

## **ETHNOMEDICINAL POTENTIAL OF KAHDNESH REGION- A REVIEW**

**G. T. Pardeshi**

Department of Botany, J. D. M. V. P. Science College, **JALGAON** – 425001

Medicinal plants were known to human beings since long. Rig Veda (3500-1500 B. C.). In India, about 2,500 plant species are being used in indigenous system of medicine. The state of Maharashtra occupies a major part of central India. A good number of plants are used by tribal or local people (20'-21' N. Latitude, 74.55' – 76.28' longitude) for the treatment of human ailments are included in this paper. 06 species are used for controlling dysentery, 07 species for fever, 02 for diarrhea, 04 for jaundice, 04 for diabetes, 007 for rheumatism etc. The plant species are arranged according to botanical source, local names, part used.

### **INTRODUCTION**

According to history of human civilization man was well aware of the medicinal properties of many plants. Rig-Veda (3500-1500 B.C.) reported that Indo-Aryans used some plants as medicinal agent. Ayurvedic system of medicine described the use of 127 plants as curative agents as early as in 1200 B.C. The first Chinese pharmacopoeia containing a list of 135 different plant medicines with their uses and method of preparation around 1122 B.C. More than 400 species of plant medicines used in Greek system were described by Hippocrates around 400 B.C. From these starting material modern medicines gradually evolved and reaches to present state.

Present scenario in India: - India is one of the 12 mega biodiversity centers having over 45000 plants. These are about 700 firms in the small scale sector manufacturing traditional medicines with or without standardization.

### **MATERIAL AND METHOD**

The present study is based on personal interviews with tribals of various age groups in the area. (Period – Jan 2008 to Dec-2010).

The local medicine – men from the villages were requested to accompany us to collect the plants in the forests. The medicinal plant materials were from these regions. The medicinal plant materials were shade dried and herbarium specimens were deposited in the herbarium. Therapeutic uses of plants against different ailments were verified and documented.

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\* Corresponding Author