Medicinal plants used in skin disease in Deganga, West Bengal

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Ethnobotanical studies reveal some plant species used in skin disease by Oraon tribe of Chandanpur, Hadipur, Chupri village of Deganga, North twenty-four Paragana, West Bengal. Most of the plants were found to be unknown or less known from usage point of view. Other village people migrated from the erstwhile East Pakistan (Bangladesh) also used the plants in skin disease. The plants are: Aloe vera L, Argemone mexicana L, Atrocarpus gomezianus Trecul sub. Spp. zeylanicus jorett, Butea frondosa Roxb, Cassialata alata L, Lawsonia inermis L, Ocimum sanctum L, Pongamia pinnata (L)Merre, Solanum anguivi Lam. & Strychnos nux-vomica L.

Keywords: Medicinal Plants, Skin disease, Oraon tribe, West Bengal

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Ethnobotanical studies were carried out in North twenty-four Paragana district of southern part of West Bengal (Fig. 1). It lies between 23°12'00" and 22°25'10" North latitude and 88°37'05" East longitude. The total area of this district is about 255599 ha of which about 84347 ha are under forests. It is a border district of West Bengal with a major part of its boundary with neighboring country Bangladesh. During the independence period considerable number of different ethnic groups have migrated from the Sundarbans and settled in this district as agricultural labourers. Both the migrated ethnic communities and the tribal possess rich indigenous knowledge (IK) system about phytodiversity of their area and agriculture. Till today, no serious attempt has been made for recording this knowledge system with special reference to plants of medicinal uses1-4. So it is a privilege to ventilate the existing knowledge system to the outside world.

Methodology
Periodical field surveys were conducted by following standard method5. The villagers were asked to provide the local names of the plants, parts of the plant used, methods of preparation etc. When recording the names of plants, field’s visits were made with the informant for identification of the specific plants. Most plants were identified in the field itself. Herbarium specimens of the same were collected subsequently identified in the Central National Herbarium (Cal), Shibpore West Bengal.

Results and discussion
The tribals of North twenty-four Paragana district used many plants for therapeutic purpose. Ten plants used skin disease is cited in this paper. The people depend...
partially on herbal medicines, as there are no modern facilities available in the villages.

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**References**