

Ethno medicinal uses of roots of fourteen species of family Apocynaceae by indigenous communities of India

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Introduction

Apocynaceae, commonly known as the Dogbane or poisonous plant family, is one of the largest angiosperm families with 375 genera and 5100 species (Endress et al., 2007). Plants of family Apocynaceae are herbs, shrubs, vines, succulents, and trees, mostly distributed in tropical and

Abstract

Apocynaceae is one of the largest angiosperm families with numerous medicinal plant species. Plants of the family Apocynaceae are rich in toxic and medicinal secondary metabolites such as alkaloids, triterpenoids, flavonoids, glycosides, phenols, steroids, lactones, sterols, and sugars lignans. Roots of family Apocynaceae are used by indigenous communities in different parts of India to treat many health problems. The present study aimed to review and analyze the ethnomedicinal usage of raw root drugs of fourteen species of family Apocynaceae by India's indigenous communities. The available literature in scientific journals, edited books, floras, eFloras, online databases, scientific databases, etc., was reviewed to collect information on the ethnomedicinal uses of the roots of the selected fourteen species by various indigenous communities in different parts of India. Indigenous communities used raw roots of the studied species to manage various health problems, including animal bite, asthma, boils, burn injuries, cold, constipation, cough, diabetes, dysentery, epilepsy, fever, fits, gonorrhoea, hypertension, insect bite, jaundice, leprosy, leucoderma, piles, rheumatism, scorpion sting, skin disease, snakebite, stomach-ache, and wound healing. The study revealed that there are many pharmacologically active compounds in the roots of these species, which are responsible for the related biological activities. The present review will provide baseline information for planning future research on the ethnobotany, natural products chemistry, and pharmacology of the studied root drugs of family Apocynaceae.

Keywords: Dogbane family, indigenous communities, traditional knowledge, root drugs, medicinal plants.

subtropical regions (Endress, 1997; Endress and Bruyns, 2000). Apocynaceae is known as a medicinally important family, with most plant species characterized by the production of milky exudates or latex (Nazar et al., 2013; Bhadane et al., 2018). Its species are rich in toxic and medicinal secondary metabolites such as alkaloids, triterpenoids, flavonoids, glycosides, phenols, steroids, lactones, and

sterols (Hofling et al., 2010; Bhadane et al., 2018; Dey et al., 2017). Several indigenous communities in different regions of India use Apocynaceae plants for medicinal and non-medicinal purposes, such as food, fodder, timber, ornamental, perfume, dyes, poison, etc. (Islam and Lucky, 2019).

Plants of this family are a potential source of important compounds and novel drugs in treating various diseases (Devi et al., 2017). Different species of Apocynaceae have been reported to have many ethnomedicinal uses in different parts of India. Gairola et al. (2014) reported ethnomedicinal usage of eight species of Apocynaceae by indigenous communities of UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh. Devi et al. (2017) reported about 25 species of Apocynaceae belonging to 16 genera with ethnomedicinal importance. Different plant parts of Apocynaceae, such as leaves, bark, latex, stem, root, and flowers, are used to treat various health ailments (Devi et al., 2017). Botanical, phytochemical, and pharmacological properties, including important biological activities, of some species of Apocynaceae have been reviewed by many researchers (Wong et al., 2013; Ekalu et al., 2019). However, a comprehensive review of the ethnomedicinal uses of family Apocynaceae plants' root drugs is not available. The present study aimed to review and analyze ethnomedicinal usage of root drugs of fourteen medicinally

important species of family Apocynaceae by indigenous communities of India.

Methodology

Plant species of the Apocynaceae family are well known for their medicinal values, with various aerial and underground parts used to cure many health problems in different parts of India. A total of fourteen species of the family Apocynaceae were selected for the present study (Table 1). The species reviewed in the present study are distributed in tropical and subtropical regions throughout India (Khare, 2007). Roots of all the selected species are widely used in Indian traditional medicine systems and by India's indigenous communities. Information on the ethnomedicinal usage of the selected species' roots was reviewed. The available literature from various sources, including floras, eFloras, online databases, scientific databases, scientific journals, and edited books, was analyzed. The literature reviewed included accepted scientific names, synonyms, common or vernacular, ayurvedic, and trade names. Accepted scientific names and the synonyms were confirmed from the plantlist.org (TPL, 2013). Information on some major compounds found in these plants and their proven biological activities was also compiled (DNP, 2020). Accepted scientific names, plant subfamily, synonyms, local or trade names, and Ayurvedic names are provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Details of the studied species of family Apocynaceae reported from India.

S.No.	Botanical name	Subfamily	Synonyms (TPL, 2013)	Local/ Trade names
1.	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i> L.	Asclepiadoideae	<i>Asclepias cubensis</i> Wender., <i>Asclepiascurassavica</i> var. <i>concolor</i> Krug & Urb., <i>Asclepias nivea</i> var. <i>curassavica</i> (L.) Kuntze	Curassavian Swallow-wort, Kaakanaasikaa, Kaakatundi
2.	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (L.) Dryand.	Asclepiadoideae	<i>Asclepias gigantea</i> L., <i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (L.) R. Br. ex Schult., <i>Madorius giganteus</i> (L.) Kuntze.	Madar, Giant Milk-weed, Erukkinveru, Aak
3.	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Aiton) Dryand.	Asclepiadoideae	<i>Asclepias procera</i> Aiton, <i>Calotropis gigantea</i> var. <i>procera</i> (Aiton) P.T.Li, <i>Calotropis heterophylla</i> Wall. ex Wight.	Swallow-Wart, Milk Weed, King's Crown, AkadaPhool
4.	<i>Carissa carandas</i> L.	Rauvolfioideae	<i>Arduina carandas</i> (L.) Baill., <i>Carissa salicina</i> Lam., <i>Capparis carandas</i> (L.) Burm.f.	Christ's Thorn, Bengal, Currant
5.	<i>Carissa spinarum</i> L.	Rauvolfioideae	<i>Carissa abyssinica</i> R. Br., <i>Carissa carandas</i> var. <i>congesta</i> (Wight) Bedd., <i>Carissa opaca</i> Stapf ex Haines	Jangali Karondaa, Garnaa
6.	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> (L.) G. Don.	Rauvolfioideae	<i>Catharanthus roseus</i> var. <i>albus</i> G. Don, <i>Lachnea rosea</i> (L.) Rchb., <i>Vinca rosea</i> L.	Sadaabahaar, Nayantaaraa, Nityakalyaani, Madagascar Periwinkle, Vinca
7.	<i>Cryptolepis dubia</i> (Burm.f.) M.R.Almeida	Periplocoideae	<i>Cryptolepis buehneri</i> Roem. & Schult., <i>Cryptolepis reticulata</i> (Roth) Wall. ex Steud., <i>Nerium reticulatum</i> Roxb.	Indian Sarsaparilla, Karantaa, Anantamuula, Medaksinghi, Krsnasariva, Svetasariva
8.	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> (L.) R. Br. ex Schult.	Periplocoideae	<i>Periploca indica</i> L.	Indian Sarsaparilla, Anatmool, Sariwa, Svetasariva
9.	<i>Holarrhena pubescens</i> Wall. ex G. Don	Apocynoideae	<i>Holarrhena antidysenterica</i> (Roth) Wall. ex A. DC., <i>Holarrhena codaga</i> G. Don., <i>Holarrhena glabra</i> Klotzsch	Easter tree, Ivory tree, Tellicherry Bark
10.	<i>Ichmocarpus frutescens</i> (L.) W.T. Aiton	Apocynoideae	<i>Apocynum frutescens</i> L., <i>Ichmocarpus affinis</i> (Roem. & Schult.) K. Schum., <i>Tabernaemontana parviflora</i> Poir.	Black Creeper
11.	<i>Marsdenia tenacissima</i> (Roxb.) Moon	Asclepiadoideae	<i>Gymnema tenacissimum</i> (Roxb.) Spreng., <i>Marsdenia tenacissima</i> Wight & Arn., <i>Asclepias tenacissima</i> Roxb.	Maruaa-bel, Khaarchu, Nishod, Sufed Murva
12.	<i>Nerium oleander</i> L.	Apocynoideae	<i>Nerium indicum</i> Mill., <i>Nerium japonicum</i> Gentil., <i>Nerium latifolium</i> Mill.	Indian oleander, White Oleander, Oleander, Kaner, Karavira
13.	<i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i> (L.) Benth ex Kurz.	Rauvolfioideae	<i>Rauvolfia obversa</i> (Miq.) Baill., <i>Rauvolfia trifoliata</i> (Gaertn.) Baill., <i>Ophioxylon album</i> Gaertn.	Rauvolfia root, Serpentina root, Indian Snakeroot
14.	<i>Tabernaemontana divaricata</i> (L.) R. Br. ex Roem. & Schult.	Rauvolfioideae	<i>Nerium divaricatum</i> L., <i>Tabernaemontana coronaria</i> (Jacq.) Willd., <i>Vinca alba</i> Noronha	East Indian Rosebay, Chandni

Result and discussion

Recording and analyzing knowledge of ethnomedicinal plants' usage every

important. Due to various secondary metabolites, the aerial and underground parts of several Apocynaceae species show

various medicinal properties, and they are used in several Ayurvedic formulations (API, 2001). The roots of all the studied 14 plants are widely used by various indigenous communities throughout India. Vernacular names used by different indigenous communities and ethnomedicinal uses of the roots of Apocynaceae's selected species in India are presented in Table 2. Ethnic people in different regions of India use different parts of these plants as a decoction, infusion, extracts, powders, medicated oils, incineration-calcination preparations, etc., to treat several health problems. The selected plant species are also widely used in Ayurveda and various other Indian traditional systems of medicine. In Ayurveda, these plants are used to treat several diseases, including wound healing, ulcers, skin diseases, leucorrhoea, urinary diseases, heart disease, eye diseases, nervous disorders, mental disorder, psychotic disease, insanity, metabolic disorder, abdominal, diarrhea, dyspepsia, indigestion, worms related problems, obesity, asthma, cough, fever, blood-related problems, tuberculosis, leprosy, herpes zoster, and tumor (API, 2001). Roots of the studied plants were found to be used for the treatment of some major health problems, including skin problems, wound, ulcers, swellings, stomach, liver, spleen, kidney-related complaints, urinary problems, fever, heart pain, asthma, other respiratory problems, insomnia, leprosy, epilepsy, paralysis, cancer, diabetes, blood pressure, hypertension, insect bite, snakebite, dog bite, protracted labor, postnatal complaints, etc. (Table 2).

Different indigenous communities in India use the roots of *A. curassavica* for the treatment of gonorrhoea, piles, and wounds; *C. gigantea* roots are used for treatment

of asthma, burn injuries, cough, dysentery, fevers, gum infection, labour pain, leprosy, scorpion stings, snakebite, stomach-ache, swellings and wound; roots of *C. procera* are used for the treatment of asthma, diabetes, elephantiasis, jaundice, leucoderma, malarial fever, protracted labour, rheumatism, skin diseases and spleen complaints; roots of *C. carandas* are used for the treatment of anasarca, diabetic ulcer, dropsy, madness, rheumatism, and wound; roots of *C. spinarum* are used for the treatment of epilepsy, fever, infected sores, poor digestion, stomach ailments and wounds; roots of *C. roseus* are used for the treatment of diabetes, insect bite, snakebite, wound, and cancer; roots of *C. dubia* are used for the treatment of bone fracture and jaundice; roots of *H. indicus* are used for the treatment of dysentery, fever, fits, herpes, jaundice, leucorrhoea, snakebite, stomach-ache, urinary diseases, and wound; roots of *H. pubescens* are used for the treatment of animal bite, cold, constipation, cough, diarrhoea, dog bite, dysentery, fever, haematuria, piles, skin healing, snake bite, and stomach-ache; roots of *I. frutescens* are used for the treatment of anaemia, gum bleeding, blood purification, body pain, diabetes, fever, kidney disease, kidney stone, skin disease, and bladder stone; roots of *M. tenacissima* are used for the treatment of postnatal complaints; root of *N. oleander* are used for the treatment of epilepsy, insect bite, leprosy, snakebite, ulcers, and wound; roots of *R. serpentina* are used for the treatment of asthma, blood pressure, boils, epilepsy, facial paralysis, heart pain, hypertension, insomnia, leucoderma, scorpion sting, snake bite, and stomach-ache; roots of *T. divaricata* are used in treatment of jaundice, toothache, snake bite and scorpion sting.

Table 2: Ethnomedicinal uses of the roots of the studied species of family Apocynaceae by India's indigenous communities.

Region, State	Vernacular name	Community	Ethnomedicinal use	Reference
<i>A. curassavica</i>				
Juvvadhhu Hills, Tamil Nadu	NA	Local community	Emetic, purgative, and a remedy for piles and gonorrhoea.	Sekharan and Jagadeesan (1997)
Uttarakhand	Bharadwaji, Kakatundi, KauraDodi	NA	Powder with <i>Acorus</i> root topical administered for wound healing.	Pullaiah (2002), Dhiman (2004)
<i>C. gigantea</i>				
Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal	Akanda	Santhals, Mundas, Lodhas, Bhumijis, OraonKherias communities	In snakebite, the root bark is ground into a paste and made into pills. Plant latex is applied over the bitten area.	Sarkhel (2014)
West and South of Tripura, Tripura	Akanda, Angon	Different tribal communities	Fevers, cough, asthma, gum infection.	Sen et al. (2011)
Santhal Pargana, Bihar	Rui, Madar, Parkha	NA	The powder used for wound healing.	Bakshi et al. (1999), CCRAS (1999)
Paderu division, Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh	NA	Local community	Stomach ache.	Padal et al. (2010)
Juvvadhhu Hills, Tamil Nadu	NA	Local community	Powdered root bark used for dysentery.	Sekharan and Jagadeesan (1997)
Assam	NA	Miris	Bark paste used to cure dysentery. Juice applied to burn injuries and swellings.	Hajra and Baishya (1981)
Mayurbhanj district, Orissa	NA	Local community	Paste applied to snakebite and scorpion stings.	Jain et al. (1973)
Mayurbhanj district, Orissa	NA	Local community	Pounded and applied with country liquor on the wounds of leprosy patients as well as internally taken.	Choudhury et al. (1975)
Mayurbhanj district, Orissa	NA	Local community	Bark paste applied on wounds and along with ghee taken to cure snake bite.	Murthy et al. (1986)
Koraput, Orissa	NA	Local community	A piece of root is given to cattle with grass or straw to cure cleft on the pallet.	Misra et al. (1993)
Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka	Akke, Giant milkweed, Crown flower	Siddis	Root juice smeared over the abdomen and vaginal region at childbirth to reduce labour pain.	Bhandary et al. (1995)
<i>C. procera</i>				
Billawar, Kathua district, Jammu & Kashmir	Daryaiak	Gujjar, Bakerwal and Dogra communities	A paste of charcoal prepared from root, and bland oil mixture applied on skin diseases.	Bhushan and Kumar (2013)
Sariska and Silisher regions, Alwar district, Rajasthan	Aakada	Local community	A decoction of root bark and black pepper are used twice a day for three days for malarial fever.	Parveen et al. (2007)

Paderu division of Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh	NA	Local community	Diabetes.	Padal et al. (2010)
Sub-Himalayan tract, Uttarakhand	NA	Gujjar community	The grounded roots are externally applied on leukoderma.	Sharma et al. (2013a)
Jhabua, Dhar, Khargone, and Ratlam districts, Madhya Pradesh	NA	Bhil community	One pinch of root bark powder mixed with one teaspoon of honey orally taken twice a day for 3-5 days as a jaundice remedy.	Samvatsar and Diwanji, (2000)
Rajasthan	NA	Local community	In Asthma decoction prepared by boiling bark of <i>Acacia ferruginea</i> and <i>Holarrhena antidysenterica</i> in water with <i>Acacia catechu</i> and <i>Calotropis procer</i> root, cooled and given at bedtime.	Sharma and Khandelwal (2016)
Sonaghathi of Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh	Madar	Gond and Kharwar communities	Roots powder (10 g per day) with water used for spleen complaints, elephantiasis, and rheumatism. In protracted labour, roots are given with black pepper.	Singh et al. (2002)
<i>C. carandas</i>				
Sariska and Silisher regions, Alwar district, Rajasthan	Karunda	Local community	Root bark paste used in a diabetic ulcer. Insect repellent, hypotensive dropsy, anasarca, madness.	Asolkar et al. (1992)
Eastern Rajasthan	Karunda	Local community	Roots with bark used in rheumatism for 15 days.	Upadhyay et al. (2010)
Mayurbhanj, Odisha	Karandakoli	Local community	Wound healing.	Das et al. (2003)
North-Eastern Uttar Pradesh	Karanda	Local community	Topical application of paste for wound healing.	Trivedi (2006), Dhiman (2004)
<i>C. spinarum</i>				
District Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir	Garna	Local community	Root decoction with roots of <i>Justicia adhatoda</i> used to cure fever.	Bhatia et al. (2014)
District Rajouri, Jammu & Kashmir	Garanda	Gujjar-Bakerwal community	Root bark extract is given to cure poor digestion.	Rashid (2012)
Kathua district, Jammu & Kashmir	Garna	Local community	Roots purgative, used against stomach ailments.	Kumar and Bhagat (2012)
Different regions, Jammu & Kashmir	Garanda	Tribal, hakims and local community	Powdered root sprinkled over wounds and infected sores.	Mahajan et al. (2012)
Yelagiri hills of Eastern Ghats, Tamil Nadu	Sirukila	Malayali tribal community	Roughly ground root powder mixed with water is poured into a snake burrow.	Salai et al. (2014)
Uttarakhand		Local community	Root used internally in the remedy of epilepsy.	Kala et al. (2004)
<i>C. roseus</i>				
West and South of Tripura	Nayantara, Khumbaragi	Different tribal communities	Diabetes, insect bite, wound.	Sen et al. (2011)

Kodagu district, Karnataka	Nithyapushpa	Herbal healers and local community	Root paste mixed with pepper and lime is applied externally on the snake-bitten spot thrice a day.	Lingaraju et al. (2013)
Odisha	Sadasawagaon	Lodha community	The paste used for wound healing	Bakshi et al. (1999)
Tons river area, Dehradun, Uttarakhand	Sadabhar	Local community	Diabetes, cancer.	Kumar and Pandey (2015)
<i>C. dubia</i>				
Mokhada, district Thane, Maharashtra	Medvad	Local community	Root paste is applied over the bone fracture.	Sonawane et al. (2012)
Nasik district, Maharashtra	NA	Local community	Half a glass of root extract is taken orally in the early morning for seven days before breakfast, used internally in the remedy of jaundice.	Patil and Patil (2005)
<i>H. indicus</i>				
Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal	Anantmula	Santhals, Mundas, Lodhas, Bhumijis, OraonKherias community	The root is ground with bulbs of <i>Allium sativum</i> (1:1). In the case of snakebite, the paste is applied to the bitten areas.	Sarkhel (2014)
Kodagu district, Karnataka	Sogade	Herbal healers and local community	Root decoction with a pinch of common salt, is taken internally in a stomach ache.	Lingaraju et al. (2013)
Wayanad, Kerala	Nannari	Local community	Paste topically administered for wound healing.	Gupta (2007)
Phulbani, Odisha	Sugandhi	Local community	Pounded and poultice topically administered for wound healing.	CCRAS (1999)
Paderu division, Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh	NA	Local community	Aphrodisiac, cooling effect, dysentery, fits, herpes.	Padal et al. (2010)
Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka	Sugandhi, Sarsaparilla	Siddis	Roots powdered with 'Nachki' (<i>Minosapudica</i> L.), taken orally every morning to treat leucorrhoea during the menstrual period. Root powder also is taken with milk as a daily tonic.	Bhandary et al. (1995)
Vellore District, Tamil Nadu	Nannari	Local community	Jaundice and snakebite.	Thirumalai et al. (2010)
Sivagangai district, Tamil Nadu	NA	Local community	The root is powdered and given with honey in jaundice.	Shanmugam et al. (2009)
Shahdol district, Madhya Pradesh	Dudhi	Ojha	The root paste mixed with water is given in small quantities to children in dysentery.	Bharti (2015)
Sonaghati, Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh	Anantmul, Kapuri	Gond and Kharwar communities	Root juice (10 ml twice per day) is orally taken to cure urinary diseases and fever.	Singh et al. (2002)
Mokhada, Thane district, Maharashtra	Anantmul	Local community	Roots are crushed, and powder is taken internally for urinary troubles. Root paste is	Sonawane et al. (2012)

			taken orally in snakebite.	
<i>H. pubescens</i>				
West and South of Tripura, Tripura	Kurchi, PandhraKuda, Kuichama	Different tribal communities	Dysentery, fever, cold, piles.	Sen et al. (2011)
Bonai Hills Sundargarh, Odisha	Kurai	Paudi, Bhuinya communities	Root mixed with equal quantity of 'Harada' [<i>Terminaliachebula</i> Retz.] 'Bhada' [<i>Terminaliabellerica</i> (Gaertn) Roxb.] and 'Bhejri' [<i>Solanumsurttense</i> Burm. f.] fruits boiled in water taken twice daily for a week to cure cough/cold.	Aminuddin and Girach (1991)
Yelagiri Hills, Eastern Ghats, Tamil Nadu	Kutasappalai	Malayali tribal community	A decoction of root bark taken to get relief from dysentery.	Salai et al. (2014)
Paderu division, Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh	NA	Local community	Stomach-ache.	Padal et al. (2010)
Juvvadhu Hills, Tamil Nadu	NA	Local community	Powder prepared from roots and leaves was administered to stop bleeding from the nose and hemorrhages after childbirth.	Sekharan and Jagadeesan (1997)
Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka	Kodasa, Easter tree	Siddiscommunity	Root bark decoction taken orally acts as depurative.	Bhandary et al. (1995)
Sagartaluk, Shimoga district, Karnataka	Kodasiga	Adikarnataka, Besta, Brahmin, Ganiga, Idiga, Lambani, Muslim, Vokkaligacommunities	Root paste applied over infected part of skin till cured.	Rajakumar and Shivanna (2010)
Sonaghati, Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh	Koraya	Gond and Kharwar communities	Root paste is taken orally with water to stimulate urine discharge and remove constipation, diarrhea, and haematuria. It is also used as an antidote to a dog bite or bite of poisonous animals/snake.	Singh et al. (2002)
<i>I. frutescens</i>				
Sagartaluk, Shimoga district, Karnataka	Karibantanaballi	Adikarnataka, Besta, Brahmin, Ganiga, Idiga, Lambani, Muslim, Vokkaligacommunities	A root decoction is taken orally in body pain.	Rajakumar and Shivanna (2010)
West and South Tripura, Tripura	Dugdhalata, Perialata, Soyalata	Different tribal communities	Bleeding in gum, skin disease, fever, kidney disease.	Sen et al. (2011)
Paderu division, Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh	NA	Local community	Blood purification, hemorrhage from the mouth.	Padal et al. (2010)
Juvvadhu Hills, Tamil Nadu	NA	Local community	The root powder is	Sekharan and

Nadu			administered with milk to treat diabetes, stone in the bladder, and as a blood purifier.	Jagadeesan (1997)
Wayanad district, Kerala	Paravalli	Kurichar community	Root juice is used internally to treat anemia and kidney stone.	Thomas and Rajendran (2013)
Sonaghati, Sonbhadra district, Uttar Pradesh	Khapri-Bela	Gond and Kharwar communities	The dried root powder is administered a spoonful (10 g) twice a day with a freshwater glass after meals as lactagogue.	Singh et al. (2002)
<i>M. tenacissima</i>				
Kanika, Sundargarh, Odisha	Chunhar	Munda community	The powdered root is eaten with water to treat postnatal complaints.	Girach et al. (1998)
<i>N. oleander</i>				
Eastern Rajasthan	Kaner	Local community	The root is crushed with roots of <i>Capparissepriaria</i> and <i>Daturainnoxia</i> and applied against snakebite and insect bite. The roots are made into a paste with water and are applied externally on ulcers and leprosy. The roots are used for procuring abortion both by local application and internal administration.	Upadhyay et al. (2010)
Uttarakhand	Karavira	Local community	Topical application of paste for wound healing	Dhiman (2004), CCRAS (1999)
Nagpur and Wardha, Maharashtra	Kanher	Local community	Topical application of crushed root for wound healing.	Badhe and Pande (1999)
West Rarrh region, West Bengal		Ethnic community	5 ml juice of root once daily for 15 days used internally as a remedy for epilepsy.	Ghosh (2008)
<i>R. serpentina</i>				
Paschim Medinipur district, West Bengal	Sarpagandha	Santhals, Mundas, Lodhas, Bhumijis, OraonKherias communities	Root paste along with that of <i>Azadirachtaindica</i> and black pepper seeds are made into a paste, and the extract is administered orally soon after a snake bite.	Sarkhel (2014)
Kodagu district, Karnataka	Sarpagandha	Herbal healers and local community	Root paste is given orally to reduce blood pressure. Root paste mixed with cow's milk is given orally to the pregnant woman, before childbirth to promote easy labour.	Lingaraju et al. (2013)
Paderu division, Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh	NA	Local community	Asthma, heart pain, stomach-ache, high blood pressure.	Padal et al. (2010)
Mokhada, Thane	Sarpagandha	Local tribal	Root with the petiole of betel	Sonawane et al.

district, Maharashtra		community	leaf made into a paste is given to cure facial paralysis. It is also used in epilepsy, intestinal disorders.	(2012)
Keonjhar, SimilipalMayurbhanj, Odisha	Patalgaruda	Santal, Kolha, Bunda, Bathuri and Bhuian communities	An antidote to the snake.	Nayak et al. (1998)
Angul-Talcher Mining Area, Odisha	Patalgaruda	Local inhabitants, tribes, village medicine men, Vaidyas	Hypertension, insomnia, epilepsy.	Mahalik et al. (2014)
Sub-Himalayan region, Uttarakhand	Gandhak	Gujjar community	1 g root powder is taken internally, twice a day in skin infection.	Sharma et al. (2013a)
Udham Singh Nagar District, Uttarakhand	Jhaberbarua	Tharu community	Root paste is topically applied for boils.	Sharma et al. (2014)
Sub-Himalayan tract, Uttarakhand	Gandhak	Gujjar community	The root paste is mixed with oil of <i>Cinnamomumtamala</i> (tejpaat) and externally applied on leucodermaat night.	Sharma et al. (2013a)
Sub-Himalayan region, Uttarakhand	NA	Gujjar community	1 g root powder is taken internally twice a day used as a remedy for epilepsy.	Sharma et al. (2013b)
Garhwal Himalaya, Uttarakhand	NA	Jaunsari community	Root used internally as a remedy for epilepsy.	Bhatt and Negi (2006)
Garhwal Himalaya, Uttarakhand	NA	Local community	Root used internally as a remedy for epilepsy.	Gaur (1999)
Gorakhpur and Maharajganj districts, Uttar Pradesh	NA	Taungya community	1-2 teaspoon root powder taken twice daily in the remedy of epilepsy.	Poonam and Singh (2009)
Uttarakhand	NA	Local community	Root used internally as a remedy for epilepsy.	Adhikari et al. (2007)
<i>T. divaricata</i>				
Kodagu district, Karnataka	Nandibattaluhuvu	Herbal healers and local community	The crushed root mixed with salt and turmeric is applied to the snake bite.	Lingaraju et al. (2013)
Paderu division, Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh	NA	Local community	Toothache.	Padal et al. (2010)
Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh	Gulchandini	Local vaidyas	Root paste applied over scorpion sting.	Shukla et al. (2010)
Tripura	Khuntau tai	Reang community	The extract used in toothache.	Shil et al. (2014)
Jalgaon, Dhule and Nandurbar districts, Maharashtra	NA	Bhil, Gavit, Kokani, Mavachi, Padvi, Tadvi, Valvi and Vasave communities	Root powder (100-200 g) is boiled in water, and the extract is taken thrice a day for two weeks internally as a remedy for jaundice.	Badgular and Patil (2008)

NA: Not Available

Some significant phytochemicals in the pharmacological activities are given in Table studied plants with already proven 3. Some major compounds from studied

species are asclepin, calotropin, carinol, carissanol, carissin, serpentine, cryptosin, rauwolfine, and vobasine. All these compounds are known to have proven important pharmacological activities (Table 3). Many phytoconstituents from Apocynaceae plants are reported to have important pharmacological activities such as anticancer, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, cytotoxic, cardiovascular, hepatoprotective, CNS activity,

neuroprotective, psychoactive, antineuroinflammatory, biocidal, antiviral, antibacterial, antifungal, antiplasmodial/antimalarial, topoisomerase II inhibitory, antidiabetic, and gastroprotective (Dey et al., 2017; Bhadane et al., 2018; Islam and Lucky, 2019). Serpentine, ajmalicine, catharanthine from root samples of *C. roseus* are known to reduce acetylcholine activity (Pereira et al., 2010).

Table 3: Some major compounds with biological activities reported from selected plant species of the family Apocynaceae.

Plant name	Compound (DNP, 2020)	Biological activity (DNP, 2020)
<i>A. curassavica</i>	Asclepin	Cardiotonic agent
	Calotropin, Pekilocerin A	African arrow poison
	Coroglaucigenin	Antineoplastic agent
	Uzariogenin, Odorigenin B	Cardiotonic agent. Antidiarrhoeal
<i>C. gigantea</i>	α -(Acetylamino)-4-[(ethoxycarbonyl)amino]benzeneacetic acid	Insect antifeedant
	Calotropin, Pekilocerin A	African arrow poison
	9-Methoxypinoresinol	Exhibits potent cytotoxic activity
<i>C. procera</i>	Calactin, Pecilocerin B, Pekilocerin B	Cardiotonic agent
	Calotropin, Pekilocerin A	African arrow poison
<i>C. carandas</i>	Carinol	Exhibits cytotoxic activity and increases cell viability in anti-hypoxia study
	Carissanol	Cytotoxic against breast MCF7 and lung A 549 cancer cell lines
	Carissin	Inhibitor of the nucleation phase in amyloid β 42 aggregation
<i>C. spinarum</i>	Cycloolivil, Isoolivil	Shows moderate anti-DPPH free radical activity
	Carinol	Exhibits cytotoxic activity and increases cell viability in anti-hypoxia study
	Carissanol	Cytotoxic against breast MCF7 and lung A 549 cancer cell lines
<i>C. roseus</i>	Trichosetin	Phytotoxin. Active against Gram-positive bacteria
	Vinleurosine	Antineoplastic agent. Possesses antihyperglycaemic activity
	Lochnerinine, Hazuntine	Shows antitumour activity
	Lochnerinine, Hazuntine	Shows antitumour activity
	Carbazoline	Plant growth and enzyme inhibitor. Potentiator of benzo[a]pyrene induced mutagenicity, antiparasitic, antitrypanosomal agent. A comutagen with aromatic amines active towards bacteria
	Roseamine	It Shows antineoplastic props.
	Serpentine	Shows antitumour activity
	Strictosidine, Isovincoside	A key intermediate in the biosynthesis of terpenoid indole alkaloids
	Vincalokoblastine,	An antineoplastic agent used widely in the treatment of

	Vincalencoblastine, Velbe, VLB	Hodgkin's disease and other lymphomas. Microtubule assembly inhibitor. Shows trypanosomicidal effect
	Vindoline	Active against Gram-positive bacteria and fungi
<i>C. dubia</i>	Cryptosin	Acts as a positive inotropic agent
<i>H. indicus</i>	Hemidesmin 1, 2; hemidesmoside A, B, C; Indicusin; Hemidescine; Hindicusine; hemisine, etc.	NA
<i>H. pubescens</i>	Estrone acetate, Hovigal, Puboestrene	Estrogen
	Holamide	Shows hypotensive activity in rats
	Mokluangine A, B, C	Acetylcholinesterase inhibitor
	Pubescinine	Shows hypotensive activity in rats
<i>I. frutescens</i>	Nonadecyl benzoate	NA
<i>M. tenacissima</i>	Tenacigenin B, Tanacissimoside B, C, D, E, F, I; Marsdenoside C, K; Tenacigenoside A, F, etc.	NA
<i>N. oleander</i>	Adynerin	Antineoplastic agent
	Dambonitol, Dambonite	Allergy inhibitor
	Δ 16-Dehydroadynerigenin	CNS depressant
	Echujin, Digitoxigeninstrophanthotrioxide	Arrow poison
	Gitoxigenin, Bigitaligenin, 16-Hydroxydigitoxigenin, Anhydrogitaligenin	Antineoplastic agent
	cis-Karenin	Cytotoxic agent
	trans-Karenin	Cytotoxic agent
	Uvaol, Uvalol	HIV-1 protease inhibitor, an antineoplastic agent
	Vanderoside, Periplogenindiginoside, Neridiginoside	Used in anticancer therapy
<i>R. serpentina</i>	Ajmalan-17,21-diol, Ajmaline, Gilurytmal, Merabitol, Raugalline, Rauwolfine, Rytmalin, Tachmalin, Many other names	Antiarrhythmic (Class Ia) drug, which functions by inhibition of glucose uptake by heart tissue mitochondria. Platelet-activating factor antagonist. Anti-inflammatory agent
	Renoxydine, Reserpoxidine, Renoxidine	Shows similar Pharmacological properties to Reserpine but with about half the activity
	Serpentine	Shows antitumor activity
	Yohimbic acid, Yohimbic acid	α 2-Adrenoceptor antagonist
<i>T. divaricata</i>	Conolidine	Analgesic with unusual non-opioid pharmacology
	3S-Cyanocoronaridine	Cytotoxic
	Vobasine	Weak CNS depressant, also showing analgesic and antipyretic action

Conclusion

The study revealed that the roots of the selected species are used across India for medicinal purposes. They are used to treat health issues, including insect or animal bites, skin problems, respiratory problems, and metabolic health issues. Among the reviewed species, roots of *R. serpentina*, *H. indicus*, *C. gigantea*, *H. pubescens*, *C. procera*,

C. spinarum, *I. frutescens*, and *T. divaricata* were found to be widely used in different regions of India than other species (Table 1). The dry root material of the studied plant species has high demand in the Indian herbal drug market. Species like *H. indicus* (500-1000 MT), *H. pubescens* (1000-2000 MT), *C. roseus* (200-500 MT), *C. dubia* (100-150 MT), *R. serpentina* (200-500 MT), *C. gigantea* (50-100 MT) and *C. procera* (50-100

MT) have very high trade value (NMPB, 2020). Only a few species, such as *C. roseus*, *N. oleander*, *R. serpentina*, and *T. dioaricata*, are cultivated in gardens or farms for ornamental or medicinal purposes. However, the majority of species for medicinal purposes are collected from wild habitats. Cultivation of highly medicinal plant species can provide a new pathway in the conservative use of plants. Identifying crude herbal samples may require a botanical reference standard for correct identification of raw herbal samples (Kumar et al., 2018, 2020a, 2020b, 2020c; Singh et al., 2020). Further macroscopic and microscopic studies are required to develop the studied plants' botanical standards to control adulteration and substitution of the raw plant material in the trade. Ethnomedicinal data compiled in the present study can provide valuable information for the medicinal exploration of Apocynaceae's root drug samples. Data compiled in the present study can provide a way for drug discovery of specific bioactive compounds in clinical research.

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