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RESEARCH ARTICLE

PLANTS USED IN GYNECOLOGICAL PROBLEM BY THE KIM TRIBE OF MANIPUR, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Kom tribe belong to Chin kuki, one of the two major tribes i,e Kuki and Naga tribe of Manipur. The present paper reports 25 plant species traditionally used by Kom tribe of Manipur for the treatment of various diseases and disorder related to gynecological problems. Ethno gynecological is an important field that deals with various diseases related to problem in menstruation, white discharge, abortion sterility, gonorrhea, conception, debility after delivery etc. Their hard life keep them busy all the time that make them difficult to take care of their health. Valuable information about the medicinal uses of certain plant against various diseases of the Kom tribe were obtain through personal interview and collection. The Botanical name, families, local name, parts used and type of disease were mention.

INTRODUCTION

Manipur lies in the North eastern region of India, gifted with diverse flora and fauna. In Manipur, people of different ethnic groups use wild plants in their own traditional way. Kom tribe belonged to Chin Kuki tribe, one of the two major tribes of Manipur- Naga and Kuki tribe. Kom is found settled in four out of 9 districts of Manipur-Churachandpur, Chandel, Senapati and Imphal East. Most of the population lived in foothills. Most of them are engaged for sustenance in agriculture, jhum, piggery and hunting. The plant growing around them form an integral part of their culture, custom, food, folktales, medicines and a number of multifarious uses. This vast knowledge has been cared, nourished and conserved by the tribe as a common property since thousands of years. Kom women worked in the field and in the forest and carried vegetables, heavy articles, firewood in a basket on their head. They worked day and night in the sun or rain regardless of any inconvenience to their health. There is no respite from heavy work even to pregnant women, she works till the day of delivery. Their hand to mouth survival is responsible for poor sanitation and unhygienic life which leads to the cause of disease. Due to the lack of health care and medical facility the life of Kom women are adversely affected. Their hard life which keep them busy all the time make it difficult for them to take care of health. They used various types of herbs, shrubs and trees available in their surrounding for their treatment particularly in gynecological problem since they have considerable knowledge about it. Significant contribution has been made by some workers on various aspect of ethnomedicinal plants in Manipur state (Singh *et al*., 1996; Singh *et al*., 2003; Khatoon *et al.,* 2012; Sumitra *et al*., 2009; Devi *et al*., 2011a). So far no studies with regard to ethnogynaecology has been made concerning about the Kom tribe of Manipur. Keeping the above in view the work has been taken up at providing data on the use of plants in the treatment of gynecological problem by them.

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MATERIALS AND MATHODS

An extensive ethno botanical survey was conducted during (2010-2012) among the Kom tribe for gathering information regarding the plants used traditionally on treating gynecological problems. The information given here is collected from the knowledgeable women informant and traditional medicinal man (*Thempu*) through verbal interviews in an informal way. Information regarding vernacular name, mode of use, part used were also collected. Classification and identification were done by referring to various literature (Deb, 1961a, 1961b; Jain and Rao 1977; Kanjilal *et al*., 1934-1940; Sinha, 1987).

RESULTS

As much as 25 species are recorded during the survey. These are enumerated below alphabetically (Table-1) along with their scientific names, family followed by the vernacular names, parts used and mode of used.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

In the present study, a total of 25 plant species belonging to 19 families were collected and recorded. Due to the constant association with the environment and with the passage of time, they have developed a good deal of knowledge on the use of plants and plant products in curing various women related problem.

The plant used in traditional system of treating various gynecological problem are mostly procured from the wild resources. These herbs can also be easily grown in the kitchen garden so that it is easily available when in need. They acquired knowledge of practiced through generations. Unfortunately they are not interested in sharing their knowledge with others and their folklore ends with end of their lives.

Table 1. Plants used in treating gynaecological problems by Kom tribe

Scientific name	Family	Vernacular name	Parts used	Mode of uses	Diseases treated
Abroma augustum L. (Murray)	Sterculiaceae	*Kwakla*	Root	Powdered	Painful menstruation.
Bidens pilosa L.	Asteraceae	*Shampakpi*	Leaves	Decoction	White discharge.
Buddleja asiatica Lour.	Buddlejiaceae	*Shamei*	Whole plant	Decoction	Menstruation problem.
Cannabis sativa L.	Cannabinaceae	*Ganja*	Leaves	Powdered	White discharge.
Cassia laevigata Willd.	Caesalpinaceae	*Thaonum*	Leaves	Decoction	Menstrual problem.
Celosia argentea L.	Amaranthaceae	*Arshongma*	Leaves	Decoction	To improve lactation.
Colocasia gigantia (Blume) Hook. f.	Araceae	*Yendem*	Petiole	Cooked	To increase lactation.
Curcuma aromatic Salisb.	Zingiberaceae	*Yaiheinowman*	Rhizome	Decoction	Smooth delivery.
Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers.	Poaceae	*Tingthou*	Whole plant	Decoction	Childless female
Datura stramonium Wall.	Solanaceae	*Sakorlei*	Leaves	Fresh	Swollen nipple
Dichrocephala integrifolia Kuntze	Asteraceae	*Lalukok*	Leaves	Fresh	Excess menstruation.
Eclipta prostrata (L.) L.	Asteraceae	*Uchisumban*	Leaves	Powdered	Excess menstruation.
Hedychium greenii Smith	Zingiberaceae	*Swontuiwar*	Rhizome	Decoction	White discharge.
Leucas aspera (Roth) Spreng.	Lamiaceae	*Mayanglembum*	Shoot	Cooked /decoction	Improve lactation and irregular menstruation.
Microtoena patchoulii (C.B. Clarke ex Hook.f.) C.Y. Wu & S.J. Hsuan	Lamiaceae	*Shangbrei*	Leaves	Fresh	Menstruation disorder.
Mimosa pudica L.	Mimosaceae	*Ekaithapi*	Leaves	Fresh	Sexual weakness.
Oroxyllum indicum Vent.	Bignonaceae	*Bokpa*	Fruit	Powdered	Management of prolapsed uterus
Phoenix sylvestris (L.) Roxb.	Arecaceae	*Thangtup*	Root	Paste	Contraceptive.
Piper longum Blume	Piperaceae	*Uchithi*	Seed	Decoction	White discharge.
Pratia nummularia Kuntze	Campanulaceae	*Nungaiperuk*	Whole plant	Decoction	Menstruation problem.
Scutellaria discolor Colebr.	Lamiaceae	*Anrikhat*	Leaves	Decoction	Menstrual disorder.
Sida acuta Burm. f.	Malvaceae	*Uhan*	Leaves	Fresh	Sexual weakness.
Stachytarpheta cayennensis (Rich.) J. Vahl.	Verbenaceae	*Tharoiphijup*	Whole plant	Decoction	White discharge.
Tinospora cordifolia (Willd.) Hook. f. & Thoms.	Menispermceae	*Ningthoukhonglee*	Stem	Fresh	Easy delivery.
Vigna radiata (L.) R. Wilczek	Fabaceae	*Sagolhawai*	Seed	Cooked	Improve lactation.

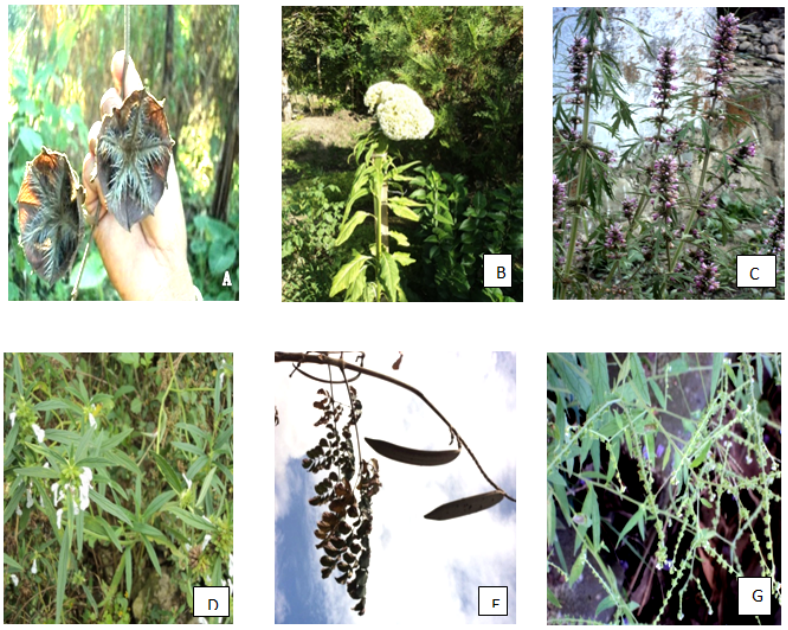

Fig. A. *Abroma augustum* L. (Murray), B. *Celosia argentea* L., C . *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L., D. *Leucas aspera* (Roth) Spreng., E. *Oroxylum indicum* Vent., F. *Stachytarpheta cayennensis* (Rich.) Vahl.

And nowadays flow of indigenous knowledge from elder to young generation has also been interrupted as the young generation is reluctant to learn traditional practice. So it is highly desirable that the knowledge should be documented before it is being lost.

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