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Some weeds used as medicine to urinary tract diseases in Hamirpur district, Uttar Pradesh (India)

PK Lakherey and Priyanka Srivastava

Abstract
Traditional knowledge has assumed great importance in enhancing our knowledge about the plant which is used by the people since time immemorial. During last few decades, sufficient research work on ethnobotany has been done in various parts of India by various workers. However, Hamirpur district have not been given enough attention as far as ethnobotanical studies are concerned.

Keywords: Medicine, urinary tract diseases, ethnobotany

Introduction
The simplest and most common definition of weed is "any plant growing where it is not wanted". This statement contains one very important and central idea about weeds, which is that they are exclusively associated with man and his activities. Because there is no doubt about their importance to man and nearly everybody is familiar with most of weeds. The study revealed in all 19 weed species belonging to 19 genera and 14 families.

During the study 19 plant species of 14 families used for medicinal purposes have been documented. Majority of the species used are from families, Malvaceae (4), Poaceae (2), Amranthaceae (2) Solanaceae, Asteraceae, Portulacaceae Oxalidaceae. Mimosaceae, Crassulaceae, Cyperaceae, Cuscutaceae,

Apiaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Liliaceae (One each). Majority of preparations from Leaves (09), Underground parts (1), Seed (01), Fruits (01), Flower (1) Whole plant (05) etc.

According to Anderson (1954), "history of weeds is the history of man". The plants, which we call today as a weed, are persistent since time immemorial but during the ancient periods the prevailing forest conditions were not suitable for the growth of weedy species, and yet these plants were apparently present in certain places and were thus able to colonize as soon as artificially disturbed sites became available to them. There must always have been small local areas of disturbance due to natural causes such as rivers, but another likely possibility is that many plants of open habitats survived this period in the regions near sea shore or on higher mountain slopes where open conditions were maintained by the general physical environment. Under modern conditions weeds and plants with weedy characteristics are frequently the pioneers of secondary successions caused by man-made or natural disturbances of the environment, but in many cases this weedy phase is quite brief.

There is ample evidence that many weed species were also used for food by early man, though this practice is by no means confined to the past. Many of our present-day weeds thus have a long history in India, but a great many others were introduced from other parts of the world much later by successive groups of colonizers. The example of the weeds came from outside are *Parthenium hysterophorus*, *Cassia* sps. *Echornia* sps, etc.

Since man began to create disturbed environments on a large scale it is clear that enormous new possibilities have been opened up for weeds, and it is a striking fact that many weeds which are a serious problem in areas to which they have spread are relatively harmless in the places from which they were introduced.

It is worth re-emphasizing that some weedy plants were certainly selected by primitive man as crops. Amongst crops thought to be have been selected and evolved from weedy ancestors are potatoes, carrots, sunflowers, barley, oats and rye; the weedy grass *Aegilops* is known to be an ancestor of modern wheat varieties. Thus weeds can be important to man in many ways, not all of them disadvantageous. The present communication will give a information about the weed plants and some of their utilities for mankind from Hamirpur district.

The Hamirpur district is located between 25°79‟N lat., 80 °15‟ E North latitude and is situated in Yamuna and Upper Betwa River basin partly in the Dhasan river basin. It is smallest district of Uttar Pradesh occupying more or less the central position in the state and with an area of 4121.9 sq. km. As regards the botanical explorations in Hamirpur, several people have made notable contributions, such as Billore and Hemadri (1972), Santapau (1951) [16], Santapau and Irani (1962) [17], Wadhwa (1970) [20], Puri (1956-57), Rolla Rao (1960), Janardhanan (1964) most of these works resulted in enrichment of the Herbaria except few publications, like Shirke (1978) [19]. Hooker *et al.* (1872-1897) [15]. However, extensive work for the flora of the Hamirpur district has been done by A. P. Saxena (1999). Inspite such a extensive works present investigations indicates that the plant wealth of Hamirpur city area has not been given enough emphasis and needs more attention.

Materials and Methods

The present ethno botanical survey was done during 2020-2022 in different villages of Hamirpur Old experience and tribal medicine men (Vaidya) were consulted to know about the use of various plants growing in their localities. Herbariums of the useful weeds were prepared and identification was done following standard literature (Cooke, 1967; Singh *et al*. 2000 & 2001; Cooke, 1958; A. P. Saxena, 1999) [2, 24, 23, 14]. Herbarium specimens are deposited in the Botany Department, Brahmanand Mahavidyalaya, Rath, Hamirpur. Following is the alphabetical list of plants with their scientific names, synonyms if any and local name, name of family and plant parts used in each case for a particular disease.

Table 1: Ethanomedicinal uses of plants in the Urinary tract Diseases. Uses of plants of the Hamirpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

Sl. No.	Plant Name	Family	Local Name	Locality
1.	*Abelmoschus esculentus* (L.) *Moench* Uses-The decoction of seeds is taken orally	Malvaceae	Bhendi	Common along road side A. bad roadnear BTR regiment
2.	*Achyranthes aspera* L. Use- The decoction of leaves is to be taken orally	Amaranthaceae	Aghada	Very common on wasteland Shendinear S, T. stand
3.	*Asparagus racemosus* Var. *javanica* Willd Uses Decoction of leaves is used in expelling stones in urinary tract	Liliaceae	Shatavari	Bhandardara rocky hilly slopes
4.	*Basella alba* L. Uses-Decoction of the leaves promotes the flow of urine.	Chenopodiaceae	*Mayalu*	Near village Padali Parner
5.	*Celosia argentea* L Uses- The decoction of leaves is to be take normally	Amaranthaceae	Kurdu Kombda	Common weed in fallow field Shendi
6.	*Centella asiatica* (L.) Urb, in Mart (*Syn. Hydrocotyle asiatica* L,) Use- The decoction of leaves is given against discharge of yellowish urine.	Apiaceae	Brahami	Common on moist places Mula chari
7.	*Coix lachrymal-jobi* L. Use-The fresh juice of leaves is used for urinary trouble due to calculi formation.	Poaceae	Ran maka	
8.	*Cuscuta reflexa* Roxb Use-Consumption of the decoction of whole plant promotes easier flow of urine.	Cuscutaceae	Amar vel	Very common parasite Bhandardara
9.	*Cynodon dactylon* (I.,) Pers and *Cynodon nlemfuensis* Vanderyst. Use- The fresh juice extracted from whole plant.	Poaceae	Durva	Frequent in open places Shendi
10.	*Cyperus rotundus* L. Use- The fresh juice extracted from whole plant.	Cyperaceae	Nagar motha	Frequent in moist places Dahigoannear sina river
11.	*Hibiscus caesius* L. Use-Curry prepared from the leaves along with fresh prawns is usually prescribed for urinary trouble.	Malvaceae	Ranambadi	Chandbibi mahal
12.	*Hibiscus sabdariffa* L. Use- 3gm of powdered arils and calyx are soaked in cup of hot water and taken after meals It also helps in lowering the levels of uric acid	Malvaceae	Lal ambadi	Bhandardara
13.	*Kalanchoe pinnata* (Lam.) Pers Uses-The decoction of leaves is to be take normally	Crassulaceae	Panphuti	Common along road side camp area near lakadi pool
14.	*Mimosa pudica* L. Use- The whole plant is mixed with an equal amount of the leaves and stems *Zehneria scabra* L. (Cucurbitaceae) and then boiled together. The decoction is to be taken orally.	Mimosaceae	Lajalu	
15.	*Oxalis corniculata* L. Use- The whole plant is wrapped in banana leaves and steam cooked. The juice extracted is taken after meals with addition of red hot common salt.	Oxalidaceae		Common weed along road side and waste land & garden
16.	*Portulaca oleracea* L., and *Portulaca quadrifida* L. Use-The decoction of leaves and stem is particularly useful in painful discharge of urine.	Portulacaceae	Gholachi bhaji	Common weed along road side andwaste land & garden Camp garden
17.	*Sida rhombifolia* L. Use-The decoction of leaves promotes flow of urine.	Malvaceae	Bala	Forest nursery Shendi
18.	*Solanum nigrum* L. Use-Decoction of fruits.	Solanaceae	Kanguni	Common weed along road side and waste land Shendi near bypass
19.	*Xanthium indicum* Koen in Roxb. Use-Decoction of roots.	Asteraceae	Landga	Common weed along road side and waste land Camp area

Results and discussion

The study revealed in all 19 weed species belonging to 19 genera and 14 families. During the study 19 plant species of 14 families used for medicinal purposes have been documented. Majority of the species used are from families Malvaceae (4), Poaceae (2), Amranthaceae (2) Olanaceae, Asteraceae, Portulaccaceae, Oxalidaceae. Mimosaceae, Crassulaceae, Cyperaceae, Cuscutaceae Apiaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Liliaceae (One each) majority of preparations from Leaves (09), Underground parts (1), Seed

(01), Fruits (01), Flower(1) Whole plant (05) etc.

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