and rural areas of Mahal village of Dang District, mainly inhabited by ethnic tribal communities. The plants used for their healthcare purpose were recorded through personal interview with the local traditional healers (Bhagat) and also local aged peoples during the field study (2012) centered on villages in Mahal forest area. Informers were asked about the ritual importance of the plant, why it is respected, which parts are used, and for what purposes and the data have been recorded along with their names and medicinal uses are recorded from them.

Results and Discussion

In the present study 32 species of ethno-veterinary medicinal plants were recorded which belonged 28 families (Table-1) different uses for livestock animals were recorded in the study with the help of Dangi ethno-veterinary traditional healers (Bhagat) of Mahal village of Dang district, Gujarat. Most of the reported ethnoveterinary medicinal plants are used to treat wounds (6), Diarrhea (5), skin diseases (4), Worm (3), Jaundice (2), Cough (2), Snake bite (2) and Retention of placenta, Respiratory disorder, Bronchitis, Urinary problems, Bloods in excreta, Blood purifier, Anemia, Piles, Fever, Muscle & Joints pain, antibiotic and Convulsive seizure were treated by one species. Some of the noteworthy ethnoveterinary medicinal plants used by most of the interviewed Dangi tribals are seeds of Abrus precatorius for retention of placenta, leaves of Aloe vera for diarrhea and skin diseases, root of Agave cantala for snakebite, leaves and bark of Azadirachta indica for skin problem and diarrhea, leaves of Bryophyllum calycinum for urinary problems, leaves of Cannabis sativa for bloods in excreta, root of Withania somnifera for convulsive seizure, leaves of Vitex negundo Muscle & Joint pain, leaves of Calotropis gigantea for Arthritis, stem of Tinospora cordifolia for skin problems, fruit of Xeromphis spinosa for Infertility. Most of the reported plants in the present study are also used by the different types of tribal people in India for the treatment of various diseases in livestock (Girach et al., 1998; Reddy et al., 2006; Mini and Sivadasan, 2007; Harsha et al., 2008; Satya and Solanki, 2009; Yadhav, 2009; Rahman et al., 2009). The plants used by the Dangi tribal people in the present study, some of the plants were reported to treat different types of diseases in animals by the previous researchers in India. Traditional veterinary practices reported from Dindigul district (Rajan and Sethuraman, 1997) and some southern districts of Tamil Nadu (Ganesan et al., 2008) showed some resemblance with the present study but most of the uses found to be different. Geetha et al. (2006) and Kiruba et al. (2006) reported that Abrus precatorius, Adhatoda vasica, Aloe vera, Asparagus racemosus, Azadirachta indica, Calotropis gigantea, Datura metel, and Vitex negundo are used by the indigenous people of Kanyakumari district for the treatment of different types of diseases in livestock.

Plants play an important role in every aspect of our lives and without them life is not possible. Traditional healers (Bhagat) and local people collect their plant remedy from local places and conserve their knowledge among selected peoples, if their knowledge will spread through out the world it is a great achievement for mankind to make
low cost, effective potential, natural remedies from plants. Apart from that this paper throws some light on various traditional and medicinal aspects and utility of plants.

References


Nirmal, J. I., Kumar, R. N. and Hiren, B. S.: Environmental studies of biodiversity and ethnoveterinary of certain forest of Gujarat (Gujarat state Forest Department, Gandhinagar,Gujarat) (2000).


