SOME INTERESTING AND COMMON MEDICINAL PLANTS OF NILGIRI DISTRICT USED IN HOMOEOPATHY

***M.S. Dawre, D. Suresh Baburaj, S.S. Nain and S. Rajan.**

Abstract

The present paper deals with 27 species belonging to 23 genera under 20 families of flowering plants used in Homoeopathy.

The Nilgiri district is one of the districts of Tamil Nadu and the altitude ranges from 700 m. to 2633m. The district is located in the North Western corner of Tamil Nadu (formerly Madras State), South India between 11° 12' and 11° 43'N and 76° 14' and 77° 1' E. The district is bounded on the North by the State of Karnataka, on the West and South West by Kerala and on the East and South East by the district of Coimbatore.

The present paper deals with 27 species in 23 genera under 20 families of flowering plants used in Homoeopathy. Of these 3 are weeds, 7 cash crops commonly cultivated in the Nilgiris and 7 very common plants cultivated in gardens.

Abbreviations

For economy of space the conventional abbreviations of some of the well known works have been condensed as follows:

Allen: The Encyclopaedia of Pure Materia Medica by Timothy F. Allen.

Boericke: Pocket Manual of Homoeopathic Materia Medica by William Boericke.

Clarke: A Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica by John Henry Clarke.

Ghose: Drugs of Hindoosthan by Sarat Chandra Ghose.

HPI: Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India.

PAPAVERACEA

Argemone mexicana Linn. Sp. Pl. 508. 1753; Boericke 70. 1984 (Repr. Ed.) Tamil: "Bramadand".
Part used: Fresh plant beginning to flower.
Annual herb. Commonly found in waste places and fellow fields.

CRUCIFERAE

Brassica nigra (Linn) Koch in Roehl. Deutschl. Fl. ed. 3.4: 713. 1833; Clarke 3:1194. 1982 (Repr. Ed.). Tamil: "Kadugu".
Part used: Seeds.
Annual herbs. Cultivated for its seeds, sometimes run wild.

Capsella bursa-pastoris (Linn) Medicus, Pflanzeng. 85. 1792. Clarke 3:1416. 1982 (Repr. Ed.).
Part used: Fresh flowering plant.
Erect herb. A weed.

THEACEAE

Camellia sinensis (Linn) Kuntze, Um die Erde 500. 1881. *Thea sinensis* Linn., Clarke 3:1406. 1982 (Repr. Ed.).

Part used: Leaves.
Evergreen shrubs. Cultivated.

PAPILIONACEAE

Sarothamnus scoparius (Linn) W.D.J. Koch Syn. Fl. Germ. Helv. ed. 1:152. 1837. *Cytisus scoparium* (Linn) Link, Enum. Pl. Hort. Berol. 2:241. 1823: Boericke 599. 1984 (Repr. Ed.).

Part used: Flowers and young branches.
Small shrubs with yellow flowers; naturalised in hill stations.

Trifolium pratense Linn. Sp. Pl. 768. 1753; Allen 10:22. 1982 (Repr. Ed.) Clarke 3: 1450. 1982 (Repr. Ed.).
Part used: Flower heads.
Erect herbs. A weed of gardens.

Trifolium repens Linn. Sp. Pl. 767. 1753; Allen 10:22. 1982 (Repr. Ed.); Clarke 3: 1451. 1982 (Repr. Ed.).
Part used: Flower heads.
Erect herb. A weed. Flowers white in globose heads.

*Survey of Medicinal Plants and Collection Unit (CCRH), Udhagamandalam, Tamilnadu.

UMBELLIFERAE

Centella asiatica (Linn) Urban in Mart. Fl. Fras. 11:287. t. 78. f. 1. 1897; HPI 1:135. 1980 (Repr. Ed.).
Tamil: "Vallarai".
Part used: Whole plant.
Prostrate herb in waste places.

RUBIACEAE

Coffea arabica Linn. Sp. Pl. 172. 1753; Allen 3:435. 1982 (Repr. Ed.); Clarke 1:556. 1982 (Repr. Ed.).
Tamil: "Kappi".
Part used: Raw berries.
An evergreen shrub. Widely cultivated.

COMPOSITAE

Silybum marianum (Linn.) Gaertn. Fruct. Sem. 2:378. t. 168. 1791. *Carduus marianus* Linn. Sp. Pl. 823. 1753; Allen 2:635. 1982 (Repr. Ed.); Clarke 1:417. 1982 (Repr. Ed.).
Part used: Seeds.
Erect herb. Heads terminal, solitary.

SOLANACEAE

Datura arborea Linn. Sp. Pl. 179. 1753; Allen 4:68. 1982 (Repr. Ed.).
Part used: Flowers.
Shrub. Flowers white. Cultivated in gardens and also commonly found as an escape.

Datura metel Linn. Sp. Pl. 179. 1753; Allen 4:69. 1982 (Repr. Ed.); Clarke 1: 659. 1982 (Repr. Ed.).
Tamil: "Karu Oomatthai".
Part used: Seeds.
Erect herb. Found in waste places.

Solanum nigrum Linn. Sp. Pl. 186. 1753; Allen 9: 57. 1982 (Repr. Ed.); Clarke 3: 1208. 1982 (Repr. Ed.).
Tamil: "Manathakkali".
Part used: Fresh plant.
Erect herb. Commonly found in waste places.

Solanum tuberosum Linn. Sp. Pl. 185. 1753; Allen 9:65. 1982 (Repr. Ed.); Clarke 3: 1214. 1982 (Repr. Ed.).
Tamil: "Urulaikizhangu".
Part used: Berries, green potatoes and fresh plant.
Herb. Widely cultivated for potato throughout the district.

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Verbascum thapsus Linn. Sp. Pl. 177. 1753; Allen 10: 114. 1982 (Repr. Ed.); Clarke 3 : 1526. 1982 (Repr. Ed.).
Part used: Fresh plant at the commencement of flowering.
Erect annual herbs. Commonly found in waste places.

AMARANTHACEAE

Achyranthes aspera Linn. Sp. Pl. 204. 1753; Ghose 51. 1980 (Repr. Ed.).
Tamil: "Naayuruvi".
Part used: Leaves and branches.
Erect herbs. Commonly found in waste places and forest edges.

CHENOPODIACEAE

Beta vulgaris Linn. Sp. Pl. 222. 1753; Boericke 122. 1984 (Repr. Ed.).
Part used: Roots.
Erect herb with red tap root tubers. Commonly cultivated.

SANTALACEAE

Santalum album Linn. Sp. Pl. 349. 1753; Clarke 3 : 1102. 1982 (Repr. Ed.).
Tamil: "Sandhanam".
Part used: The oil distilled from the wood.
Tree, usually semiparasitic. Occurs in forests.

AMARYLLIDACEAE

Allium cepa Linn. Sp. Pl. 300. 1753; Clarke 1 : 53. 1982 (Repr. Ed.).
Tamil: "Eeravengayam".
Part used: Whole fresh plant or bulbs.
Cultivated for its edible bulbs.

Allium sativum Linn. Sp. Pl. 296. 1753; Clarke 1 : 56. 1982 (Repr. Ed.).
Tamil: "Vellaivengayam".
Part used: Fresh bulbs.
Cultivated for its bulbs.

Common Plants Cultivated In Gardens Used In The System Of Homoeopathy

Iberis amara Linn. (Cruciferae)
Part used: Seeds.

Cinchona officinalis Linn. (Rubiaceae)
Part used: Bark.

C. calisaya Wedd. (Rubiaceae)
Part used: Bark.

Digitalis purpurea Linn. (Scrophulariaceae)
Part used: Leaves of second year.

Eucalyptus globulus Labill. (Myrtaceae)
Part used: Leaves.

Senecio cineraria DC. *"Cineraria Maritima"* (Compositae)
Part used: Fresh plant.

Viola tricolor Linn. (Violaceae)
Part used: Fresh plant in flowering condition.

Contd. on page no. 38

attributed to toxicological source need clinical verification.

It is interesting to note that there are many pathological conditions such as aplastic anaemia, degeneration of reticular system of leucocytes and of blood platelets, prolonged bleeding and irreducible blood clot attributed to the pathogenetic properties of chloramphenicol. These are suggestive of its deep and wide sphere of action, and call for further investigation and clinical confirmation.

Considering its pathognomonic symptoms, the clinical conditions where it may be of use, appears to be typhoid fever, colitis, urticaria and arthritis.

Arsenic album, Veratrum album and Rhus toxicodendron appear to have symptomatic relationship with chloramphenicol.

It is suggested that an organised proving of chloramphenicol following double blind method may be made in order to obtain its true drug pathogenesis data. Simultaneously, the available symptomatic data may be clinically verified.

Acknowledgement

Thanks are due to the Principal, Midnapore Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Midnapore for providing the provers' records of drug proving with Chloromycetin and also to Mr. V. Sugananth, Laboratory Technician for assisting the authors and Mr. K. Krishna Murthy, General Duty Assistant who has taken pains in typing the manuscript.

References

1. Juliañ, O.A., 1970 "Pathogenesic du Chloramphenicol". Communication of the XXVth International Congress of Homoeopathic Medicine, Vichy.

2. Drug Proving of "Chloramphenicol" (Chloromycetin) conducted by Homoeopathic Drug Research Department at Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Midnapore, West Bengal, India.

---

contd. from page no. 40

Acknowledgement

The authors are grateful to Dr. D.P. Rastogi, Director, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi for providing necessary facilities and to Dr. A.N. Henry, Scientist "C", Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore for going through the manuscript and making many useful suggestions.