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## TRADITIONAL PLANTS USED FOR SNAKEBITE BY ORAON TRIBE OF JASHPUR DISTRICT, CHHATTISGARH

Amia Ekka\*

Neelam Sanjeev Ekka\*\*

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**Abstract:** *Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh is mainly inhabited by different tribal communities whose main occupation is agriculture and collection of forest product. The aim of the study was given awareness of the local inhabitants about snake bite and documented their knowledge about treatment. Author select this area due to area is known as Naglok, Naag, Ghodakarait and Chitiare the main native snakes in this area. The tribal people are not use bed for sleep, still they are use local mat, in some part of this district not having electricity ,so people are live in danger. The present study highlights the medicinal plants used for treating snakebite by Oraontribe in Jashpur district, Chhattisgarh. This paper enumerates the traditional uses of 36 plant species belonging to 30 genera under 24 families that act as antidotes against snakebite and also described the interesting social aspect of oraon tribe. Nine new practices were also reported.*

**Keywords:** *Traditional plants, Snakebite, Oraontribe, Social aspect, Chhattisgarh*

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\*School of life sciences, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India

\*\*Govt. Naveen College, Balrampur, Dist- Balrampur-Ramanujganj, Chhattisgarh



## INTRODUCTION

Jashpur district is situated in the north-east of Chhattisgarh, Jashpur is rich with dense forest and green flora. Jashpur district is divided in two parts as per the geographical point of views. The hilly belt, the northern part, running from Loroghat, kastura, Narayanpur, Bagicha up to the Surguja district. This belt having forest area. It has a reserve forest also. It covers the Sanna, Bagicha and narayanpur. This part area is called **uppar Ghat**. Upper ghat is started through Loroghat. Loroghat is about 4 KM in length and there are three turnings of very dangerous. And the remaining southern part is called **nichghat**. In jashpurraigarh road, there are two more ghats, Jhandaghat before Kansabel and Belaghat after Kansabel. Both are of climbing.

The north south length of this district is about 150 Kms, and its east-west breadth is about 85 Kms. Its total area is 6,205 Sq.Km. Kunkuri is the hottest region in nichghat during summer and Pandrapat is the coldest region in uppar ghat in winter. Jashpur District has a population of about 743160 as per 2001 census, in which 469953 belongs to scheduled tribe and 36400 belongs to scheduled caste. Oraon tribal is well-known that this district is the Tribal district. Oraon caste are spread whole over this district

Oraon's culture is same as it was in the past. Only marriage blessing ceremony has changed of those who are the follower of Christian religion. When a boy became of marriageable age, their parents, send a message by any relatives to the family where a suitable girl is of marriageable or seen eligible in the view of boy's parent. If the girl's parent accept the message, they invite them to come on their desired date and time.

Parents of bride party come with two or three Panch's to the groom's family. They receive them happily and invite their neighbors saying that new guest have come in our family so please come to talk with them. They share them rice bear three round as per the custom. When first round over the main panch of the girls side ask the aim of their coming. Then boys side panch puts the aim before them. Then they introduce and identify themselves by their surname ( Minj, Lakra, Tirkey, Ekka etc.). Their surname should not be the same, and no one get married in the same surname means Tirkey surname boy can not marry with tirkey surname girl. This is the first identity of Oraon caste. After the satisfactory introduction they make a new relation on the name of the aimed boy and girl. Now second round sharing of rice bear starts and they show their happy for the new relation. They sing and dance. All



songs has a step of ceremony up to the end of marriage function .Songs sang at the marriage time can't be sung at the time of making new relation .This is the second Identity of Oraon culture.

Now some ceremonial steps are being cut off due to the functional expenditure. But three steps would never be stopped and are First engagement Second Lotapani (Mangni) and the third Marriage. In Oraon culture's marriage, Boy goes to bring her groom with a "Barat". If the groom family is unable to manage at any step, Bridge side helps either by money or whatever they need. This is the Third Identity of the Oraonculture. There is no any dowry system.

Uraon cultural dance is really a very good example of the Unity ,affection and majority. All male and females are chained with hands and dance together either day or night depending on the joyous ceremony. Karma is danced from July to the end of October up to the midnight of Diwali. After this whole the remaining year they dance called as jalsa dance.

Block Pharsabahar is called **NAGLOK**. Because every year more than ten people die with snake bite. Now its graph is going down than previous. Because Govt. is giving some care for this area. There is a proposal for snake park in this block. *Oraons*are mainly agricultural labourers. They are dependent on secondary forest produce for their living, which is why the incidents of snakebite are frequent among them. As they are widely depends on the forest they have rich heritage of traditional knowledge about health practices. The rich forest flora and vast tribal population in the district have attracted a number of workers for ethno botanical studies in the past(Chitralkha et.al. 2008, Jain, S.K. 1991 and Dwivedi et.al. 2009)but no works were reported exclusively on *Oraon*tribe and on snakebites necessitating the present investigation.

## **MATERIAL AND METHOD**

Folk remedies consisting of simple methods of treatment developed by trial and error over a long period hold an important place in almost all societies. Ethno botanical data were collected on the basis of Questionnaire (Jain S.K. *et al.* 1999) during 2011-2012, from all categories of *Oraon*tribe by interviewing the local vaidhyas, headmen, elderly persons (age group 50-70 years)and persons having thorough knowledge of plants. Field visits were made along with medicine men to identify species in the field and to know the local names. All the specimens were taxonomically identified with the help of botanists and flora, deposited in



the herbarium of the department of Life sciences, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur.  
New practices were marked with an asterisk (Jain 1991, Kirtikar and Basu 2003).

**ENUMERATION (Table :- 1) Plant species used for snake bite by Oraon tribe**

S.No.	Botanical name	Family	Local name	Mode of administration
1.	<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Fabaceae	Gung	Root paste is applied on the bitten area just after bite and some of it is given orally.
2.	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Chirchitha	The roots are ground and the filtrate is taken orally. About 3 or 4 drops of leaf juice is poured into nose and mouth just after bite and some of it is applied on the bitten area. Half cup of leaf and root juice is mixed with one spoonful of pepper powder and administered orally to dilute the poison and also some drops of leaf juice is poured into the ears and nose and two drops into the eyes.
3.	<i>Alangium salvifolium</i> (L. f.) Wang.	Alangiaceae	Ankola	Root bark powder is applied on the bitten part immediately after bite which acts as an antidote. Stem bark (10-20 g) crushed with rice washed water is administered twice in the first one hour of bite.
4.	<i>Amaranthus spinosus</i> L.	Amaranthaceae	Chauli	Leaf paste is applied on the affected areas just after bite and leaves used as leafy vegetable thrice a week.
5.	<i>Andrographis paniculata</i> (Burm. f.) Wall. ex Nees	Acanthaceae	Buineem	Two spoonfuls of dry leaf powder is administered orally along with water and some leaf paste is applied on the bitten area soon after bite which acts as an antidote. Dried root powder is given orally along with hot water as an antidote.
6.	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Roxb. ex DC.) Wallich ex Beddome	Combretaceae	Dhaura	Ten g of gum is ground with 20 g of root of <i>Desmodium gangeticum</i> . Paste is applied on the affected areas only once. Stem bark paste is applied on the bitten area just after bite and some of it is taken along with water as an antidote.
7.	* <i>Arisaema tortuosum</i> (Wall.) Schott.	Araceae	Saanpkaanda	Roots paste applied on snake bite region and half spoonful paste taken with a cup of warm water twice a day for 2 days.
8.	<i>Butea superba</i> Roxb.	Fabaceae	Semal	Inflorescence along with leaves of <i>Cinnamomum zeylanicum</i> is ground into paste and administered orally for 2 days.



9.	<i>Calotropisgigantea</i> (L.) R. Br. ex Ait.	Asclepiadaceae	Kujur	Roots are crushed and aqueous extract is applied externally and some of it is also taken orally. Root bark is ground into paste and made into pills. These pills are given orally for thrice a day as an antidote and latex is applied on the bitten area. Leaves are ground along with the latex and made into small tablets and one pill is administered for every half an hour to act as an antidote.
10.	<i>Calotropisprocera</i> (Ait.) R. Br.	Asclepiadaceae	Akwan	Roots ground along with pepper grains are administered orally. About 2-3 drops of root juice is swallowed and 5-6 drops of juice is applied on the bitten area and also leaf latex is applied on the bitten area for every half an hour in a day.
11.	<i>Cardiospermumhalicacabum</i> L.	Sapindaceae	Buddakakara	A spoonful of leaf juice mixed with that of leaf juice of <i>Alternantherasessilis</i> administered immediately after bite.
12.	* <i>Cassia alata</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Badachakora	Root paste applied on bitten place and one spoonful paste taken with a cup of water, twice a day for only one day.
13.	* <i>C. fistula</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Amaltas	Paste of stem bark applied on bitten place and one spoon full paste taken with a cup of water, once a day for 2 days.
14.	<i>C. occidentalis</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	MajhlaChakoda	Dried leaf powder is mixed with powder of long pepper and administered immediately after bite and some leaf paste is applied on the bitten area as an antidote.
15.	<i>Citrus limon</i> Burm.f.	Rutaceae	Nimbu	Seeds are ground into paste by adding water and 2 spoons of it is given orally and some of it is applied on the bitten area.
16.	* <i>Curcuma angustifolia</i> Dalz&Gib s.	Zingiberaceae	Sapaini	Two hundred gram fresh roots are crushed with a cup of water and taken thrice a day for two days and some paste is applied in the bitten places.
17.	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Dudhi	Leaves are pounded with two black peppers and the paste is administered orally as an antidote.
18.	<i>Gloriosasuperba</i> L.	Liliaceae	JhagraPhool	Root juice is applied on the bitten area to reduce pain.
19.	<i>Gymnemasylvestre</i> (Retz.) R. Br. ex Schult.	Asclepiadaceae	Gudmar	Root powder is sprayed on the bitten area as an antidote. Leaf juice is applied on the bitten area soon after bite.
20.	<i>Hemidesmusindicus</i> var. <i>indicus</i> (L.) R. Br.	Periplocaceae	DudhiyaParhi	Root are ground with bulbs of <i>Allium sativum</i> (1:1). Paste is applied on the bitten areas as an antidote.



21.	* <i>Hibiscus manihot</i> L.	Malvaceae	Ban bhindi	Root paste is applied on the bitten places and one spoonful of paste taken with a cupful of water once a day.
22.	<i>Holarrhenapubescens</i> (Buch.-Ham.) Wall. ex G. Don	Apocynaceae	Korya	Root juice together with water in equal quantities is given orally and some of it is applied on the bitten area.
23.	<i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i> (Roxb.) Planch.	Ulmaceae	Papda	Stem bark with root of <i>Aristolochiabracteolata</i> and stem bark of <i>Oroxylum indicum</i> are taken in equal quantities is ground. Two spoons of this paste is administered with a glass of water soon after bite.
24.	* <i>Mimosa himalayana</i> Gamble.	Mimosaceae	Jangli babul	One teaspoonful of powdered root, is mixed with a cup of water and taken orally 2 times a day for 2 days as an antidote to snake venom.
25.	<i>M. pudica</i> L.	Mimosaceae	Chuimui	Leaves are ground along with leaves of <i>Leucasaspera</i> (1:1) and paste is applied on the bitten area soon after bite.
26.	<i>Momordica charantia</i> L.	Cucurbitaceae	Jangli Karela	Handful of leaves is chewed or half cup of leaf juice is administered to get vomiting which helps to remove poison.
27.	<i>Momordica dioica</i> Roxb. ex Willd.	Cucurbitaceae	Jangli Karela	The root is ground along with sour starch water and given orally and some drops are poured into the nose.
28.	<i>Opuntia dillenii</i> (Ker-Gawl.) Haw.	Cactaceae	Accho	Twenty g of phyllode is ground along with 10 g of stem bark of the same plant and paste is applied on the bitten area and also 2 spoons of the above paste is administered with a glass of water twice a day for 2 days.
29.	* <i>Panicum javanicum</i> Pair.	Graminae	Kishkodai	One spoonful plant juice is taken twice a day and plant paste applied on the affected part twice a day for 2 days.
30.	* <i>Pedilanthus thymaloides</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Aeri	The aqueous extract of stem bark is taken one spoonful thrice a day for two days and stem bark paste is applied on bitten place twice a day for two days.
31.	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> L.	Plumbaginaceae	Chitrak	The root paste is applied over the bitten area immediately after bite and some of it is taken orally.
32.	* <i>Rauvolfia canescens</i> L.	Apocynaceae	Sarpgandha I	Root paste is taken one spoonful with a cup of water once a day for 2 days.
33.	<i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i> (L.) Benth. ex Kurz	Apocynaceae	Sarpgandha	Roots are crushed along with the roots of <i>Calotropis gigantea</i> and the extract is given orally. Root paste is applied on the bitten area soon after bite. Root paste along with that of <i>Azadirachta indica</i> and 3 black pepper seeds are made into paste and the



				extract is administered in 3 spoons only as an antidote. Root decoction is given orally as an antidote.
34.	<i>Tinosporacordifolia</i> (Willd.) Miers ex Hook. f. &Thoms.	Menispermaceae	Giloe	Giloe roots ground along with that of <i>Rauvolfiaserpentina</i> , <i>Momordicadioica</i> and stem of <i>Alstoniascholaris</i> and made into paste. It is applied on the bitten area and also it is made into pea seed sized pills, 2 pills are administered with a glass of hot water soon after bite. Leaf extract is administered along with black pepper 3-4 times a day as an antidote. Whole plant extract mixed with black pepper powder is made into decoction and 5 spoons is given soon as an antidote.
35.	<i>Vitexnegundo</i> L.	Verbenaceae	Khokhod	About 1-2 spoons of root extract is administered orally for everyone hour. The leaves are ground and taken orally along with water and apart of leaf paste is applied on bitten area.
36.	<i>Wrightiaarborea</i> (Den nst.) Maberly	Apocynaceae	Dudh-koraiya	Latex is applied on the bitten area soon after bite and twice for one day only.

**\*Species considered as new / less known as snakebite remedy**

## RESULTS

The tribals of Jashpur district have developed vast knowledge of plants as observed by the author during their field survey from 2010 to 2012 of ethno botanical work which they have acquired through their traditional practices since time immemorial. This study has brought out to light traditional and indigenous knowledge on medicinal plants comprising 36 plant species belonging to 30 genera under 24 families used by *Oraon* people as an antidote to snake bites. They fall under 12 herbs, 11 shrubs, 9 trees and 4climbers. These are presented alphabetically along with botanical name, family, vernacular names and mode of administration. There is an urgent need of documentation of this irreplaceable knowledge. It may be lost when traditional cultures collapse with advent of modernization. The present studies aimed at documenting all Ethno botanical Products data covering most important eco-sensitive zones of the District.

## CONCLUSION

The plant species used by tribals as antidotes against snakebite are listed in table 1, of these nearly 09 species constitute new reports for India. Other species are, however , reported



from other parts of India. Their reports from this part of Chhattisgarh certainly increase the authenticity for the said purpose. The Jashpur district comprises of a large population of Oraontribal community. These forest dwellers live in forests and possess a vast knowledge on plants. From the above results and discussion, it is evident that a thorough study of anti-venom preparations of the above mentioned plants is essential. Since the tribes living in forest area often observe the positive effects of their preparations, they have developed strong belief in their own prescriptions.

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