TAXONOMY AND ETHNOBOTANY
2 Taxonomy and Ethnobotany

2.1 Introduction

No wonder if it is said that man is the beneficiary of ancestral medical knowledge that forms the basis of modern phytotherapy. Procurement of herbal drugs and their use to alleviate human sufferings are as old as human civilisation. Man has also realized that the healing process and the use of natural products are inseparable. He observed animals making use of plants at the time of their injury. Such references to this kind of sense of animals are found in the Vedas, particularly Atharva Veda (Raghunathan, 1987).

Ethnobotany, a comparatively new science was originally applied by Harshberger in 1896 to the inter-relationships between primitive people and plants. It was often considered synonymous with traditional medicine or with economic botany (Jain, 1989). The potential of plants as food crops and medicinal plants are at times widely shared among the ethnic groups.

Herbal medicines are crude plant drugs or their extracts primarily used by tribals and rural folk. The method of preparation and mode of administration of herbal drugs is better known to the rural and tribal people. These herbal remedies are applied either externally, internally or orally. They are swallowed, poured into wounds, smoked in pipes, sniffed as snuff, splashed into eyes or inhaled as fumes. But it needs to be evaluated scientifically for their efficacy and safety. The knowledge accumulated on the use of plants by the tribal people are diminishing day by day. Hence, it is necessary that a thorough ethno-medico-botanical inventory of the plants used by the ethnic people should be systematically carried out for the benefit of the society in future.
2.2 Materials and Methods

Field work: Intensive ethno-medico-botanical field study was carried out in different seasons in different places of the district for a period of six years (1995-2001) during which information 157 ethno medicinal plants were collected in addition to other interesting plants (Vedavathy et al., 1995; Vedavathy et al., 1997a,b; Madhava Chetty et al., 1998; Sudhakar and Madhava Chetty, 1998; Sudhakar and Vedavathy, 1999 and Madhava Chetty et al., 2000). The methods adopted for ethno-medico-botanical surveys were followed according to Jain (1981) and Shah (1982).

A total of 150 tribals, 220 village folk like house wives, mid-wives, old persons, sadhus (saints) and 60 native doctors were involved in getting ethno-medico-botanical information. All the informants were between 30 to 80 years. Specific and detailed questions were asked (table 2) while recording the field data. The following field data viz., locality, field description, local name along with Sanskrit and English names, part used, voucher specimen number, name of the collector were recorded both on index card and on the herbarium sheets (Johnston, 1939; Lipp, 1989). Socio-cultural aspects of tribals and villages like ritual incantations and prayers associated with drug, mode of living, cultivaltional practices, type of housing, mannerisms, customs, religious beliefs and myths were also collected during the survey.

The collection of plants, pressing, preservation and preparation of field notes was done by the candidate himself. Collections were made from different types of habitats, in plain forests, hill slopes, hill tops, deep valleys, plains and non-forest areas of the district. Concentration was laid particularly on under and unexplored areas. Each plant was collected in quadruplicates and detailed notes on the species regarding habit, habitat, locality, associated species, altitude, abundance, local names, phenology and
other characters which cannot be observed in herbarium specimens such as colour of flowers, fruits, presence of aroma and latex were recorded on the spot in the field note book. Field or collection numbers were given for every specimen and a total of 420 field numbers comprising of 1900 specimens were collected during the survey. Photographs of rare and threatened medicinal plants and general vegetational types were taken during the field study.

**Herbarium specimen preparation:** The collected specimens were poisoned, pressed, mounted and stitched on standard herbarium sheets (28x42 cm) following methods described by Santapau (1955), Jain and Rao (1977) and Rao and Sharma (1990). Labels (8 x12cm) were affixed on the bottom right hand corner of the herbarium sheet.

The species were identified with the help of South Indian and local floras (Gamble and Fischer, 1957; Matthew, 1983; Rangacharyulu, 1991 and Thammanna et al., 1994). Final identification was confirmed with reference to authentic specimens available in Madras Herbarium, Coimbatore (MH); Blatter Herbarium, Mumbai (BH); Botanical Survey of India (Western circle), Pune (BSI) and Central National Herbarium, Howrah (CAL). The nomenclature of plants was updated by consulting the recent floras on South India (Saldanha and Nicolson, 1976; Nair and Henry, 1983; Bennet, 1987; Henry et al., 1987, 1989; Pullaiah and Chennaiah, 1997). All the specimens are deposited in the Herbarium of Herbal Folklore Research Centre, Department of Botany, Sri Venkateswara Arts College (AS), S.V. University, Tirupati. The enumeration of plants is followed as per Benthom & Hooker system of classification following the arrangement in the flora of Presidency of Madras (Gamble & Fischer, 1957).
## Table 2: Proforma for collecting field data on medicinal plant survey

**Herbal Folklore Research Centre, Department of Botany,**  
**Sri Venkateswara Arts College, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati**

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| III. Data on the Plant:  
(a) Species name (b) Vernacular name(s) (specify the dialect). (c) Family (d) Habitat (e) In case of tree species: Height and girth and bark nature. (f) Flower colour (g) Fruit characteristics (h) Smell (i) Latex present (j) Collection and identified (k) Photograph. |
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<th>IV. (a) Soil type (b) Vegetation type (c) Altitude</th>
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| V. Ethnopharmacognostic data:  
(A) Plant part(s) used in medicine  
(a) Root (b) Stem (c) Leaf (d) Flower (e) Fruit (f) Seed (g) Root bark (h) Stem bark (i) Latex (j) Gum.  
(B) Description of the drug  
(a) Morphological description (b) Condition of the plant part used (fresh or dried). (c) Time of collection (d) (1) Color (2) Odur (3) Taste (e) Method of preparation of the drug (1) Natural form (2) Crushed (3) Juice (4) Decoction (5) Poulitice (6) Soft paste (7) Solid preparation (8) Powder (f) Mode of administration (1) Internal application (chewing, licking, ingestion, inhalation) (2) External application (lotion, bath ointment, poultice). |
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| VI Name of the category practiced:  
(A) Tribals  
(a) Yanadi / Irula (b) Nakkala (c) Sugali (d) Yerikala  
(B) Rural folk  
(a) House wives (b) Mid-wives (c) Native doctors (d) Age old persons (e) Sadhus (f) Village physicians |
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| VII Reasons of the plant for considering as medicinal:  
(a) Magico - religious belief (b) Traditional (c) Personal experience of healers (d) Strong belief on herbal drugs (e) Tales (f) Proverbs. |
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| VIII Therapeutic indications:  
(a) Dosage (b) Duration (c) Other plant part(s) or ingredients (d) Specific treatment for particular pathological condition. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
2.3 Enumeration of Medicinal Plants

In the enumeration of the plants the name of the family is followed by the valid name of the species along with original citation, important Floras and illustrations of the species. This is followed by a short description of the plant giving importance to the field characters. The flowering and fruiting time, locality of collection, voucher herbarium specimen examined along with Sanskrit, English and Vernacular names are provided. The Ethno-medico-botanical uses of the species is also provided.

The following are the dates of publications and authors of the Flora of British India (J.D. Hooker, 1872-1897), Flora of the Presidency of Madras (J.S. Gamble and C.E.C. Fischer, repr. ed. 1967) and the Flora of the Tamilnadu Carnatic (K.M. Matthew, 1982-1987). These are not repeated in the enumeration of plants for the sake of brevity.

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**MAGNOLIACEAE**

**Michelia champaca** L. Sp. Pl. 536. 1753; FBI 1:42; FPM 1:6.


Fl. & Frt.: Jan. - May.

Loc.: Tirumala; AS 205.

S: Champaka; E: Yellow champa; VN: Champakamu, Manu samangi.

One spoonful of root paste along with black pepper is given on the fifth day of menstrual cycle for 3 days as a contraceptive. Two to 3 ounces of juice are given 2 to 3 times as abortifacient for 2 to 3 month old pregnancy.

**ANNONACEAE**

**Annona squamosa** L. Sp. Pl. 537. 1753; FBI 1:78; FPM 1:14.

Small trees. Leaves elliptic, oblong-lanceolate. Flowers solitary or in clusters, pale yellow. Fruit a fleshy syncarp, ovoid or sub-globose, with many brown or black seeds.

Fl. & Frt.: March - Nov.

Loc.: Cultivated; AS 447.

S: Shubha; E: Custard apple; VN: Seetapalamu.

Seed paste applied on the scalp to kill lice (Y).
MENISPERMACEAE


Evergreen climbing or straggling villous shrubs, arial parts clothed with greyish hairs. Leaves ovate or ovate-oblong or cordate. Flowers yellowish-white, axillary, male in panicles, female in fascicles. Drupes laterally compressed, purplish-black.

Fl. & Frt.: July - April.
Loc.: Tirumala; AS 15.

S: Pathalagarudi; E: Broomkeeper; VN: Cheepuru teega, Chinna dusarateega

Root decoction (20 ml) is taken orally once a day for 8 days to cure rheumatism and stomach pain. Leaf juice (10 ml) is taken twice a day for 25 days to cure gonorrhoea.

Leaf juice mixed with sugar candy is given for corns. Leaf juice mixed with sugar is given (it becomes hard after half-an-hour) for about 20 days to cure leucorrhoea.

Handful of leaves are pounded along with cumin (Cuminum cyminum L.) fruits and mixed with sugar. This is taken twice daily for about 5 days to control sugar in the urine.


Loc.: Srikalahasti; AS 44.
S: Amritha, Guduchi; VN: Tippateega.

Two spoonful of stem decoction with honey is taken on empty stomach to control diabetes. Infusion mixed with the seed powder of *Strychnos-nux-vomica* and given along with lemon juice to reduce frequency of urination.

Stem juice mixed with equal amount of gingly oil is boiled and applied to the scalp for black hair. The same oil is applied to body for itches.

Half a glass of stem decoction mixed with *Triphala* powder (fruit powder of *Terminalia chebula* Retz., *Terminalia bellirica* (Gaertn.) Roxb., and *Emblica officinalis* Gaertn.) is taken with honey to reduce excess fat in the body.

Dried stem powder with honey is used as tonic. Whole plant powder is used as tonic and in all types of fevers. The stem decoction is given thrice daily (10-15 ml) for 5 days to cure malarial fever.

**NELUMBONACEAE**

Michelia champaca: root - contraceptive

Tinospora cordifolia: stem - diabetes, body itches

Nymphaea pubescens: root - diarrhoea
Submerged stoloniferous herbs. Leaves large, peltate, floating on water, with circular leaf blade. Flowers solitary, rosy-white. Carpels embedded in pits on receptacle.

F1. & Frt: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Tirumala; AS 89.
VN: Tamara, Kamalamu.

One spoonful of dry fruit powder mixed with honey and taken as a tonic. Root and flower powder (5 g) taken with warm water daily for a month as a blood purifier.

**NYMPHAEACEAE**


Submerged herbs with leaves and flowers floating. Leaves peltate, sinuate, petioles very long. Flowers solitary, white or rose.

Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Pallam; AS 187.
S: Rakthostala; VN: Chitti kaluva.

Root powder (10 g) is taken twice a day for a week to cure dysentery and diarrhoea.

Submerged rhizomatus herbs. Leaves floating, orbicular, dentate, nerves prominent. Flowers solitary, pinkish.

Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Tirumala; AS 68.
VN: Kaluva.

Seed powder (1 g) is taken daily for 10 days as an anti-inflammatory agent. Tuberous root is used to cure white discharge in women.

**PAPAVERACEAE**

*Argemone mexicana* L., Sp. Pl. 508. 1753; Wight Ill. 1: t. 11. 1840; FBI 1:117; FPM 1:25.

Annual prickly herbs with yellow latex. Leaves mottled green and white, oblong, margin spinulose, dentate. Flowers solitary, yellow. Capsules oblong or elliptic, spinous with black mustard like seeds.

Fl. & Frt.: April - Nov.
Loc.: Renigunta; AS 280.

S: Swarnakshiri; E: Mexican poppy; VN: Kusumapala.

Fresh root juice is applied to cure scabies. The latex is used for dropsy and applied externally to cure redness in eye. Seeds are rubbed on the tooth to cure toothache. Intake of seed causes vomiting and diarrhoea followed by body pain.

**CRUCIFERAE (BRASSICACEAE)**


Tuberous herbs. Leaves variable, lower ones lyrate-pinnatisect, upper lobed, dentate or crenate. Flowers pinkish-white.
Loc. : Cultivated; AS 107.
S: Moolaka; E: Radish; VN: Mullangi.

Seed decoction is taken during menstrual period for about 5 days to prevent conception. Root juice is taken orally to cure bleeding piles.

**CLEOMACEAE**


Annual herbs, branchlets glandular pubescent. Leaves 3 - 7 - foliolate; leaflets obovate. Flowers pink or white, corymbose racemes.

Fl. & Frt.: June - Jan.
Loc.: Pakala; AS 114.
S: Ajagandha; VN: Vaminta.

Leaf juice is applied on wounds to prevent pus formation, also poured (4-5 drops) into ear to cure earache. Leaf paste is applied on the forehead to cure headache due to stress.

**Cleome viscosa** L. Sp. Pl. 672. 1753; Wight Ic. t. 2. 1838; FBI 1:170; FPM 1:29.

Erect herbs, branchlets viscous glandular. Leaves 3-5-foliolate; leaflets obovate, Flowers yellow, in racemes. Capsule ribs glandular-hairy.

Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Sodum; AS 261.
S: Arikahita; E: Dog mustard; VN: Kukka vaminta.
A teaspoonful of seed powder is mixed with a glass of warm water and taken on empty stomach for a week to expel intestinal worms. Leaf juice (3-5 drops) is poured into ear for earache.

VIOLACEAE


Fl. & Frt. : Throughout the year.
Loc. : Tirupati; AS 281.
S: Sthalapadmini; VN: Rathnapurusha.

Whole plant juice (2 teaspoonful) is taken for one month to improve sexual desires. Leaf powder (5 g) and honey (5 ml) are mixed and taken twice a day for a week to cure fever, cough and cold and improve digestion. Leaves (50 g) mixed with garlic (5 g) and made into paste, are taken orally along with a glass of water once a day for 2 days for cobra bite.

CARYOPHYLLACEAE


Fl. & Frt.: June - Dec.

Loc.: Tirumala; AS 27.

VN: Bommasari, Rajuma.

Whole plant paste (5 g) with rice-washed water (50 ml) is taken orally twice a day for a week to cure syphilis and gonorrhoea. Leaf paste is applied externally on the affected part of poisonous bites.

PORTULACACEAE

Portulaca quadrifida L., Syst. Nat. ed. 12. 328. 1766 & Mant. Pl. 73. 1767; Wight, Ill. 2. t. 109. 1850; FBI 1:247; FPM 1:47.

Succulent herbs, branchlets spreading, rooting at nodes; nodes with white-silky hairs. Leaves ovate-lanceolate, fleshy. Flowers yellow, solitary.

Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.

Loc.: Tiruchanoor; AS 81.

VN: Goddupavali.

Leaf powder (5 g) mixed with a glass of warm water is given thrice a day for 3 days to cure diarrhoea. Leaf paste is applied topically to cure inflammations, wounds and cuts.

ELATINACEAE


Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Yerravaripalem; AS 64.

Whole plant infusion is applied to cure scabies, wounds and cuts. Leaf decoction is used as an anthelmintic agent.


Loc.: Nerabailu; AS 72.

Leaves (10 g) and fresh zinger (5 g) are boiled with a glass of water and taken for 3 days to cure fever followed by cold.

**HYPERICACEAE**


Leaves made into paste with the leaves of *Dodonaea viscosa* (L.) Jacq., and turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) powder, are applied to cure bone fracture.

**MALVACEAE**


Fl. & Frt.: June - Jan.
Loc.: Weed of Waste lands, Tirupati; AS 102.
S: Atibala; E: Country mallow; VN: Kammalaku, Tutturubenda.

Leaf powder (50 g), donkey dung (100 g) and camphor (25 g) are pounded, warmed and tied around the testicles as a plaster with white cloth at bed time and kept overnight. The plaster is removed next day morning and dried tobacco leaves are tied over the testicles up to evening. This process is repeated for a week to cure hydrocele. Leaf paste is applied on the teeth to cure toothache. Root paste is applied to cuts and wounds to prevent sepsis. Leaf decoction (25 ml) is taken orally twice a day for about 2 weeks to cure bleeding piles.

*Sida acuta* Burm. f., Fl. Ind. 147. 1768. emend. in Fl. Bras. 12 (3): 326. 1891; FPM 1:64. *S. carpinifolia* sensu Mast. in FBI 1:323.
Undershubs. Leaves ovate - lanceolate, acute, serrate. Flowers yellow, solitary or in clusters. Schizocarp not exceeding the clayx.

Loc. : S.V.University; AS 60.
VN: Nelabenda, Vishnuboddi.

Leaves are pounded and applied to boils. Root decoction (5 ml) is taken early in the morning as a laxative.

**Sida cordifolia** L., Sp. Pl. 684. 1753; FBI 1:324; FPM 1:64.

Much branched undershrubs. Leaves ovate, stellate-hairy above, woolly below. Flowers pale yellow, solitary or in clusters. Schizocarp exceeding calyx.

Fl. & Frt. : June - Feb.
Loc.: Kasipentla; AS 123.
S: Bala; VN: Chirubenda.

Powdered roots (10 g) are boiled with a glass of water and the decoction taken orally as laxative and to cure intermittent fever. Root paste is applied on the wounds.

**STERCULIACEAE**

**Waltheria indica** L., Sp. Pl. 673. 1753; FBI 1:374; FPM 1:79.


Erect annual herbs; branchlets pubescent. Leaves oblong-lanceolate, serrate, produced into filiform appendages. Flowers yellow, in cymes. Capsule 3-angled, beaked.

Fl. & Frt.: Aug. - March.
Loc. : Kasipentla; AS 65.

Seed decoction (10 ml) is given orally twice a day for 2 days at bed time to cure intermittent fever. The seed paste is applied daily for two weeks to cure scabies.

ZYGOPHYLLACEAE


Fl. & Frt. : June - Feb.
Loc. : S.V.University; AS 38.
S: Bahukantaka, E: Calthrops; VN: Nelapalleru.

Seed powder (10 g) boiled with milk is taken orally 3 times daily as an aphrodisiac and to dissolve kidney and gall bladder stones.

**OXALIDACEAE**

**Oxalis corniculata** L., Sp. Pl. 435. 1753; FBI 1:436; FPM 1:94.


Fl. & Frt. : July - Dec.
Loc. : Wet places; AS 197.
S: Amlalonika; E: Indian sorrel; VN: Pulichinta.

Leaf paste is applied over forehead to cure headache. The whole plant (50 g) is ground with seeds of *Cleome viscosa* L., (5 g) and the paste is warmed and applied over affected part to cure skin diseases.

**SIMAROUBACEAE**

**Ailanthus excelsa** Roxb., Cor. t. 23; FBI 1:518; FPM 1:116.

Trees up to 15m tall. Leaves imparipinnate; leaflets elliptic or rhomboidal, alternate or subopposite, unequal at base. Flowers yellow, in panicles. Fruit samara, flat.

Fl. & Frt. : Jan. - April.
Loc. : Kalyanidam; AS 211.
S: Mahanimba, VN: Peddamanu.
The juice from the stem bark is mixed with honey or sugar and given for about a week, either early in the morning or at bed time for sterilization (irreversible).

Stem bark is made into paste and given for 2 to 3 days on empty stomach to terminate 2 to 3 month old pregnancy.

**MELIACEAE**


Trees up to 15m tall. Leaves imparpinnate; leaflets unequal at base, lanceolate, serrate. Flowers white, in axillary panicles. Drupe ovoid, yellow. Seeds ellipsoid.

Fl. & Frt.: March - June.

Loc.: Kasipentla; AS 37.

S: Nimbha; E: Margosa tree, Neem tree; VN: Vepa.

Using neem leaf juice, paste is made with the cotyledons of neem and flowers of *Ricinus communis* L. and inserted into vagina for abortion.

Leaf juice is given once or twice, 2 to 3 tea spoonfuls, for constriction of womb and as prophylactic measure against infections. Leaf paste with turmeric is applied topically all over the body to cure small-pox.

Hybanthes enneaspermus: root - aphrodisiac

Ailanthus excelsa: stem bark - sterilization

Soymida febrifuga: flower and fruit - ear ache
Moderate sized trees. Leaves imparipinnate, crowded at the ends of branches. Flowers white, in axillary or terminal panicles. Capsule obovoid, woody, septifragally 5-valved. Seeds winged at both ends.

Fl. & Frt.: Feb. - July.
Loc.: Talakona; AS 223.

S: Chandravallabha; E: Indian red wood; VN: Somi, Somidha, Sumi.

Flower along with fruit juice boiled in gingelly (Sesemum indicum L.) oil is filtered and two to three drops are instilled in the ear to cure ear-ache.

Flowers mixed with leaves of Ocimum tenuiflorum L., and fruits of Embelia ribes are pounded and decoction is made. A pinch of asafoetida and about 5 to 10 drops of castor oil is added to the decoction and given for relief from headache due to constipation (dose is half a glass).

**CELASTRACEAE**

*Celastrus paniculatus* Willd., Sp. Pl. 1:1125. 1797; Wight, Ic. t. 158. 1839; FBI 1:617; FPM 1:150.


Fl. & Frt.: March - Jan.
Loc.: Tirumala II Ghat Road; AS 336.

S: Jyotishmati; E: Black oil treee; VN: Jyothismati teega.

Stem bark extract, when given on empty stomach causes termination of 2-3 month old pregnancy.
SAPINDACEAE


Loc.: Kasipentla; AS 85.

S: Arista; E: South Indian Soapnut tree; VN: Kunkudu.

To facilitate dilation, paste made from the root with water and ghee is applied below the navel and inside the vagina. Pessary made of the fruit or cotton dipped in saturated foam are introduced into the vagina to stimulate the uterus. Pessary made of shelled fruits mixed with roasted alum or cotton cloth dipped in above juice are used to induce the uterus to return to its normal condition after child birth.

MORINGACEAE


Loc.: Cultivated; AS 7.

S: Madhugunjana; E: Indian horse raddish, Drumstick tree; VN: Munaga.
Cardamum (*Elettaria cardamomum*), cloves (*Syzygium aromaticum*) and black pepper (*Piper nigrum*) are taken in equal quantities and kept for nine days inside a hole made in the tree trunk of *Moringa*. Later the spices are removed and given to chew for aphrodisiac in men.

Leaf paste mixed with turmeric powder and rice powder is warmed over live coal. The cooked paste is mixed it with castor oil and applied on the boils.

Handful of tender leaves mixed with a gram of black pepper and a bulb of garlic (*Allium sativum*) is ground into a paste and administered on the first day of menses. The treatment is continued for about five days to cure dysmenorrhoea. Handful of leaves, a pinch of turmeric and 2-3 dried fruits of *Piper longum* L., are fried and bandaged on the eyes during nights for burning sensation in eyes.

**FABACEAE**


Fl. & Frt.: July - Feb.

Loc.: Panapakam; AS 101.

S: Gunja; VN: Guravinda.
**Abrus precatorius**: leaf - cold, cough; seed - alopacea areata

**Canavalia gladiata**: seed - sterilization
Leaf decoction is given orally to relieve from cold and cough. Leaves and roots are used as hair tonic. Leaf decoction is given orally as aphrodisiac. Seed paste is applied topically on the affected part to cure alopecia areata.

**Butea monosperma** (Lam.) Taub., in Engl. & Prant, pflan.3.(3) 366. 1894.  

Deciduous trees. Leaves 3-foliolate; leaflets coriaceous, terminal largest, obovate, rhomboid, laterals small, oblong. Flowers flame coloured or orange-red, in axillary and terminal panicles. Pods flat.

Fl. & Frt.: Jan. - May.  
Loc.: Ithepalli; AS 110.  
S: Rakta pushpaka; E: Bastard teak, Flame of the forest; VN: Modhuga, Palasa.

Seed paste is applied to the vagina from the fifth day of menses to the thirteenth day for contraception (reversible).

The liquid gum obtained from the stem is poured 3 drops in each eye in case of jaundice.

Root paste mixed with rice washed water is applied over the neck for the treatment of goitre.

Large climbing shrubs. Leaves 3-foliolate. Flowers bright purple, in axillary racemes. Pods twisting after dehiscence.

Fl. & Frt.: Sep. – Feb.
Loc.: Bhakrapet Ghat Road; AS 129.
S: Maha - Shibee; E: Sword bean; VN: Thamba.

Two to 3 fresh seeds mixed with a piece of fresh turmeric are made into paste and taken on the third day of delivery for about 3 days for permanent sterilization (sex is avoided for 6 months).

**Clitoria ternatea** L., Sp. Pl. 753. 1753; FBI 2:208; FPM 1:258.

Herbaceous twiners. Leaves imparipinnate; leaflets elliptic-oblong. Flowers white or blue, solitary or in clusters. Pods oblong, apically beaked.

Fl. & Frt.: Jan. – Sep.
Loc.: Kasipentla; AS 83.
S: Sankupushpi; VN: Dinthena, Sanku teega.

Leaf juice is applied to cure swellings. Seed powder is used as laxative. Root juice (10 ml) with milk (5 ml) is used in vomiting.


Fl. & Frt.: Nov. – April.
Loc.: KVB Puram; AS 34.
VN: Gilligicchi.
Half a spoon of seed powder is given for abortion. Seed powder (5g) is taken along with a glass of water for 3 days for abortion. Leaf juice is topically applied to cure wounds, cuts and scabies.


Fl. & Frt.: Sep. – Feb.
Loc.: Talakona; AS 71.
VN: Deyyapu teega.

Leaf juice (50 ml) is taken orally 2 days once for 10 days as a galactagogue and to cure cough. Leaf paste is applied on the affected part to cure scabies.


Fl. & Frt.: Sep. – Jan.
Loc.: Cultivated; AS 86.
S: Kubtha; VN: Ulavalu.

Seed decoction is given to promote lochia discharge. It is also taken orally twice a day for 10 days to dissolve stones in gall bladder. Boiled seeds are eaten to regulate menstrual flow in women.


Large stragglers with huge tuberous roots. Leaves 3-foliolate; terminal leaflet ovate-oblong, laterals oblique. Flowers pale violet, in dense panicles.

Fl. & Frt.: Feb. – Aug.

Loc.: Talakona; AS 31.

S: Vidari; E: Tuberous honey suckle; VN: Dhari gummadi, Vidhari kandha.

The consumption of the tuber in raw form for about a month leads to sterilization. It is said by the Yanadis that the cooked tuber looses its contraceptive property.


Loc.: Kambakkam; AS 229.

VN: Mashaparni.

Seed powder (5 g) boiled with a glass of water and taken orally once a day for 4 days to cure fever; acts as sexual stimulant and improves milk production in women.


Half a glass of root decoction is given to the mother after child birth for lochial discharge and for cleaning of the uterus. This is repeated for about seven days as a post-partum treatment.

Root decoction or powder is given daily for 40 days to cure tumour in the stomach (dosage depends on the condition).

Leaf (25 ml) is taken orally for 5 days to cure excess of acidity and rheumatism. Whole plant decoction (10 ml) is taken orally once a day for 5 days to expel intestinal worms and acts as a blood purifier and laxative.

**CAESALPINIACEAE**


Cotton dipped in leaf juice is placed in the external ear. The treatment is continued for about a week to get relief from deafness.

The cotyledons mixed with root of *Wrightia tinctoria* (Roxb.) R.Br., and *Areca catechu* seeds in equal proportion is made into a paste using old jaggery. Soapnut size paste is given daily for a fortnight to epilepsy patients. The frequency of attack decreases after the treatment.

Cotyledons and dried rhizome of *Zingiber officinale* are taken in equal proportion and powdered by adding a pinch of rock salt. Two to three tablets prepared from the powder is given for a day to cure chronic stomach-ache.

Leaves warmed in castor oil are applied as bandage on the testicles to cure hydrocele. Paste of the root bark is given with rice gruel to facilitate lochia discharge.


Fl. & Frt.: Sep. - Jan.
Loc.: Tirupati; AS 361.
VN: Chanubalu vittulu.

Seed paste is applied to cure itching due to scabies. Root decoction (25 ml) is taken daily for about 15 days to cure constipation.


Loc.: SVIMS, Tirupati; AS 49.
VN: Nelaponna.

Root (5 g) and pepper (10 seeds) are boiled with a glass of water and the decoction is taken once a day for 3 days to cure severe constipation.

Cassia occidentalis L., Sp. Pl. 377. 1753; FBI 2:262; FPM 1:284


Fl. & Frt.: Around the year.
Loc.: Kalluru; AS 77.
S: Kasamarda; E: Rubbish cassia; VN: Eddukommaku, Kasintha.

Equal amount of leaf of this plant and leaves of Ormocarpum cochin chinense (Lour.) Merr., are made into a paste with white yolk of egg and used as plaster to hasten the healing process of severe bone fracture. Chewing of leaves is used to cure itches.

MIMOSACEAE


Loc.: Dornakambala; AS 81.
S: Gandamalika; E: Humble plant, Touch me not; VN: Attipatti, Mudatha. dhama, Pedda nidrakanti, Siggaku.

Leaves mixed with _Pistia stratiotes_ L., leaves and garlic are made into paste with brandy. Two to 3 ounces of juice or paste given along with coconut water for 3 days for permanent sterility in women.

Stem and leaf juice is applied to cure wounds, cuts and burns. Leaves warmed and made into paste, applied on the testicles at bed time for 10 days to cure hydrocele. Leaf infusion is given along with honey as tonic.

**COMBRETACEAE**


Deciduous trees upto 30m tall. Leaves crowded at the ends of branchlets, broadly elliptic. Flowers greenish-yellow. Drupe globose, woody with minute tomentum.

Fl. & Frt.: March – Aug.
Loc.: Kambakkam; AS 91.
S: Amilagnaka; E: Bedda nut, Belleric myurobalan; VN: Tandra, Tani.

Frutis, along with fruits of _Terminalia chebula_ Retz., and _Emblica officinalis_ Gaertn., are taken in equal proportion and powdered. Two teaspoons of this powder given with sugar for indigestion.

Three to four spoon fruit decoction is given, 2-3 times a day for about seven days from 1st day of menstruation as a contraceptive.
Mimosa pudica: leaf - hydrocele

Terminalia paniculata: flower - diarrhoea

Passiflora foetida: leaf - asthma
Fruits along with the frutis of *Terminalia chebula* Retz., *Emblica officinalis* Gaertn., and *Embelia ribes* are soaked in the latex of *Calotropis gigantea* (L.) R.Br., dried and powdered. The fumes emanated by burning this powder on live coal acts as mosquito repellent and to prevent rats and scorpions.


Trees with densely tomentose branchlets. Leaves oblong or lanceolate; glands 2, sessile at the base of leaf-blade. Flowers cream coloured, in panicles. Drupe 3 winged, unequal.

Loc. : Talakona; AS 98.

E: Flowering murdah; VN: Pudi maddi, Pula maddi.

Flower juice mixed with root juice of *Cocculus hirsutus* (L.) Diels., given every half an hour for cholera patients (dosage is approximate).

**LYTHRACEAE**

**Ammania baccifera** L., Sp. Pl. 120. 1752; FBI 2:569; FPM 1:360.

*A. salicifolia* sensu Clarke in FBI 2:569, non Blume 1856.


Fl. & Frt. : Oct. – March.

Loc. : Paddy fields at Tirupati.

S: Agnigarba; E: Blistering ammania; VN: Agnivendramu.
The decoction prepared from 10 g of fresh leaves with 10 g of Cyperus rotundus L. tubers and 5 g of fresh ginger is used for intermittent fevers. Whole plant is burnt and ash mixed with til oil (Sesamum indicum L.) and applied to skin eruptions.

Leaf infusion is given with warm water to decrease sexual desire in ox. Leaf paste applied to the cancerous ulcers, using Argemone mexicana L., latex intermittently.


Fl. & Frt.: Dec – April.

Loc.: Rangampet; AS 184.

Leaf paste applied on the forehead as a relief from migraine.

**ONAGRACEAE**


Aquatic floating herbs; branches with white cellular floats at nodes. Leaves oblong-elliptic. Flowers yellow. Capsule terete.

Fl. & Frt.: July – Feb.
Loc.: Nerabailu; AS 162.
VN: Neeti teegalu.

Whole plant decoction (50 ml) is taken orally once a day for a week to expel intestinal worms. L. perennis L. is also used as a substitute for L. adscendens.

PASSIFLORACEAE


Tendrillar climbers; branchlets hispid. Leaves 3-5 lobed, glandular-pubescent. Flowers white. Berries sub-globose with persistent involucre.

Fl. & Frt.: Aug. – Nov.
Loc.: S.V.University; AS 156.
S: Mukkopeera; VN: Tella jumiki.

Leaf decoction is given to asthma patients (dosage depends on the condition). Leaf paste is applied on the forehead to cure headache.

CUCURBITACEAE


Prostrate branched herbs. Leaves triangular, deeply lobed. Flowers yellow, solitary. Fruits globose, striped with green and white when young, yellow when ripe.
To facilitate dilation, root paste with water and ghee is applied below the navel and inside the vagina.

Root is boiled in goat milk and made into a paste, applied in the vagina or the root is inserted into the vagina for a day, to induce abortion.

Root juice (5-6 drops) is poured into the ear for 3 months to cure deafness. Warm leaves are applied on the forehead to cure migraine. Fruit made into a paste with turmeric and water, applied to cure pimples.


Fl. & Frt. : Nov – March
Loc. : Piler; AS 341.

Seed paste is topically applied to cure wounds, cuts, boils and inflammations.

Slender climbers. Leaves cordate, palmately 3-7 lobed. Flowers yellow, unisexual, in clusters. Berries globose, red with green longitudinal stripes.

Fl. & Frt.: Aug. - Feb.
Loc.: Vayalpadu; AS 362.
VN: Lingadonda.

Decoction made from the seeds (5 g) with 2 seeds of *Abrus precatorius* L. is given orally early in the morning for 3 days, to induce fertility in women.

**UMBELLIFERAE (APIACEAE)**

*Centella asiatica* (L.) Urban in Mart. Fl. Bras. 11; t. 78, f. 1. 287. 1879; FPM 1:392. *Hydrocotyle asiatica* L., Sp. Pl. 234. 1753; Wight, Ic. t. 565. 1842; FBI 2:669.

Prostrate or trailing herbs, rooting at nodes. Leaves orbicular reniform. Flowers purple or pink.

Fl.: Jan. - March; AS 186.
Loc.: Kasipentla.
S: Mandukaparni; E: Indian pennywort; VN: Saraswathi, Valleru.

Leaf decoction is given orally to cure leprosy (initial stages only). Leaf powder mixed with sour milk is taken to improve memory power. Whole plant is chewed to cure diarrhoea, headache, delirium and used as a blood purifier.

**RUBIACEAE**


Loc.: All places; AS 140.

VN: Chiriveru.

Two to four teaspoonful of a decoction prepared from the root along with leaves of *Adhatoda vasica* Nees, are administered twice a day for a month to cure asthma.

*Spermacoce hispida* L., Sp. Pl. 102. 1753; FBI 3: 200; FTC 3:742.


Diffuse or suberect herbs. Stems hispid. Leaves elliptic-ovate. Flowers white or lilac.

Fl. & Frt. : Throughout the year.

Loc. : Groundnut fields at Bhakarapet; AS 175.

VN: Madhanakattu.

Leaf paste used to cure toothache. Whole plant when eaten by cows and buffaloes improve lactation.

**ASTERACEAE**

*Acanthospermum hispidum* DC., Prodr. 5:522. 1836; FPM 2:495; FTC Ill. 2: t. 350 & FTC 3:758.
Annual hispid herbs. Leaves ovate-oblanceolate. Flowers yellow. Achene compressed, with two spines.

Fl. & Frt. : June - Dec.
Loc.: Yerravaripalem; AS 181.
VN: Mulla palleru.

The plant is boiled and the extract (50 ml) is administered daily for 15 days to cure renal disorders. Root paste is applied inside the vagina to hasten labour pains and topically applied to reduce the pains of scorpion sting. Ash of whole plant (10 g) mixed with 10 ml of coconut oil and rubbed on the face at bed time daily for 1 month to develop smooth, silky and fair skin. Root and stem branches used as tooth brushes.


Erect hispid herbs. Leaves ovate. Flowers homogamous, in dense corymbs, pale blue or white. Achenes black.

Loc.: Palamaneru; AS 164.
E: Appa grass; VN: Pumpillu.

Equal quantity of leaves along with whole plant of Cuscuta reflexa Roxb., made into a paste and topically applied to cure cuts and wounds. Leaf and stem decoction applied externally on the abdomen of the person suffering from diarrhoea and dysentery. Equal amount of leaves of Ageratum conyzoides L. and neem (Azadirachta indica A. Juss.) made into a paste and 8 pills prepared (soapnut size), out of which 3 are given daily for 9 days to reduce intensity of smallpox.

Loc. : Tirumala; AS 102.
VN: Tella mokka.


Leaf paste applied to cure wounds and cuts and leaf decoction (20 ml) administered twice a day for 5 days to cure intermittent fever.


Ascending herbs; branches many. Leaves radical and cauline. Flowers yellow.

VN: Verrichinnabanti.

Application of leaves in hot water considered effective in healing cuts and burns. Leaf paste applied on the fore head to cure headache.


Erect villous herbs. Leaves variable, ovate, obovate or lanceolate. Flowers white, purple or yellow. Achenes angled.

Fl. & Frt. : Nov. - March.
Loc. : Tirumala; AS 208.
VN: Rekka kada.
Leaf paste made in hot water applied around the belly to relieve stomach pain. Leaf juice (50 ml) given orally, once in 3 days for 2 months to cure bleeding piles.

**Echinops echinatus** Roxb., *Fl. Ind* 3:447. 1832; *FBI* 3:358; *FPM* 2:509.

Spinous herbs. Leaves spinous along the margins and nerves. Flowers pale blue or white, in heads. Achenes densely villous.

Loc. : Tirumala; AS 114.
VN: Mullabanti.

Roots are tied around the neck as necklace to stimulate sexual desires in men.


Prostrate annual strigose herbs. Leaves oblong - lanceolate. Flowers white or pale blue. Achenes compressed with a narrow wing.

Fl. & Frt. : Throughout the year.
Loc. : Pakala; AS 119.
S: Bhringaraja; VN: Guntagalagara, Guntagalijeru.

Leaf juice mixed with common salt applied to cure alopecia areata and also taken orally (10 ml) to cure intestinal pains. Leaves rubbed on the teeth
to cure gums and foul breath. Leaf juice is taken orally at bed time for 3 days
to cure intestinal pains.

Whole plant is boiled with water and the extract (50 ml) taken on
empty stomach for a week to cure jaundice (butter milk, food without salt is
taken during these days).

**Elephantopus scaber** L., Sp. Pl. 814.1753; Roxb., Fl. Ind. 3:445.1832;
Wight, I con. Pl. Ind. orient. t 1086-1846; FBI 3:242. 1881; FPM 2.676 (476).
1921; FTM t.366.1982.

Scapigerous; strigose herbs. Leaves subradical, obvate-oblanceolate.
Flowers bisexual, purple; ovary oblong, recurved. Achenes ribbed.
Loc. : Tirumala; AS 201.
VN: Mullameesalu.

Root paste applied on sores and also used as a drink with little water
in treatment of headache, fever, cold and cough. The whole plant decoction
(10 ml) is taken orally, once a day for a week for chapped lips.

**Glossocardia bosvallea** (L.f.) DC. in Wight, Contrib. Bot. Ind. 19. 1834;

Erect herbs. Leaves bipinnatisect, linear, pinnule filiform. Heads
heterogamous. Achenes densely ciliate along margins.

Loc. : S.V.University; AS 268.
VN: Parapalanamu.
Whole plant juice (25 ml) administered at bed time for a fortnight to
cure vaginal itching. Leaf decoction (10 ml) is taken once a day for 5 days to
cure leucorrhoea and menstrual pains.

1753.

Prostrate pubescent herbs. Leaves pinnately lobed. Heads yellow, in
leaf opposed cymes. Achenes sticky.
Fl. & Frt. : June - Aug.
Loc. : Tirumala; AS 306.
VN: Machipatri.

Equal amount of flower of this plant and sandal wood are made into
a paste and smeared on lips to restore consciousness during high fever.

Lagascea mollis Cav., Anales Nat. 6:331. t. 44. 1803. "Lagasca", FBI
3:302; FPM 2:494.

Perennial ascending herbs. Leaves elliptic, rhomboid. Heads white,
homogamous, subtended by leafy bracts. Achenes densely pubescent.
Loc. : Kasipentla; AS 391.
VN: Pichi galijeru.

Equal quantity of roots of this species and roots of Ficus benghalensis,
L. made into a paste with til oil (Sesamum indicum L.) and applied over the
head to cure dandruff and acts as lice killer.


Loc.: Tirumala; AS 375.

VN: Adavi poddutirugudu.

Root decoction (3 ml) is taken once a day for 5 days to cure intermittent fever and dysentery. Leaf paste applied to cure burns and wounds.

**Sigesbeckia orientalis** L., Sp. Pl. 900. 1753; Wight, Ic. t. 1103. 1846; FBI 3.304; FPM 2:495.


Fl. & Frt.: Sep. - Dec.

Loc.: Talakona; AS 34.

VN: Rekkalaravi.

A cup full whole plant decoction given at bed time for one week to expel intestinal worms. The leaf juice is applied to cure wounds and cuts.


Fl. & Frt.: Dec. - May.
Loc.: Palamaneru; AS 166.
S: Sravani; VN: Bodatharamu, Bolatharamu.

Whole plant paste applied as a smear to relieve piles. Root decoction taken at bed time for 3 days to expel intestinal worms. Leaf decoction (3 spoonful) taken once a day for 3 days to cure cough, cold and fever.

The plant powder is given along with rice gruel to promote labour.


Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Tirupati; AS 255.
VN: Balapaku, Gaddichamanti.

Leaf paste made with turmeric powder applied to cure wounds and cuts. Leaf juice applied externally as relief to itches and burns. Equal quantity of this plant and *Anisochilus carnosus* leaves are made into a paste and applied to cure fissures and wounds on the feet.


Loc.: Papavinasanam; AS 55.
S: Arishta; VN: Marulamatangi, Marlu.

Seed powder (5g) boiled in a glass of water and taken once a day for a month to dissolve kidney and gall bladder stones. Leaf paste with turmeric powder applied to cure wounds and cuts.

**PLUMBAGINACEAE**

*Plumbago zeylanica* L., Sp. Pl. 151. 1753; Wight, Ill. 2. t. 179.1850; FBI 3:480; FPM 2:524.


Fl. & Frt.: Sept. - March.
Loc.: Yerravaripalem; AS 204.
S: Chitraka; E: Ceylon leadwort; VN: Tella chtramulamu.

Root paste mixed with turmeric is given in empty stomach as an abortifacient.

Whole plant decoction (15 ml) is taken orally once in 2 days at bed time for a fortnight to get relief from piles and skin diseases. Root and seed paste used for caries. Root causes abortion when introduced into vagina with the roots of *Calotropis gigantea* (L.) R. Br. Root paste (2 g) in cow milk (50 ml) given for a week to prevent conception.
**APOCYNACEAE**


Small trees. Leaves ovate or oblong. Flowers white, in corymbose cymes. Follicles of 2 terete elongate mericarps, curved.

Fl. & Frt.: June - Nov.
Loc.: Tirumala; AS 206.
S: Indra, Kutaja; E: Kurchi, Tellicherry bark; VN: Kodisipala,Kolamuki.

Stem bark mixed with bael fruit (*Aegle marmelos* (L.) Correa), boiled into decoction and one to two spoonful administered three to four times a day till cure is effected. Leaf juice mixed with a pinch of lime applied on the joints to cure joint pains. Leaf decoction given by mixing dried ginger powder for piles.

**ASCLEPIADACEAE**


Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Weed of waste lands; AS 144.
VN: Erra jilledu.

Shoot tip (peanut size) is kept in plantain (ripe banana) and given in empty stomach to cure severe menstrual pains. About 10g of flowers mixed with 10 black pepper grains and 3 g of common salt and made into a paste; pills of peanut size are prepared and 3 pills given thrice a day for a week to cure malarial fever in children. A warm mixture of latex (5 ml), turmeric powder (1 g) and mustard oil (5ml) is smeared to cure itches and wounds affected by scabies. Tender twig containing latex is inserted into vagina for effecting abortion (3-month old pregnancy).

PERIPLOCAEACEAE

Hemidesmus indicus (L.) R.Br. var. pubescens (Wight & Arn.) Hook. f. in FBI 4:5; FPM 2:580; H. pubescens Wight & Arn. in Wight Contrib., 63.1834.

Slender twiners. Leaves broadly oblong, pubescent above, velvety-tomentose below. Flowers dark purple, in subsessile cymes. Follicles divaricate, incurved at the tip.

Fl. & Frt.: July - Feb.
Loc.: Talakona; AS 177.
S: Anantamula; E: Indian sarasaparilla; VN: Sugandhapala.

A cup ful of root decoction with sugar taken twice a day for 15 days to cure cardiac diseases. The roots are soaked in coconut oil and used as hair tonic.
**Pergularia daemia** : leaf - eye diseases

**Centella asiatica** : leaf - leprosy, memory booster

**Plumbago zeylanica** : root - abortifacient
Root decoction with milk and sugar acts as a good tonic and administered for children in chronic cough and diarrhoea. Roots of this plant with the roots of *Rubia cordifolia* L., are taken in equal quantity, powdered and mixed in gingelly oil and boiled. Honey bee wax is added as base to this and applied to the fissures.


Fl. & Frt.: Aug. - March.

Loc.: K.V.B.Puram; AS 133.

S: Chandaladudhika; VN: Dustaputeega, Juttuputeega, Mukkutummudu.

Leaves (10 g) crushed with a little common salt and the extract poured directly into the eyes of animals to cure eye diseases. Fresh shoot tip introduced into nose results in continuous sneezing. This relieves cold.

Leaf juice mixed with fresh lime and jaggery, applied on the swellings and inflammations for about five days.

Flowers are steam cooked and taken with sugarcandy as a galactagogue. A glassfull of whole plant juice mixed with 5 gms of crude copper sulphate and applied externally for eczema.


Fl. & Frt.: March - Oct.
Loc.: Aari, AS 196.
S: Ajadvishta; VN: Kukkapalateega, Mekameyanaku.

Leaf powder (2 g) is taken orally along with water in diarrhoea and dysentery. Two tender leaves are chewed along with a glass of water early in the morning for a week to get relief from asthma. Fumes of leaf are used as mosquito repellent.

Root infusion mixed with milk given for whooping cough. Root decoction applied over the body to cure body pain.

GENTIANACEAE

Enicostema axillare (Lam.) Raynall in Adansonia 9: 75. 1968.

Gentiana axillaris Lam., Encycl. 1: 487. 1793 Enicostema litorale auct. non Blume, 1826; FBI 4: 101; FPM 2: 615.


Fl. & Frt.: Aug. - Feb.
Loc.: S.V. University; AS 191.
S: Nagaguha; VN: Nelagolimidi, Nelagurugudu.
Powder from the aerial parts (10 g) taken orally along with a glass of sour milk for a week to cure stomachache and to expel intestinal worms.

MENYANTHACEAE


Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Pallampet; AS 186.
VN: Pitta kaluva.

Leaf powder (10 g) taken orally with a glass of warm water to expel intestinal worms. Leaf paste, mixed with til oil (Sesamum indicum L.) is applied to cure honey-bee and wasp bites.

HYDROPHYLLACEAE


Erect or diffuse herbs, rooting at nodes. Leaves elliptic-oblong. Flowers blue, in lax racemes. Capsule ovoid, septicidal.

Fl. & Frt.: Dec. - May.
Loc.: Chelluru; AS 127.
VN: Neeli nakshatralu.
Equal amount of of this species, *Aristolochia bracteolata* Lam., and *Tridax procumbens* L., leaves are made into a paste and applied to cure scabies, wounds and cuts.

**BORAGINACEAE**


Fl. & Frt. : Nov. - March.
Loc.: Varadaiahpalem; AS 291.
VN: Peddagurragutti.

Leaf paste applied to cure wounds and boils. Decoction of leaves with the leaves of *Adathoda vasica* Nees, taken orally (5 ml) twice a day for 2 days to cure cough and cold.

**CONVOLVULACEAE**


Fl. & Frt. : Throughout the year.
Loc. : Tirupati; AS 215.
S: Vishnugandhi; VN: Vishnukantha.
Equal amount of roots of this species and *Ammi majus* L. fruits are boiled with water and decoction (50 ml), taken thrice daily for a fortnight to cure typhoid fever. The powdered root (5 g) is given orally daily for 18 days as a galactagogue.

**Ipomoea aquatica** Forsk., Fl. Aeg. - Arab. 44.1775. FBI 4:210; *I. reptans* Poir. in Lam., Encycl. Suppl. 3.460; FPM 2:643.

Floating herbs Stems hollow. Leaves ovate or triangular. Flowers bluish-white or pink.

Fl. & Frt.: Sept. - Feb.
Loc.: Nerabailu; AS 235.
VN: Totti koora.

Decoction of the aerial parts taken orally (25 ml) for one month to cure piles and expel intestinal worms.


Erect shrubs. Leaves broadly ovate. Flowers large, pale rose, in dichotomous axillary and terminal cymes.

Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Weed of lakes; AS 266.
VN: Pala samudram.

A spoonful of leaf powder taken daily with warm water to reduce high blood pressure.
**Ipomoea obscura** (L.) Ker-Gawl. in Bot. Reg. 3. t. 239. 1817; FBI 4:207; FPM 2:643 *Convolvulus obscurus* L., Sp. Pl. 2.1.220 1762.

Loc. : Weed of sugar cane fields; AS 347.  
VN: Kolliteega, Nallakokkita.

Warm leaves with leaves of *Dodonaea viscosa* (L.) Jacq., used in inflammation of legs. Aerial parts fed to cow to increase lactation.


Loc. : Tirupati; AS 361.  
S: Prasarini; VN: Seethamma savaram, Sunchumutii.  
Leaf and root decoction (10 ml) taken orally along with sugar and a pinch of common salt for stomachache.

**SOLANACEAE**

**Physalis minima** L., Sp. Pl. 183. 1753; FBI 4:238; FPM 2:659 *P. pubescens* sensu Wight Ill 2:t 166 B.f.6.1850, non L., 1753.

Fl. & Frt.: Sept. - Feb.
Loc.: V. Kota; AS 315.
VN: Budama, Buddabushada.

The whole plant (50 g) boiled in coconut oil (50 ml) and the mixture applied over the head as a remedy for headache. Fruits made into a paste with the leaves of *Sansevieria roxburghiana* Schult. et Schult.f. (equal amount) and applied to cure gonorrhoea.


Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Kasipentla; AS 382.
S: Ghanaghana; E: Blacknight shade; VN: Kachi, Kamanchi.

Fruit powder mixed with til oil applied on the head for turning white hair into black and to cure all types of headache. Paste made from the aerial part is used to promote digestion.


**Solanum nigrum**: fruit - head ache, indigestion

**Solanum torvum**: fruit - indigestion, bile secretion

**Adhatoda vasica**: leaf - asthma with cough
Loc.: V. Kota; AS 74.
S: Duparsha; VN: Challamulaga, Mull vankaya, Ramamulaga.

Fruit powder mixed with honey given for asthma if the attack is followed by cough Root powder mixed with *Piper longum* L., and given with honey to relieve asthma and sore-throat.

Decoction prepared by mixing the seeds with stem bark of *Maytenus emarginata* in equal proportion. The teeth are cleansed with the above decoction frequently to get relief from toothache. Whole plant and the rhizome of *Curcuma domestica* are powdered and used for cleansing the teeth.

*Solanum torvum* Sw., Prodr. 47. 1788; Wight, Ic. t. 345, 1840; FBI 4:234; FPM 2:658.


Loc.: Kasipentla; AS 347.
VN: Usti.

The decoction of the fruits and leaves are given for cough followed by indigestion. Dried fruits are seasoned and used in various food items to improve bile secretion.

**SCROPHULARIACEAE**


Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Buchinaidu Kandriga; AS 142.
S: Brahmi; VN: Neerisambrani.

Decoction prepared from 10 g of leaf powder and 2 g of ginger (Zingiber officinale) is taken once a day (5 ml) for 3 days to cure flatulence in children. Roasted leaves are also applied on the stomach at bed time.

Water boiled with this plant is used for giving bath to epilepsy patients. Plant powder is given for nervous debility and as a brain tonic.


Aquatic herbs. Leaves variable, upper decussate, middle laciniate, lower submerged, capillaceo-multifid. Flowers yellow, throat purple.

Loc.: Japali Theertham; AS 134.
VN: Burada bokkena.

Leaf juice (20 ml) is given twice weekly for about 6 months to cure filariasis (initial stages only). Leaf infusion given in diarrhoea and dysentery. Fresh leaves (5 g) are eaten daily for one week as a relief from flatulence and as a galactagogue.

**Scoparia dulcis** L., Sp. Pl. 116. 1753; FBI 4:289; FPM 2:678.

Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Talakona; AS 189
VN: Pottiboli.

Leaf extract applied on the body surface to cure ring worms, eczema and glandular swellings. Plant paste applied on forehead to cure migraine.

**Stemodia viscosa** Roxb., Pl. Cor. t. 163. 1802; Wight, Ic. t. 1408. 1849; FBI 4:265; FPM 2:666.

Aromatic viscid herbs. Leaves cordate, amplexicaul at base.

Flowers violet, solitary.

Loc.: Talakona; AS 197.
VN: Gunta kaamini.

Leaf paste applied on the skin at bed time for smoothening and shining of the skin.

**PEDALIACEAE**


Succulent herbs. Leaves ovate-oblong. Flowers yellow, solitary.

Drupes spiny, indehiscent.

Fl. & Frt.: July - Dec.
Loc.: Weed of waste lands; AS 126.
S: Goshura; VN: Enugupalleru, Peddapallaru.
Fruit decoction (25 ml) given orally twice a day for 5 days to cure vaginal itching; it also acts as an aphrodisiac.

Leaves mixed with garlic and black pepper is made into a paste. Two spoonfuls of paste given daily during menstrual period for four days in dysmenorrhoea. Leaves are soaked in water. The juice is given with butter milk for menorrhagia.

Half a glass of decoction prepared from the whole plant, mixed with equal amount of brandy is given for snake bite. The dried plant is powdered and mixed with an equal amount of cumin seed powder. Two spoonful powder is given daily two to three times to regulate urination. Bruised plant is immersed in water and the juice is given with sugar for gonorrhoea.

**ACANTHACEAE**


Erect shrubs; branchlets grey-pubescent. Leaves oblanceolate, entire. Flowers white, in axillary spikes; bracts leafy. Capsule basally beaked.

Loc.: Yellampalli; AS 131.

S: Bhishangmata; E: Vasaka; VN: Addhrapaku, Addasaramu.

Pounded root is applied on the pubic region and inside the vagina to help dilation during delivery time. Leaf decoction is also given during labour pains for dilation.
Shade dried leaf powder mixed in equal proportion and given 3-4 times a day with honey for asthma with cough. Cigarettes made out of leaves is smoked if the condition is severe.

Leaves with the stem bark of Saraca indica, seeds of Phaseolus mungo and fruits of Coriandrum sativum L. are taken in equal quantity and powdered. A teaspoonful of the powder is mixed in half a glass of cow's milk and given two times a day for menorrhagia.


Erect herbs. Leaves linear-obovate. Flowers white, with pink tinge, in axillary or terminal panies. Capsule beaked.

Fl. & Frt.: Dec. - March.
Loc.: Talakona; AS 171.
S: Bhunimba; E: King of bitters; VN: Nelavemu.

Fresh juice of tender leaves (10 ml) is taken orally early in the morning for 10 days to expel intestinal worms. Whole plant of *A. paniculata*, *Phyllanthus amarus* Schum. and *Eclipta prostrata* L. (equal amount) are shade-dried and powdered (total 30 g); decoction prepared by adding one glass of water and taken once a day for 15 days to improve appetite and to cure abdominal pains.

Half a glass of decoction is made from the whole plant of *A. paniculata*, *Evolvulus alsinoides* (L.) L., and *Mollugo pentaphylla* L., in equal proportion and given 2 to 3 times a day to cure cough, cold and asthma.
**Blepharis maderaspatensis** (L.) Heyne ex Roth, Nov. Pl. Sp. 320.1821.


Prostrate herbs, rooting at nodes. Leaves whorled, elliptic-ovate. Flowers white, with pink streaks.

Fl. & Frt.: Oct. - Feb


VN: Antritapulu

Leaf decoction (20 ml) is taken daily for a week to cure cough and throat pain. Equal amount of leaves of this plant with leaves of *Abrus precatorius* L. is boiled and the decoction smeared on white patches of the skin.

**Hygrophila auriculata** (Schum.) Heine in Kew Bull. 16; 172. 1962.


Erect armed herbs. Leaves whorled, lanceolate. Flowers pink or bluish-purple, in axillary, sessile whorls, covered by yellowish stiff spines.

Fl. & Frt.: Round the year.

Loc.: Chelluru; AS 306.

VN: Mulla gobbi.
Leaf decoction, mixed with 3-5 g of pepper powder, ginger and caraway is taken orally (10 ml) once a day for a fortnight to cure joint and body pains. Whole plant infusion is used to cure white patches on the skin.

Whole plant decoction (25 ml) is taken orally for a month as a sexual stimulant.


Loc. : Pallampet; AS 357.

VN: Nelamandalamu.

Root decoction mixed with equal amount of garlic juice (total of 20 ml) is administered to women as a tonic in post-partum treatment.


Stiff undershrubs; branches from woody root-stock. Leaves linear or lanceolate. Flowers white, with pink spots, in globose spikes, aggregated at the base of the stem.


Loc. : K.V.Palli; AS 81.

VN: Guburu poolabanti.

Whole plant decoction (5 ml) with a pinch of turmeric powder is taken orally for 2 days to cure fever in children. The inflorescence bunch is boiled in coconut oil and used as a hair tonic.
FBI 554; FMP 2:759.


Loc.: Galigopuram, Tirumala; AS 92.

VN: Chebura.

Leaf juice applied to cure wounds caused by worms in animals.

**VERBENACEAE**

**Gmelina asiatica** L. Sp. Pl. 626. 1753; FBI 4:582; FPM 2:768.


Fl. & Frt.: March - Sept.

Loc.: Kasipentla; AS 44.

S: Biddari, Gopabhadra; VN: Adavi gummudu, Challa gummudu.

Fruit pulp applied to scalp and head bath is taken to cure dandruff. This is repeated frequently to eradicate the infection. Fruit juice mixed in gingelly oil, boiled and used as a hair tonic. Fruit juice mixed with turmeric powder, boiled and applied on affected part.

Gmelina asiatica: fruit - dandruff

Anisomeles malabarica: root - fever, poisonous bites

Phyla nodiflora: leaf - fever, cold, cough
Much branched prostrate herbs rooting at nodes. Leaves obovate. Flowers white or pale pink, in long peduncled heads.

Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.

Loc.: Yerravaripalem; AS 87.

S: Jalippili, VN: Bokkinaku.

Leaf powder (10 g) is given orally along with warm water once a day for 3 days to cure fever, cold and cough. Tender parts of the plant made into a paste and taken daily (5 g) to promote digestion and also used in post-partum treatment. Leaf juice mixed with goat's milk is given to prevent blood in the urine and to dissolve stones.

**LAMIACEAE**


Erect aromatic herbs. Leaves ovate. Flowers pink to violet, in dense spikes.


Loc.: Talakona; AS 58.

VN: Aada beera.

Leaves with the leaves of *Ocimum tenuiflorum* L. in equal quantity are pounded with turmeric (*Curcuma longa* L.) powder; this mixture is put on fire and the fumes are inhaled to cure cold and cough (this therapy is repeated for about 4 days).

Erect herbs. Stems tetragonous. Leaves lanceolate or oblanceolate, softly white-tomentose on both surface. Flowers pale-purple, in spikes.

Loc.: Bhakarapet; AS 106.
S: Ajamoola; E: Malabar catmint; VN: Maga beera.

Root decoction is gargled to soothe toothache and 2 tea spoonfuls are taken orally twice a day for 3 days to cure fever. An infusion of the herb is considered as a carminative. Leaf juice is squeezed on the affected part of poisonous bites to relieve pain.


Aromatic undershrubs. Leaves ovate - cordate. Flowers blue or violet, scented, in capitate cymes.

Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Weed of waste lands; AS 216.
VN: Dantitulasi.

Leaf extract applied on white patches of the skin daily for one month.

Tall, erect, bluntly angled herbs. Leaves broadly ovate. Flowers orange - scarlet, in globose spinous whorls.

Loc.: Bhakarapet; AS 126.
VN: Ranabheri.

Leaf decoction (10 ml) is used to cure fever. Root paste applied on wounds, cuts and swellings.


Erect coarse herbs. Leaves linear or oblong-lanceolate. Flowers white, in verticils.

Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Weed of waste lands; AS 218.
S: Dronapushpi; VN: Tummi.

Flowers (10 g) with fruits of *Coriandrum sativum* L. (5 g) are boiled with a glass of water and the extract given orally to cure cough and sore throat. Pepper (10 seeds), fresh ginger (5 g) and a handful of flowers are boiled with a glass of cow milk, administered to patients for a fortnight to cure anaemia. Fumigation with whole plant powder is carried out in the house to keep off evil spirits. Leaf extract smeared all over the body as relief from scorpion sting and snake bite.

**Ocimum basilicum** L., Sp. Pl. 597. 1753 var. basilicum; FBI 4:608; FPM 2:777.
*Hyptis suaveolens*: leaf - white patches

*Leucas aspera*: flower - sore throat

*Aerva lanata*: whole plant - leucorrhoea, kidney stones

Loc. : K.V.B.Puram; AS 133.
S: Asurasa, Kharapushpa; E: Common basil, Sweet basil; VN: Kammagaggiri

Leaf juice (3-5 drops) is applied into ear to cure earache. Seeds with neem gum is made into powder and decoction prepared. Half a glass of this is administered frequently to cure dysentery.


Fl. & Frt. : Round the year.
Loc. : Weed of waste lands; AS 162.
S: Arajaka; E: Holy basil, Sacred basil; VN: Krishnatulasi, Manchitulasi.

Leaf juice (40 ml) is taken orally once a day for 2-3 months to gradually reduce fertility. Leaves (5 g) mixed with pepper (3 seeds) are chewed for foul breath. Leaf decoction (5 ml) administered once a day for 3 days to cure cough, cold and fever.

Leaf juice is applied on the scalp. After one hour, neem oil is annointed and head-bath taken. This is repeated for complete eradication of dandruff.
The solution of this plant with alum in water is used to wash the mouth. This therapy is continued for about a week. Leaves given to the patients to chew against ulcers and fissures in mouth.

NYCTAGINACEAE


Diffuse slender herbs. Leaves ovate-oblong. Flowers white, red or pink, in panicles.

Fl. & Frt.: Round the year.

Loc.: Narasingapuram; AS 117.

S: Punarnava; E: Hog-weed; VN: Atikimamidi.

Root paste mixed with castor oil and applied inside the vagina to facilitate delivery. A paste of the whole plant is made into pills of soap nut size and 3 pills given thrice daily for 7 days to cure jaundice. Leaves (5 g) are made into a paste with garlic (1 g) and ginger (1 g) and taken orally at bedtime every day for about 1 week to improve digestion and to facilitate easy bowel movement.

AMARANTHACEAE

**Achyrantes aspera** L., Sp. Pl. 204.1753; FBI 4:730; FPM 2:823.

Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Weed of waste lands; AS 216.
S: Apamarga; E: Prickly chaff-flower; VN: Uttareni.

Root placed inside the vagina to hasten labour pain and for parturition. The paste of the root is also applied over the navel and pubic region as antipartum treatment. Root powdered with a small bit of alum and used for washing teeth during toothache.

Ash of whole plant mixed with the seed powder of *Calotropis gigantea* made into small pills with lemon juice and given 2 times daily for asthma with cough. The patient is asked to use alum water as a mouth wash.

Leaf paste applied on the affected part of scorpion sting and bandaged. Five to ten leaves are given to be chewed. Leaves cooked in milk is given daily along with milk for bleeding piles.


Fl. & Frt.: Sept. - March.
Loc.: S.V. University; AS 2.
S: Pashanabedha; VN: Kondapindi, Pindikunda.

Equal amount of whole plant of *A. lanata* and fruits of *Tribulus terrestris* L., is powdered and boiled with water. The decoction is taken orally (50 ml) twice a day for 45 days to dissolve kidney and gall bladder stones. Flowers and leaves chewed to cure dysentery and diarrhoea in children.
Juice from whole plant mixed with a pinch of camphor and silajit and given two times a day for about three days to cure leucorrhoea.


Diffuse herbs. Leaves oblong or lanceolate. Flowers white, in elongate compact spikes. Utricle obcordate.

Fl. & Frt.: Aug. - April.
Loc.: Kasipentla; AS 282.
S: Masthyakshi; VN: Ponnaganti.

Leaves warmed and cooled, used as a bandage over the eyes in redness of eye. The leaves are eaten as a vegetable curry to promote digestion. The decoction prepared from 10 g of stems and 5 g of leaves of *Leucas aspera* Spr., is taken orally twice a day for 3 days in snake bite and scorpion sting.


Fl. & Frt.: Round the eyar.
Loc.: Rangampet; AS 191.
E: Cock's comb; VN: Chirraku.
Root decoction (20 ml) is taken orally once a day for 20 days to cure gonorrhoea, syphilis and to reduce overbleeding during menstruation.

One to two ounce of root juice given 2 or 3 times a day to terminate 1 to 2 month old pregnancy.

**Celosia argentea** L., Sp. Pl. 205. 1753; Wight. Ic. t. 1767. 1852; FBI 4:714; FPM 2:816; FTC 3:1309.

Erect herbs. Leaves linear or lanceolate. Flowers pinkish-white, in dense cylindric terminal spikes. Utricle globose.

Fl. & Frt.: Round the year.


VN: Gurugu, gunugu.

Seed powder (10 g) boiled with a glass of water and the decoction administered for a week to cure diarrhoea and to stimulate sexual desires.


Fl. & Frt.: Nov. - March.

Loc.: Kasipentla; AS 106.

VN: Chenchillaku.
Whole plant decoction (20 ml) taken orally twice a day for 3 days to cure burning sensation during urination.

**Pupalia atropurpurea** (Lam.) Moq. in DC., Prodr. 13 (2): 331. 1849; FBI 4:723; FPM 2:821.

Erect woody herbs Leaves ovate - lanceolate. Flowers pinkish - white, in clusters or spikes.


Loc. : Srikalahsti; AS 242.

VN: Anthretha.

Leaf paste applied as antidote to scorpion sting.

**Trichuriella monsoniae** (L.f.) Bennet in Indian J.For. 8: 86. 1985.


Fl. & Frt.: Round the year.

Loc. : Panapakam; AS 311.

VN: Errapindi.

Whole plant made into a paste with unboiled rice washed water and taken orally (50 ml daily) for 15 days to prevent discharge of semen in urine. Plant decoction (10 ml) is taken orally for 5 days to remove swelling.
**POLYGONACEAE**


Fl. & Frt.: March - June.

Loc.: Nerabailu; AS 171.

VN: Buradagou.

Leaf decoction is prepared from this species, *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L. Mant., and *Phyllanthus amarus* Schum., (equal quantity). About 20 ml of this decoction is given on empty stomach once a day for a week to cure jaundice.

**ARISTOLOCHIACEAE**


Fl. & Frt.: Round the year.

Loc.: Akashaganga, Tirumala; AS 115.

S: Dhumapatra; E: Birthwort; VN: Gadidhagadapa.

Whole plant paste applied on tubercular glands of the neck. Leaf juice (10 ml) is given orally along with the leaf juice (10 ml) of *Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.f.) Wall. ex Nees to expel intestinal worms.
Aristolochia bracteolata: leaf - anthelmintic

Aristolochia indica: root - prenatal treatment

Acalypha indica: leaf - indigestion, anthelmintic
**Aristolochia indica** L., Sp.Pl. 960. 1753; FBI 5:75; FPM 2:841.  A. *lanceolata* Wight, Ic.t. 1858, 1852.


Fl. & Frt.: Sept. - Jan.
Loc.: Papavinasanam; AS 45.
S: Ishvari; E: Indian birthwort; VN: Tella eswari.

A mixture of the roots of *Piper longum* and *Aristolochia indica* is given with fried Asafoetida, wrapped in betel leaves in delayed labour.

**LAURACEAE**


Small evergreen trees; bark pale brownish, smooth, aromatic. Leaves elliptic-lanceolate, shining green on upper surface when mature. Flowers yellowish-white, foetid, in panicles. Fruit dark purple.

VN: Dalchina.

Bark, mixed with equal quantity of fried borax, made into powder. A spoonful of powder is taken along with warm water before the commencement of menstrual cycle, in order to prevent conception temporarily.
SANTALACEAE


Fl. & Frt.: Feb. - July.

Loc.: Gogarbham; AS 42.

S: Anindita; E: Sandal tree, Sandal wood; VN: Chandanamu, Manchi-gandhamu, Srigandhamu.

A spoonful of wood powder mixed in equal amount of mustard powder is given with water two times daily for three days from the 5th day of menstruation for contraception (temporary).

Heart wood paste is applied on the forehead to cure headache. Water stored overnight in the wooden container made of heart wood, is taken early in the morning. This regulates frequency and urgency of urination due to diabetes.

Pounded leaves forms a sticky juice. To this a pinch of ammonium chloride and cumin seed powder is added and decoction prepared. This is given daily to cure leucorrhoea.

EUPHORBIACEAE


Fl. & Frt.: Round the year.
Loc.: Panapakam; AS 149.
S: Harinmanjari; VN: Kuppinta, Muripinda.

Leaf juice (3 drops) is dropped into the ear to relieve earache. Leaf paste of applied into rectum to get relief from constipation due to indigestion in children. Dried leaf powder (3 g), mixed with ginger powder (1 g) and honey (one tea spoonful) is taken orally in the morning for 5 days to expel intestinal worms. Whole plant dried and burnt, the ash is rubbed all over the body at bed time for a month which results in smooth, fair and radiant skin.


Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
S: Pusitoa; E: Australian asthma herb; VN: Pachabottu, Reddivari nanubalu.

Leaf decoction (20 ml) is administered for 10 days to cure asthma, dysentery and diarrhea. Leaf juice is also directly squeezed into the eyes to cure eye trouble.

Small herbs. Leaves oblong, distichous. Flowers pale green, male flowers in upper axils and female in lower axils. Capsule globose; seeds triquetrous.

Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.
Loc.: Talakona; AS 316.
S: Bhudhatri; VN: Nelausirika.

Leaves and fruits made into a paste with flower buds of *Tragia involucrata* L. (equal quantity) and applied on the forehead for relief from severe headache.


Large shrubs. Leaves palmately lobed. Flowers pale yellow, unisexual, in racemes. Capsule globose, epicarp spinous.

Fl. & Frt.: Jan. - March.
Loc.: Cultivated; AS 375.
S: Gandharvahasta; E: Castor-oil plant; VN: Aamudamu.

Young castor leaves mixed with equal quantity of leaves of *Tragia involucrata* L., and made into a paste. A spoonful of the paste is taken with rice water on the third day of delivery and continued for 2 to 3 days to effect sterility.

**CERATOPHYLLACEAE**

**Ceratophyllum demersum** L., Sp. Pl. 992. 1753; FBI 5:639; FPM 3:973; FTC 3:1540.

Fl. & Frt.: Feb.-May.
Loc.: Keelapatla; AS 325.
VN: Neeti sambrani.

Plant paste applied on the affected part to relieve scorpion sting.

HYDROCHARITACEAE


Submerged tufted herbs. Leaves linear, 5-nerved. Flowers dioecious, male many, female solitary; peduncles longer than leaves. Fruits linear, included in the ribbed spathe.

Loc.: Sathyavedu; AS 49.
VN: Pathala banthi.

Ribbon shaped leaves with the leaves of *Tridax procumbens* L., is made into a paste with turmeric powder and applied to cure scabies, wounds and cuts.

Submerged or floating herbs. Leaves variable, oblong, ovate-suborbicular. Flowers white with yellow spots. Utricle crowned by sepals.

Fl. & Frt. · Sep. - Feb
Loc. · Talakona, AS 125
VN: Edakula tamara.

Leaf paste applied to prevent overbleeding due to cuts


Submerged stoloniferous herbs Leaves linear, ribbon-like. Flowers unsexual, male many, female solitary

Fl. & Frt. : July - Sept
Loc. · Talakona, AS 143.

Whole plant decoction (25 ml) is given once a day for a week to prevent white discharge in women and as a relief from stomachache during menstruation.

**ZINGIBERACEAE**


Rhizomatous, acaulescent herbs Leaves lanceolate, radical. Flowers yellow, in spikes.

Loc. · Cultivated; AS 167.

S: Haridra; E: Turmeric; VN: Pasupu kommu.
A glass of warm milk mixed with a spoonful of turmeric powder given
to cure common cold.

Turmeric paste is applied on the painful swellings of the body.
Turmeric mixed with leaves of *Adhatoda vasica* Nees, made into a paste and
applied on the affected part to cure skin diseases

**COSTACEAE**

**Costus speciosus** (Koen.) J. E. Smith in Trans. Linn. Soc. London

Herbs with tuberous rootstock. Leaves obovate. Flowers bluish -
white, bracts dark red.

Loc. : Cultivated, Tirupati, AS 121.
S: Bramhatirtha, Padmakarna, Pushkara; VN: Kevukinna, Vanavasa.

The consumption of tuber in raw form for a fortnight leads to
sterilization in women.

**MUSACEAE**

**Musa paradisiaca** L, Sp. Pl. 1043. 1753. FPM 3:1046. *M. sapientum* L.

Large stoloniferous shrubs. Leaves very large. Flowers in spikes,
drooping. Fruits oblong, yellowish-green.

Loc. : Cultivated; AS 365.
S: Vanalakshmi; E: Plantain; VN: Arati.
Aqueous root extract, taken orally daily during menstrual period for about 2 to 3 consecutive months for effecting sterility in women. If taken by men for a month, it results in permanent male sterility.

**HYPOXIDACEAE**


Perennial herbs. Leaves radical, lanceolate. Flowers golden-yellow, in axillary cymes, covered by leaf sheaths.

Fl. & Frt.: Sept. - Feb.

Loc.: Japali, Tirumala; AS 294.

S: Talamulika; E: Black musale; VN: Nelatadi gadda, Nelathati.

Two or three spoonfuls of powder made from the roots is mixed with the root of *Asparagus racemosus* Wild., and taken daily as an aphrodiasiac.

Root powder mixed with butter is rubbed on the breast daily for about 40 days in case of hard and large breast.

**AGAVACEAE**


Arborescent shrubs. Leaves elliptic-oblong, spiny along margins. Flowers whitish-yellow, crowded, in fascicles, peduncles very long.

Fl. & Frt.: April - June.

Loc.: Somala; AS 192.
S: Kantala; E: American aloe, Century plant; VN: Kalabanda, Kitthanara, Rakasi-kalabanda.

A spoonful of leaf juice given to cure venereal diseases. Leaf juice applied to bruises.

**Sansevieria roxburghiana** Schultes & Schultes f., Syst. 7: 357 ff. 12D & E 1829; FBI 6: 271; FPM 3:1061. FTC 3:1631.


Fl. & Fr.: June - Sep.

Loc.: Tirumala; AS 273.

S: Muruva; E: Bow-string hemp; VN: Chaga, Saganara.

Four to five drops of juice obtained by slightly warming the leaves is instilled to relieve ear ache.

**LILIACEAE**

**Gloriosa superba** L., Sp. Pl. 305. 1753; Wight, Ic. t. 2047. 1853, FBI 6: 358; FPM 3:1061

Climbing herbs. Leaves ovate or elliptic-lanceolate, apex spirally twisted into tendril. Flowers scarlet red in upper half and yellow in lower half, sometimes mottled with scarlet and yellow, solitary.

Fl. & Fr.: Sept. - Dec.

Loc.: Pallampeta; AS 383.

S: Agnimukhi; E: Superb lilly; VN: Deyyapaku, Kandlakoti, Nabhi, Pasalapoligoni gadda.
Curculigo ochioides: root - large and hard breast

Sansevieria roxburghiana: leaf - ear ache

Gloriosa superba: tuber - gonorrhoea

Typha angustata: spike - bone fracture
Tuber (1 cm long) is made into a paste, mixed with half spoon of pepper powder and given along with milk. One dose is sufficient to abort up to 4 month old pregnancy.

The tuber is soaked in cow's urine dried and powdered. A pinch is taken orally every day to cure gonorrhoea. The leaf juice is applied on the scalp for killing lice.


Loc. : Pitchatur; AS 327.

VN: Ellagaddalu.

The Bulb extract smeared around the navel region to get relief from stomachache. The tuber is useful in vomiting.

**PONTEDERIACEAE**


Free floating herbs. Leaves broadly ovate-rhomboid, coriaceous, petiole spongy bulbous at middle. Flowers purple with yellow base.
Fl. & Frt.: Jan.-Feb.
Loc.: Srikalahasti; AS 385.
VN: Gurrapudekka.

Plant juice given to cure stomach ache.


Aquatic herbs. Leaves ovate-lanceolate, petiole sheathing at base. Flowers blue, covered by petiolar sheath.

Fl. & Frt.: June - Oct.
Loc.: Talakona; AS 144.

About 50ml of leaf juice taken orally once a day for 3 days, to cure fever and cold and also to prevent excess bleeding during menstruation (menorrhagia).

**COMMELINACEAE**

**Commelina benghalensis** L., Sp. Pl. 41. 1753; Wight, Ic.t. 2065. 1853; FBI 6:370; FPM 3:1075; FTC 3:1657.

Diffuse herbs. Leaves ovate-oblong. Flowers purple, enclosed in funnel like spathe; cleistogamous flowers rise from underground shoots.

Fl. & Frt.: June - Feb.
Loc.: Common weed in fields; AS 258.
S: Kanchata; VN: Vennedra.

Leaf decoction (30 ml) taken on the first day of menses for 5 days, (each month, for two years) results in contraception.
Cyanotis tuberosa (Roxb.) Schultes & Schultes. f. in Roem. & Schultes Syst. Veg. 7 (2): 1153. 1830; FBI 6:386; FPM 3:1081; FTC 3:1663. Tradescantia tuberosa Roxb., Pl. Cor. t. 108. 1799.

Villous tuberous herbs; tubers fusiform. Leaves linear-oblong. Flowers purple, in pedunculate cymes

Loc. : Common on dry rocky soils : AS 207.
VN: Nidragaddi.

Tuberous root decoction (10 ml) is taken orally twice a day for 3 days to cure intermittent fever. Tuberous root paste is applied topically to cure wounds in animals.

**TYPHACEAE**


Fl. & Frt. : March - June.
VN: Jammu.

Spikes made into a paste with red soil and applied to set bone fractures. Leaf juice (25 ml) taken early in the morning for 2 days for relief from fever.
ARACEAE


Loc.: Cultivated, Mangapuram; AS 120.

VN: Vasa.


Rhizome decoction (50 ml) given early in the morning to improve digestion and to prevent diarrhoea, dysentery and fever.


Fl. & Frt.: Sept. - Nov.

Loc.: Cultivated; AS 110

VN: Chamagadda.

Juice of corn mixed with the seed pulp of *Abrus precatorius* L. and rubbed twice a day for 15 days to cure alopecia areata.

Stoloniferous floating herbs. Leaves obovate, with flabellate venation.

Male flowers in whorls, female solitary.


Loc.: Common in still waters; AS 220.

S: Kumbhika; E: Tropical duck weed; VN: Antara tamara.

Leaf juice applied to cure various skin diseases. Leaves made into a paste with alcohol and pills of soapnut size prepared. Two pills are given daily for a week. This results in contraception. Leaf paste made with castor oil is applied to cure joint pains.

**APONOGETONACEAE**


Fl. & Frt.: Sept. - Dec.

Loc.: Yerravarpalem; AS 131.

VN: Nammadumpa.

Leaf paste applied on affected part to cure burns.

**ERIOCAULACEAE**

Scapigerous herbs. Leaves linear-lanceolate. Flowers white, in globose heads.


Loc.: Tirumala; AS 350.

Leaf decoction gargled to relieve throat pain.

**CYPERACEAE**

*Cyperus rotundus* L., Sp. Pl. 45. 1753; FBI 6:614; FPM 3:1140.


Fl. & Frt.: Round the year.

Loc.: Common in all places; AS 219.

S: Kakshottha; VN: Shakatunga, Tungamusti.

Roots (5 g) and ginger (1 g) made into a paste with water and taken orally for 10 days to cure stomach disorders. The root paste (5 g) added to 2 spoonful of honey and taken orally for 5 days to cure dysentery and diarrhoea.

Half a glass of tuberous root decoction administered for intermittent fevers, two to three times a day until the fever subsides.

Tuberous root decoction given frequently to prevent after effects of alcohol addicts.
POACEAE


Loc. : Kasipentla; AS 279.

S: Tavakshiri, Vanasa; E: Bamboo; VN: Bongu veduru

Young fermented shoots taken for about 1 month which cause permanent sterilization in women. A decoction made from the seeds of Dolichos biflorus L. and leaves of bamboo is given for termination of pregnancy.

One glassful of leaf decoction is administered to expel worms in intestine. Two handful of leaves are pounded and decoction prepared. Three teaspoonful of gingelly oil is added to the decoction and given orally. After half an hour the still born child is removed easily.


Creeping culmous herbs. Leaves linear-lanceolate. Spikes green or purple, digitate.

Fl. & Frt. : Throughout the year.

Loc. : Common in pasture lands; AS 159.

VN: Garikagaddi.
Whole plant juice (10 ml) is taken orally on empty stomach (3 days) for menorrhagia and applied topically for cuts and wounds.


Fl. & Frt.: July - Dec.

Loc.: Cultivated lands: AS 125.

VN: Erriragi.

Dried seed powder (3 g), taken along with a glass of water twice a day for 5 days is said to cure stomach ache in women after child birth.


Suberect herbs rooting at lower nodes. Leaves linear, flat.

Fl. & Frt.: Throughout the year.

Loc.: Paddy fields and damp places; AS 340.

VN: Oodarlu.

Decoction of whole plant (10 ml) taken orally once a day for a week to promote digestion and to improve appetite.