



JOURNAL OF BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Plants used against snakebite by tribal people of Kendrapara district of Odisha, India

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History

Received: 8 September 2019

Received in revised form: 17 October 2019

Accepted: 23 November 2019

Keywords: Ethnomedicinal plants, snakebite, Kendrapara, Odisha.

ABSTRACT

The aim of the present study is to provide knowledge about the medicinal plants with anti-snake venom activity, used by the people of Kendrapara district, Odisha. Information on the medicinal plants were collected from different villages under nine blocks (Aul, Derabish, Garadpur, Mahakalpada, Marshaghai, Kendrapara, Rajnagar, Rajkanika and Patamundai) of Kendrapara district. During the survey a total of 38 plant species belonging to 36 genera and 29 families were identified as used for treatment of snakebite. The plants were arranged alphabetically according to their scientific name, habit, local name, family, parts used and mode of preparation of medicine. Maximum number of medicinal plants used for snakebite was recorded under the family Apocyanaceae and 68% plants were used orally and internally, whereas 32% of plants were externally applied to the affected area.

INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plants are used as remedies for venomous bites, due to the presence of therapeutic components. Traditional medicines play an important role in maintaining health care of majority of people in India. Traditional medicine

includes all kinds of folk medicine and any kind of therapeutic method that had been done by the tradition of a community or ethnic group (Akerele 1992; Rameshkumar & Ramakritinan, 2013). Snakebite is an important and serious problem and Global economic health hazard many parts of the world, especially in South Asian