

## CHAPTER 14

### Medicinal plants used for the treatment of various skin diseases in different villages of Puri district of Odisha

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#### ABSTRACT

*The use of medicinal plants in the treatment and prevention of Skin disease are most common form of infections that by can be caused by bacteria, fungus, viruses, parasites which occurring in people of all ages. From time immemorial herbal therapy for skin diseases has been used and also a number of Indian medicinal plants and various “rasayanas” claimed for it. However research on the local knowledge related to different medicinal plants for skin ailments still lacks adequate attention. The current is aim to identify, collect and document the existing folk knowledge related to the utilization of medicinal plants for healing of skin ailments among the local inhabitants of different villages of Puri district, Odisha, India. Data were collected on oral interview also with the aid of structured questionnaires guided by a mix of closed and open ended questions. These uses were compared and cross-checked with the published ethno medicinal data from Odisha, other states of the country as well as foreign countries. A total of 75 plants belonging to 46 families were documented for their therapeutic use. The predominant families are Fabaceae, Lamiaceae, Euphorbiaceae and Piperaceae. In most of the skin treatments with medicinal plants, the herbal preparations are administered topically. These plant species are arranged alphabetically with their botanical names, family and local name(s) followed by parts(s) uses by Local people. It was revealed from the study that most preferred species for treatment of skin diseases are Azadirachta indica, Aloe vera, Calendula officinalis, Calophyllum inophyllum, Glinus olpositifolius, Jatropha curcas, Lawsonia inermis, Momordica charantia, Ocimum sanctum, Piper betel, Pongamia pinnata and Tridax procumbens. The survey illuminates that the local people still actively use plants from their surroundings, as healing sources for the treatment of skin diseases.*

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