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PHARMACOGNOSTIC PLANTS AND JAUNDICE AN UNCLAIMED RELATION

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ABSTRACT

Medicinal plants are always there when it comes to the treatment of diseases. Directly or indirectly the herbal treatment becomes an integral part of our life. The active chemical constituents of the herbal plants generate its pharmacological effect and thereby prove its effectiveness. In the present review, the unending relation between Pharmacognosy and medicinal herbs are high lightened. Moreover, the herbal plants used in the treatment of jaundice became the limelight of this review article.

INTRODUCTION

Jaundice is a disease accompanied by the yellow coloration of the skin, mucus membranes and eyes¹. The yellow coloring comes from bilirubin which is the byproduct of old red blood cells. Jaundice affects the liver in conditions like hepatitis or liver cancer. It may also seem as an indication of obstruction in the biliary tract because of gallstones or pancreatic cancer². The jaundice treatment in India is accompanied by both pharmaceutical as well as traditional therapies. The traditional therapy used for the jaundice treatment has originated from the stream of Pharmaceutical Science i.e. Pharmacognosy. As far as the literature goes there are many evidences which support the fact that the herbs can be used for the successful treatment of this problem³⁻⁶.

PHARMACOGNOSTIC APPROACH OF TREATMENT

With the new advancement in technology the world's health sector is moving towards rationalization. Although, the theory of rationalization is based upon the medicinal commercial preparations which proves effective. But still the fact is that the herbal preparations too have claimed some pharmacological role in treating jaundice. Table 1 enlisted some of the medicinal plants used in the treatment of jaundice and hepatitis.

Table 1: List of Medicinal Plants⁷⁻²⁰

Botanical Name	Family	Chemical Constituents	Part Used	Habitat
<i>Adiantum capillus</i>	Adiantaceae	Flavonoids, terpenoids, tannins, mucilage, volatile oil, capillierine, mucin, gallic acid, sugar, kaempferol, quercetol and luteol	Leaves	All along the Himalayas from Kashmir to Sikkim between altitudes of 1800 and 2700 m.
<i>Argyrolobium roseum</i>	Papilionaceae	Flavonid glycoside, Vitexin and D-pinitol	Whole plant	
<i>Berberis lycium</i>	Berberdiaceae	Alkaloids umbellatine, barberin, barbamine, starch grains and tannins	Leaves	Northwestern Himalayas, Nilgiris, Kullu and Kumaon
<i>Boerhaavia procumbens</i>	Nyctaginaceae	Alkaloids, tricontanol, hentriacontane, sitosterol, ursolic acid, flavone, glucose	Whole plant	Throughout India as a weed

<i>Equisetum debile</i>	Equisetaceae	Moisture, ash, lipid, protein, Na, K, Ca, P, Cb, Cu, Ni, Zn, Cr, carbohydrates, ascorbic acid, folic acid and niacin	Whole plant	-----
<i>Carissa opaca</i>	Apocynaceae	Carissone, palmatic acid, benzyl salicylate, benzyl benzoate, farnesene	Leaves	Throughout the country in dry regions, especially in Punjab and Kashmir
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Astraceae	Gummy water, cellulose, inulin, fiber, ash, glycoside, stearin, mannites, tartaric acid, betaine, choline, lactones, esculine, esculetin, cichoriin, umbelliferone, scopoletin, 6,7-dihydroxy caumarin, volatile matter, anthocynin, fatty acid, methyl esters, vanillin, 5-hydroxy methyl 2-furfural, 2-acetylpyrole, furfural, phenyl acetic acid, 2-(5-hydroxy methyl 2-formylpyrol-1-yl)-3-methyl-3-pentanoic lactone, and phenylacetaldehyde	Whole plant	Native to Europe; commonly occurs in North West India, Tamil Nadu and parts of Andhra Pradesh.
<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	Cucurbitaceae	Methyl-phytosterol, amyrrin, multiflorenol, methylenecycloartenol, cycloartenol, tirucallol, protein, isopentenyl adenosine triaccolhol	Fruit	Cultivated for its edible fruits which are usually used as Salad vegetable.
<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i>	Cuscutaceae	Scoparone, melanettin, quercetin, hyperoside, phenolic compounds, and caffeoylquinic acids	Whole plant	A parasitic climber common throughout India up to 3000 m
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	Poaceae	Arginine, histidine, lysine, tyrosine, tryptophan, phenylalanine, cystine, methionine, threonine, leucine, isoleucine, valine and glycine	Seeds	Cultivated as food crop in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal,

				Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir
<i>Justicia adhatoda</i>	Acanthaceae	Essential oils, alkaloids vasicine, vasicinone, deoxyvasicine, maiontone, vasicinolone, vasicol, peganine, sitosterol, glucoside and kaempferol	Roots	-----
<i>Morus alba</i>	Moraceae	Ascorbic acid, carotene, vitamin D, glutathione, calcium, copper, zinc, boron, manganese, volatile oil, iron, thiamine, nicotinic acid, riboflavin, drying oil, tannins, pentahydroxyflavone, pentahydroxy benzophere and maclurin	Fruit	Native to China; cultivated in Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Kashmir and North-Western Himalayas
<i>Morus nigra</i>	Moraceae	Olcanolic acid, apigenin, cyclocommunol, morusin, cyclomorusin, kuwanon C, daucosterol, ursolic acid, 63-sitosterol	Fruit	Native to West Asia; cultivated in Kashmir, also grown in Darjeeling
<i>Myrsine africana</i>	Myrsinaceae	Embelin, vilangin methylene bis (2,5-dihydroxy-4-undecyl-3,6- benzoquinone), embolic acid, querctiol	Leaves	Outer Himalayas from Kashmir to Nepal and in Khasi Hills at 300–2700 m
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Oxalidaceae	Glyxylic acid, oxalic acid, vitexin, isovitexin, natural lipids, glycolipids, vitamin c, phaspholipids, fatty acids and tocopherols	Leaves	Throughout the warmer parts of India
<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Alanine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, lysine, proline, protein, fat, carbohydrates fibers, minerals, iron, niacin,	Fruit	Native to tropical Southeast Asia; distributed

		chromium and copper		throughout India; also planted in public parks
<i>Phyllanthus niruri</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Phyllanthine, hypophyllanthine, flavonoids quercetin, astralgin, quercitrin, isoquercitrin, rutine and alkaloids	Roots	Native to America
<i>Pistacia integerrima</i>	Anacardiaceae	Tannins, essential oil, resin, triterpenic acid, pistacienoic acid, triterpene alcohol and triterpenoic acid	Fruit	The Himalayas from Indus to Kumaon
<i>Plantago ovata</i>	Plantaginaceae	Glycoside, mucilage, tannin, bitter principal, vitamin C, nicotinic acid and fixed oil	Fruit, Seeds	Cultivated in parts of Rajasthan and Maharashtra
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Rosaceae	D-glactose, D-mannose, Larabinose, D-xylose, L-rhamnose, glucuronic acid, flavonoid, kaempferol, dihydrokaempferol, kaempferide and prudomestin	Fruit	Cultivated in Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Kumaon
<i>Punica granatum</i>	Punicaceae	Citric acid, sorbitol, mannitol, pelletierine, isoquercetrin, Bsitosterol, friedelin, D-mannitol, estrone, glucose, fructose, sucrose, maltose, oxalic acid and organic acid	Fruit, Seeds	Native to Iran; but cultivated throughout India
<i>Raphanus sativus</i>	Brassicaceae	Raphanin, glycosinolates, enzymes, trace elements, acids, aldehydes, anthocyanin, pectin, proteins and vitamin C	Root	Cultivated in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra and Gujarat
<i>Rhus chinensis</i>	Anacardiaceae	Gallotannins, gallotannic acid, gallic acid and m- digallic acid	Fruit, Root	The temperate Himalayas from Kashmir to Bhutan at 1300–2400 m
<i>Rumex hastatus</i>	Polygonaceae	Nepalin, nepodin and rumicin	Leaves	Western Himalayas from Kumaon to

				Kashmir, between 300- 2400m
<i>Saccharum officinarum</i>	Poaceae	Abscisic acid, apigenin, glycoside, methyl lapigenin, arabinose, arunodin, benzoic acid, campesterol, coumarin, cylindrin, orientin, fructose, galactose, glucose, phytosterol, saccharans, schaftoside, sucrose, invert sugar, ether, tricin and vicerin	Stem	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Punjab
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Asteraceae	Flavoligrans, silybin, isosilybin, dehyrosilybin, silydianin, silychristin, silymarine	Leaves	Western Himalayas at 1800 and Kashmir at 2400 m, also grown in gardens
<i>Tamarindus indica</i>	Caesalpinaceae	Tartaric acid, citric acid, maleic acid, potassium bitartrate, oxalic acid, kernal, polysaccharides, flavonoid, glycoside, vetixen, orientin, homoorientin and hordenine	Fruit, Roots	Indigenous to tropical Africa; now distributed throughout the plains and sub-Himalayan tracts of India
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Asteraceae	Taraxacin, taraxacerine, cerylalcohol, lactuce-roltaraxacin, choline, inulin, tannin, etereal oil, vitamin C, xanthophylls, potassium and vitamin A	Rhizome	Temperate Himalayas, Khasi Hills, Mishmi Hills, Gujarat and in hills of South India
<i>Viola serpens</i>	Violaceae	Glycoside methyl salicylate, viola quercitrin, alkaloid voiline gum, mucilage, sugar and saponin	Whole plant	
<i>Woodfordia fruticosa</i>	Lythraceae	Ellagic acid, sitosterol, polystachoside, ocatocosauol, myricetin-3-glactoside, cyaniding-3, crrysophanol- 8-0-B-Dglucopyranoside	Flower	Throughout North India, rather scarce in South India

BIODIVERSITY OF HERBAL PLANTS IN JAUNDICE TREATMENT²¹

In the limelight of the present review the biodiversity of these herbal plants could be established. These herbs are being distributed all over the world. But the plants used for the jaundice treatment are basically from the Asian continent. The Himalayas are proving to be one of the essential sources of these medicinal herbs. The diverse biotic and abiotic conditions of these areas are further boosting the commercialist and herbal researchers to invest both time and money.

CONCLUSION

Most herbal medicines still need to be studied scientifically, although the experience obtained from their traditional use over the years should not be ignored. As there is not enough evidence produced by common scientific approaches to answer questions of safety and efficacy about most of the herbal medicines now in use, the rational use and further development of herbal medicines will be supported by further appropriate scientific studies of these products, and thus the development of criteria is required for such studies.

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