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Ethanobotanical Studies on *Terminalia chebula* Retz. among the Indigenous people of Nizamabad and Kamareddy Districts, Telangana State.

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Abstract: *The study documents indigenous Terminalia chebula used for folk and tribal medicine in Nizamabad district medicinal system. A survey was undertaken amongst the village and tribal peoples in concern district and it was found that the plant is commonly used for certain diseases states like Cough and asthma, Piles, Tooth ache, Eye infection and Hiccough cure Tongue sores and Expel foetus in cattle's and the Seed cotyledons are eaten*

Keywords: *Terminalia chebula*, Indigenous people, Medicinal plants

Introduction:

Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts are lies between 18-5' and 19' of the northern latitudes, 77-40' and 78-37' of the eastern longitudes. The districts is bounded on the North by Nirmal district, East Bay Jagityal District, South by Medak district and West by Bidar District of Karnataka and Nanded district of Maharashtra. The geographical area is 7956 Sq. Km's i.e. 19, 80,586 acres spread over 923 villages in 36 mandals. Major rivers, such as, Godavari and Manjeera crosses Nizamabad district with some other streams Kalyani, Kaulas, Peddavagu also exist in the district. Lambada, Naikpod, Yerukalas are major tribal groups in the area. Besides these tribal groups, several other communities are residing as forest dwellers.

Materials and methods:

For documentation of ethno-botanical information and collection of plant material, several tours were undertaken during the period from 2013 to 2016. Data presented here is based on personal observations and interviews with traditional healers (*Viz.* Medicine men, Hakims and old aged people) and the methodology used is based on the methods available in the literature 7, 11. Ethnobotanical information about *Terminalia chebula* was documented in data sheets. For collection of plant material, local informer accompanied to authors. Plant identification was done by using regional floras and flora of adjoining districts and The Herbarium no. is HDCA 1256.

Plants used were compared with major published literature [1-5, 8-10, 12-14, 16-20]. Uses which are not mentioned in the literature are considered as uses less known in India and are marked by asterisks(*) in the present paper.

Results and discussion:

The plant that have been authenticated earlier for various diseases and ailments in the study are included below. The results show that gender and age class differ in their traditional knowledge with regard to medicinal plants reported. Old males had more traditional knowledge about medicinal plants and their uses than females. This may be attributed to their involvement in trade related activities. In most of the cases the older people were noted as being better informants and the vivid reason for this may be their personal experience of using these plants

since old times. Respondent's young age were less aware of the potential of medicinal plants than their older counterparts who have gathered knowledge from the point of view of their traditional health care and their day to day practices. This difference in the perception of the two age classes is a result of knowledge loss over time. Since ancient times plants have been indispensable sources of both preventive and curative traditional medicine preparations for human beings and livestock. The medicinal and edible plant *Terminalia chebula* is used in different areas of Nizamabad and Kamareddy districts.

Ethnobotanical uses of *Terminalia chebula*: -

Uses : **Medicin:**

1. Cough and asthma: One table spoon paste of fruits or stem bark taken with water twice a day until cure.
2. *Piles: Powder of its fruits with jaggery in equal proportion made in to 1 gm pills taken one or 2 pills twice a day for 7 days.
3. *Tooth ache: Fruit powder with *Emblica officinalis* fruit powder, 'crystal salt' and catechu, each in equal proportion prepared mixture used like tooth powder.
4. *Eye infection: Paste of fruit pulp with black salt one type of salt and butter milk applied externally daily night 7 days for eye infection.
5. *Hiccough: 40-60 ml decoction of fruit pulp with *Ricinus communis* roots, *Plumbago zeylanica* whole plant in equal proportion taken orally to check hiccough.

Veterinary Medicine:

1. *Tongue sores: 100 gm powder of fruits crushed and given orally with water and powder of fruit applied on tongue of cows.
2. *Expel foetus: Fruit or stem powder applied externally and put the fetus in.

Edible: Seed cotyledons are eaten by Children.

Misc.: 'Dashana' one type of tooth powder prepared from fruits and sold in markets.

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