



## Medico Ethnobotanical study on nine Devine plants of Navapatrika

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**Abstract:** India is always being a rich country by its spirituality and cultural aspects, but the thing; that is yet to explore fully is the scientific temperament behind the spirituality. The transformation of wild plants into bountiful, reliable crops profoundly altered the trajectory of modern humans. In India there are many blessed plants are prehistorically used through the lineage of anthropological and ethnobotanical significance. Navapatrika plants are one of that blessed plants which are mainly associated with the eastern part of India, specifically in the land of Bengal provinces. Food, Medicine & Shelter these are the primary necessities of each nation, these nine plants are fulfilling all such dictum of colloquial livelihood of Bengal peoples. Through the Ayurveda to the modern pharmacological qualification and both quantification of these plants are already tested, but in this review we tried to spot out the antimicrobial efficiency of these holy plants for their future application of immunoglobulin associated study.

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**Key words:** antimicrobial efficiency, cultural inheritance, indigenous groove, socio-ecology.

### Introduction:

The Indian subcontinent is the landscape of living traditions, protracted from the time of human civilization. A number of indigenous and endemic plants are domesticated for food, spice and medicines as per the palaeo-anthropological record of India (Piperno 2011). The colonization of the human environment by plants, and the consequent evolution of domesticated forms are increasingly being viewed as a co-evolutionary plant-human process that occurred over a long time period, which evidence for the co-evolutionary relationship between plants and humans reaching ever deeper into the hominin past (Allaby *et al.* 2015). From the view of metagenomics, the co-evolutionary gene pool may be a customized with the help of microbial interaction with the plant secondary metabolites (Rajasekaran *et al.* 2009).

Plants have been an indispensable part of Indian life and traditions; hence all aspects of folk literature of this country have enormous references about trees, shrubs, climbers and their flowers and fruits which do not sojourned the lineage of common past (Amirthalingam 2015). The tradition of Ayurveda solicits to lop off the specific demographic medicine knowledge into folk medicine and practices, which are proliferating and specified for sectarian culture in various parts of India. Folk songs are particularly rich in references to flowers and fruits. The songs sung on various occasions from birth to death, at the times of

joy and sorrow, in festivals, ceremonies and rites. Folk proverbs having references to plants are indicative of the deep insight, common sense and practical wisdom of the common folk (Chaudhuri & Pal 1997). Not only in traditional songs, but in traditional tales, mythological stories and events in the epics, as also innumerable religions practices of worship in the house hold, in temples, festivals, one all replete with references to plants.

Divinity is a traditional practice by mean specific plants or a grove is not only majestically treated but also protected. There is a conceptual difference between 'blessed', 'sacred' and 'holy' plants; the difference does not only pertain to the semantic meaning of words but also on the worship of trees (Amirthalingam 2015). These practices can be traced from the prehistoric to modern times in an unbroken line. A large number of plants are considered as temple trees and used as sacred and symbol of certain Hindu Gods Starting from Rig Veda up to the classical times there are many Sanskrit works which gave valuable information regarding the plants. This is also marked that, the Vedas contain information about various plants which are not well traced today; the saga of those vegetations are completely lost due to the some obvious or non protective cause.

Navapatrika means nine plants in Sanskrit, this is the abacus of common nine plants of Bengal; they are *Aegle marmelos*, *Punica granatum*, *Oryza sativa*,

*Curcuma longa*, *Sesbania sesban*, *Colocasia esculenta*, *Musa paradisiaca*, *Alocasia macrorrhiza* and *Saraca asoka*. The ritualistic use of Navapatrika in Bengal Provinces is mainly observed during the time of early autumnal annual festival Durga Puja. This ritual is done as a method to invoke the Goddess using the nine plants as the living medium. Many have even opined that the Navapatrika is a form of Durga herself, which symbolises all the aspects of nature in a complex vegetative state. It could just have been a local or a primitive practice of worshipping the Mother Earth for a rich annual harvest and with the popularity of the Durga Puja, this ritual was assimilated in the festivities. In fact, the worshipping of Navapatrika in its original form is still prevalent in some parts of Eastern India (Bhattacharya 1977).

A large number of plant products exhibit antimicrobial property and this supports the contention that traditional medicine remains a valuable resource in the potential discovery of natural product pharmaceuticals (Cowan 1999). Due to emergence of drug resistant strains of various infectious microbes, ethnobotany may provide new effective pharmaceutical alternatives to existing drugs (Ghorbani *et al* 2006). We can say that in recent days researchers of different fields turn their research into the ways which are already documented in our cultural manuscripts (Bhattacharya 1977). In other hand due to indiscriminate use of antibiotics many microorganisms become antibiotic resistant. We slowly are fetching a situation where almost every pathogenic microorganism becomes Anti Microbial drug Resistance (AMR) that ultimately results in failure of currently available drugs even third generation antibiotics will also get non effective. Recently CDC (Centre for Disease Control) estimates that in US nearly 2 million people get infected by AMR and around 2300 people die due to this. Not only that, day by day occurrence of various critical diseases becomes more and more prominent such as AIDS, cancer etc (CDC 2019). Synthetic drugs available for the treatment either have very high cost or have side effects on health which are also hazardous. This turns the interest of research into natural antibiotics derived from plants. Those natural medicines are mainly phytochemical products having almost no side effects on health. Most importantly these drugs will be cheaper than synthetic drugs and will be affordable by all sorts of people in the society.

#### **Antimicrobial and other medicinal properties of these nine plants:**

These nine plants of Nabapatrika have enormous antimicrobial activities and tremendous health benefits. Some of them are already documented and some are yet to explore fully. These qualities are noted here-

#### **1. *Aegle marmelos***

**Antimicrobial activity:** It has antimicrobial properties against various potential pathogens like *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Rouletella planticola*, *Penicillium chrysogenum*, *Candida albicans*. Methanolic extraction and extraction in petroleum ether, chloroform of the fruit and leaf of the plant shows zone of inhibition against those pathogenic bacteria and fungus (Meena *et al.* 2016). The zone of inhibition is comparable to that of the standard antibiotic Amoxicillin. It has the ability to inhibit the diarrhea causing pathogens like *S. dysenteriae*, *S. flexneri*, *S. sonnei*. *Plasmodium falciparum* the causative agent of malaria is also gets affected by root extraction of the plant following a method of Trager and Jensen. Wood apple is also a potential virucidal agent that has antiviral activity against Ranikhet disease virus. Hydro alcoholic extract of the fruits have already been reported to show interferon like activity against the same virus (Gupta *et al.* 2015).

**Other medicinal values:** Potential phyto compounds present in this plant has many therapeutic applications against many radial mediated ailments. Methanolic crude extract of *A. marmelos* has best anti oxidant and ROS scavenging activity on macrophage cells. Apart from that it is also used in treatment of heart diseases and in case of constipation (Bhar *et al.* 2019).

#### **2. *Punica granatum***

**Antimicrobial activity:** It is mainly used in treatment of oral infections. Common micro flora marked as potential oral infective agents are mainly *Streptococcus sp.*, *Staphylococcus sp.*, *Lactobacillus sp.* and *Candida sp.* It has already been reported by researchers that seed extraction of pomegranate shows bactericidal and bacteriostatic activity due to the presence of ellagitannins and punicalagin. Haemozoin or TNF decreases due to increase in the level of MMP 9 mRNA in presence of pomegranate extract thus preventing malaria. Not only that, pomegranate juice has the ability to block the CD4 and CXCR5/CCR5 viral binding site thereby acting as anti viral agent against HIV (Hemani & Gheena 2018).

**Other medicinal values:** Apart from anti viral and anti microbial activities this plant has many other health benefits also. It is used as ointments to heal sepsis and in treatment of insomnia, memory loss, internal bleeding, and intestinal disorders (Bhattacharya 1977) and in case of heavy menstrual bleeding (HMB) (Bryant-Smith *et al* 2018, Goshtasebi 2015).

#### **3. *Saraca asoka***

**Antimicrobial activity:** Ashoka is one of the most important medicinal plants, it has enormous antimicrobial activity. Ethanolic and petroleum ether extract of the plant shows inhibitory activity against

*Bacillus Subtilis* and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (Shilpakala Sainath 2009). It has already been reported that aqueous extraction of the stem of the plant shows antibacterial activity against *Bacillus cereus*, *Klebsiella pneumoneae*, *Proteus mirabilis*, and *Staphylococcus aureus* (Singh et al 2015).

**Other medicinal values:** This plant has enormous medicinal values. It is very much used in treatment of heart diseases, gastrointestinal diseases, pregnancy related disorders (Bhattacharya 1977), and in arthritis and it is also a potential blood clotting agent (Chakraborty et al 2014).

#### 4. *Curcuma longa*

**Antimicrobial activity:** It is an already documented natural antibiotic. Ethanolic extraction of leaves of *C.long* shows antibacterial activity against *bacillus subtilis*, *Klebsiella pneumoneae*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (Singh et al 2015)

**Other medicinal value:** Turmeric is a very common material in our kitchen apart from that it has tremendous beneficial effects on our health in both externally and internally. It is used in treatment of allergy, liver problem, stammering, asthma and in many other skin related problems (Bhattacharya 1977), Joint Arthritis (James et al 2016) and Parkinson's disease (Wang et al 2017).

#### 5. *Musa paradisiaca*

**Antimicrobial activity:** It has an outstanding antibacterial activity against Gram positive bacteria than Gram negative bacteria (Karadil et al. 2011). The fruit peel extract (10µg/ml) shows zone of inhibition around 12.2±0.1 mm against *Bascillus subtilis* and around 8 mm zone of inhibition against *Escherichia coli* (Asoso et al. 2016) It shows antifungal properties too, zone of inhibition around 13±0.4 mm is shown against fungal strain *Candida albicans* (Rajesh 2017, Mallick et al. 2007)

**Other medicinal values:** Banana is a very common and available food item that we frequently use in our daily diet routine. But this plant has several beneficial effects on our health, from ancient times it is used in treatment coughing, intestinal disorders, mental depression (Bhattacharya 1977), diabetes (Shruthi 2019), in many skin problems, and tumour (Harsha Raj et al. 2017).

#### 6. *Colocasia esculenta*

**Antimicrobial activity:** This plant of Navapatrika is one of the most well known medical plant having antimicrobial activities. It has strong inhibitory effect against *Streptococcus mutans* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. Both of the bacteria are highly pathogenic to humans. Ethanol extract of the plant show zone of inhibition against various gram positive and gram negative bacteria such as *E.coli*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Enterococcus sp*, *Salmonella sp*,

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Staphylococcus aureus* (Singh et al. 2011, Chakraborty et al. 2015)

**Other medicinal values:** It is potentially used to maintain healthy vision, skin, mucous membrane, lungs etc. It also has anti depressant and sedative activity used in treatment of hypoglycaemia (Harshal et al 2018).

#### 7. *Alocasia macrorrhiza*

**Antimicrobial activity:** An anti-fungal protein alocasin is isolated from it of 11 kda molecular weight (determined by SDS-PAGE). It showed antifungal activity against *Aspergilluniger*, *Candida albicans* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. The ethanolic extract of alocasia shows profound inhibitory property *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Klebsiella pneumonia* (Banik et al. 2014)

**Other medicinal values:** This plant has antioxidant and DPPH scavenging activity along with thrombolytic and cytotoxic effects also (Singh et al. 2017).

#### 8. *Sesbania sesban*

**Antimicrobial activity:** It is a well known medicinal plant having enormous antimicrobial activities. Ethanolic, methanolic and aqueous extraction of leaves shown inhibitory activity against gram negative pathogenic bacteria like *E. coli*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Klebsiella pneumoneae* (Nirosha et al. 2019)

**Other medicinal values:** Due to the presence of various medicinal qualities this plant has wide range of uses. It has potential anti-inflammatory activity (Bhattacharya 1977), anti-oxidant activity; anti-diabetic activity apart from that it is also used in control of fertility and spermicidal activity. (Goswami et al. 2016)

#### 9. *Oryza sativa*

**Antimicrobial activity:** The antifungal activity of OsTDX protein against mold and yeast is well documented. The antifungal activity of this protein was stronger in yeast than in mold fungi owing to the differences in their cell wall components (Park et al. 2019). OsTDX protein exerted killing action against fungal pathogens via destabilizing and disrupting effects on fungal membranes.

**Other medicinal values:** Indians specially in Bengali community rice can be defined as the chief item of their meal. Appart from that rice has many beneficial activities on health also. It has redox homeostasis (Bhattacharya 1977) and antioxidant property as well (Palungwachira 2019, Rungratanawanich 2018)

**Conclusion:** Advancement of modern day research based on various modern technologies is nothing but the advancement of civilization, beside that this phyto-chemical research is also a rising sphere in the research field. In spite of much

advancement we cannot solve the whole mystery of our mother nature. Nature is a very rich source of many things which are yet to explore fully. Numerous plants in earth have tremendous high medicinal qualities. Plant products will be more available and have almost no side effects unlike the present markedly available drugs. Some of them are already documented in our cultural manuscripts. Recent day scientist's works on few of those plants to see their anti-microbial activities and other medicinal qualities but majority of the details of their uses are yet not published documented scientifically. Indians have already much knowledge about these phyto-chemical compounds of many medicinal plants and their proper scientific uses. Hence India will have to take the lead in this rising area of research. But the responsibility does not come to an end until these the products will become available in the market for uses. In recent days many works are already going on regarding these phyto-chemical studies but these nine plants which are mentioned here are not markedly available as potential drugs. *Curcuma longa* and *Aegles marmelos* though have some markedly available products but remaining seven plants are not as popular as potential therapeutics till now. There are many other medicinal plants whose qualities are yet to apply in our daily life as drugs and these nine plants mentioned here represents of them all.

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