

## The traditional study of man-animal relationship in District Sidhi Madhya Pradesh, India

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### Abstract

Sidhi is rich in bio-cultural diversity. The district is home to a number of unique assemblages of fauna, some of which are endemic. Not only faunal resources the district also harbors some very ancient populations whose interrelationship with these diverse faunal resources is very intimate and thus demands scientific study. The present paper studies tribes-animal relationships in Sidhi district. Ethnozoological data were collected by semi-structured interviews. Data were collected from the period of September 2015 to August 2016. The tribal community treasures knowledge on various animal species used in 35 different medicinal purposes including asthma, weakness, tuberculosis, cough, paralysis etc. and for other religious purposes. Some animals are the sources of important traditional medicines; others are omen indicators and weather forecasters. High priority should be given in conservation of those animals which are of high consensus value to the community. Therefore it is urgent to initiate organized scientific study and document such valuable and time tested ethnozoological knowledge before these culturally rich people and important faunal resources disappear.

**Keywords:** traditional, zotherapy, faunal resources, knowledge, treatment

### 1. Introduction

According to the world health organization, between 75 and 80% of world's population use traditional folk medicine (Alves and Rosa, 2007) <sup>[1]</sup> A recent work of this subject indicated that about many animal species used in traditional medicine in both rural and urban areas of India.

Some researcher Mahawar and Jaroli, (2006, 2007 & 2008) <sup>[2-4]</sup>, Negi and Palya (2007) <sup>[5]</sup>; Chakrawarty, *et al.* (2011) <sup>[6]</sup> and Oudhia (2003) <sup>[7]</sup>, their research shows that animal and their body part such as feathers, scales, antler, Carapace, bones are widely use in curing many diseases. Many ethno biologist are collected zotherapeutic information from deferent tribes in India. Researcher Mishra, *et al.* (2011) <sup>[8]</sup> had described simplipal biosphere reserve Orissa, India, there resident tribes (santhal, kol, Bhumija, Bhuyan, Mahalls, Sounti and Saharas) have used some animals medicine to cure different diseases. Mahawar and Jaroli (2006) <sup>[2]</sup>, they have done field survey in Ranthambhor nation Park India and described 15 animal and their products were used for different ethno medicinal purpose, including tuberculosis, asthma, paralysis, Jaundice, earache, constipation, weakness.

Arunachal Pradesh the eastern most part of India is full of diverse natural resources and inhabited by variety of ethnic groups. Researcher Chakrawarty, *et al.* (2011) <sup>[6]</sup> have found myishi and gala tribes and villagers used 32 vertebrates species in remedies of diseases; Mammals comprised 50% they were followed by Birds 22%, fishes 17%, Reptiles 8%, Amphibians 3%, Most commonly treated were fevers, body aches, tuberculosis, malaria, wound, typhoid, small pox, diarrhea, jaundice and early pregnancy pains.

Negi and Palya (2007) <sup>[5]</sup> studied about shoka tribe of Darma and Johar valleys in Pithoragarh district in the state of Uttaranchal, India. They have described total of 38 species

(mammals 20, birds 6, reptile 5, insect 4, fish 2 and a lone amphibian for 19 different diseased or disorders were being treated using the animal product.

The chhhakesang tribe of Gujrat also uses (34 animals) twelve mammal one bird one reptile, two amphibian, one fish, one molluskone annelid and four arthropods for treatment of various ailment. Kakti and dolo studied Ao tribes of Nagaland and identified twenty five different vertebrates' species for traditional therapeutic use. (Gupta, *et al.* 2003) <sup>[9]</sup>.

Native of Bhopal Patnam, Chhattisgarh India, have reach traditional medicinal knowledge about common herb insect and excreta of 10 animals used to treat many common diseases. Insect, mites and spiders are used as medicine to cure common ailment in Chattisgarh, India. For instances the oil of red Val-vat mite issued in treatment of paralysis. (Oudhia, 2003) <sup>[7]</sup>

### 2. Materials and Methods

A survey was conducted in tribal dominant tahsils of the district Sidhi. Ethnozoological data were collected by semi-structured interviews. Data were collected from the period of September 2015 to August 2016. The informants are mostly senior citizens of the village of 40 - 75 years age. These informants were local herbalists, healers, farmers, farmers and midwives of the area. Utmost care was taken in the selection of informants: mostly the experts have through knowledge pertaining to the uses of animals, which they have acquired from their parents. The informants were also asked to provide local names of the animals, which are being used in the traditional medicine later the scientific names of these animal species were identified. The survey includes the questions about the use of animals including insects their parts and products used in traditional medicine.

## 3. Observation

Table 1: Traditional uses of animal amongst tribal people of Sidhi District

S. No.	English name	Zoological name	Local name	Uses
01	ANNELIDA Earthworm	<i>Pheretima spp</i>	Kachua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole body is crushed and mixed with and administered orally just after delivery for lactating mother. M</li> </ul>
02	ARTHROPODA Honey bee	<i>Apis spp.</i>	Madhu makkhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bee hive boil with mustard oil and used for cracks and scars. M</li> <li>Honey applies on burn area. M</li> <li>Honey applies in eye for eye power. M</li> <li>Bee is worshiped as kuldewta by "Vithka", "Bhor", and "Bhalavi". SR</li> </ul>
03	Gotra Red wasp	<i>Vespa orientalis</i>	Bar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wax fume apply on piles and general wound. M</li> </ul>
04	Lac insect	<i>Lacifer lacca</i>	Lakh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lac powder use on leprosy and general wound. M</li> <li>Lac powder administered orally for leucorrhoea. M</li> <li>Furne of lac collect from pepal tree use for children their General well being and that drive evil spirits away. MR</li> </ul>
05	Silk worm	<i>Bombyx mori</i>	Kosa kida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cocoon grind with water it is called ghutti is administered orally to children for asthma. M</li> </ul>
06	Bad bug	<i>Cimex lectuarius</i>	Khatmal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 animal made small ball with wheat flour use 11 days for fit. M</li> </ul>
07	Cockroach	<i>Periplanata americana</i>	Kosari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal ash mixed with honey and use for asthma. M</li> </ul>
08	Spider	<i>Arenea spp.</i>	Makadi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Web is applied to fresh wound to stop bleeding. M</li> </ul>
09	Red velvet Bug	<i>Trombidium grandissimum</i>	Badal Kida	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One animal administered orally for fever. M</li> <li>Bug (Indian Viagra), to produce a sex stimulant for male sex organ. M</li> </ul>
10	Crab	<i>Cancer pagurus</i>	Kekda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soup is considered for cough and cold M.F</li> <li>Ash is use in rheumatism. M</li> </ul>
11	Prawn	<i>Macrobrachium Malcomssonii</i>	Jhinga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soup is considered to be nourishing food. M.F</li> <li>Specially for woman just after delivery.</li> <li>Cooked and eaten for cough and cold. M</li> </ul>
12	Scorpion	<i>Palamnius spp.</i>	Bicchu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The whold body is boiled in mustard oil and the extract so prepared is used for massaging to relieve rheumatic joint pain and ear pain. M</li> <li>Its poison transfer in ginger and ginger eaten raw to serve as an antidote in scorpion bite. M</li> <li>raw to serve as an antidote in scorpion bite. M</li> <li>Tribal woman make gudana (tattoo) on their body part. SR</li> </ul>
13	MOLLUSCA Snail	<i>Pila globosa</i>	Sankholi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flesh is eaten after cooking as a relief <i>tuberculosis</i>. M.F.</li> <li>Shell use for cough and cold. M,</li> </ul>
14	PISCES Eel	<i>Monopterus cuchia</i>	Endha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mucus rubbed on the body by gram flour and make small. ball and ball administered orally for male infertility. M.F.</li> </ul>
15	AMPHIBIA Frog	<i>Rana spp.</i>	Mendhak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flesh is crushed into a palste and applied on wound. M</li> <li>Serum is applied on burning area. M</li> <li>Ash of frog is used for acidity. M</li> <li>For pleasing Indra for good rainfall, marriage of frogs are arranged by tribals. SR</li> </ul>
16	REPTILIA Wall lizard	<i>Hemidactylus spp</i>	Bamhani	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boiled with jagani oil to be used for skin disease. M</li> <li>It is believed commonly among the rural folks that an animal if touches any body part then it could be bad omen. 01</li> </ul>
17	Monitor lizard	<i>Varanus bengalensis</i>	Gohta	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fat is massaged to relieve arthritis. M</li> <li>Penis and testis are eaten raw for production of sexual stimulant of male sex organ. M</li> </ul>
18	Cobra	<i>Naja Naja</i>	Nag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nag - Ash of slough is used orally to the cancer patient. M</li> <li>Ash of slough when mixed with oil used for leprosy. M</li> <li>It is believed that if a snake crosses the road before sitting on a journey it is inauspicious. 01</li> </ul>
19	AVES House Sparrow	<i>House Sparrow</i>	Passer domestica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fume of nest is used for allergy. M</li> <li>Roasted animal mixed with sama rice is used for paralysis. M.F.</li> <li>Ash is mixed with honey and is used for infertility of man. M</li> <li>If the bird baths with sand it indicates that no rainfall near future. WF</li> </ul>
20	Domestic	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	Murga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flesh is used for tasty food. F</li> <li>Fresh gall bladder orally administered for diabetes. M</li> <li>On the festival of Gyaras, Diwali and Amavasya</li> <li>It is supposed to give offering of red fowl to Chandi Mata. SR</li> </ul>
21	Pea fowl	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	Mor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dried legs is ground to use smooth paste and Is given to suffering from asthma. M</li> </ul>
22	Domestic crow	<i>Carvas splendens</i>	Kaua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flash is cooked and eaten to relieve impotency. MF</li> <li>Chick roste and eaten to cure fever. MF</li> </ul>

23	Pigeon	<i>Colomba livia</i>	Pareva	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Flesh is cooked and eaten for asthma. MF</li> <li>▪ Fresh blood is applied to relieve paralysis.</li> <li>▪ It is believed that amulets made of feathers of bird have the power to protect the bearer from evil spirits. Mr.</li> </ul>
24	Duck	<i>Anus spp.</i>	Baduk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Flesh is cooked and eaten. F</li> <li>▪ Egg is use as nourishing food. F</li> </ul>
25	Horned owl	<i>Bubo Bubo</i>	Ullu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is used as omen indicator. If it is found to be hovering above particular house, it is believed that there is sure going to be sad demise of one of the family members. In other words, the owl predicts death of one of the person of the area. OI</li> </ul>
26	Fish owl	<i>Ketupa Spp.</i>	Pingla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This bird produces different tones of sound in different time periods. It is believed that if it produces laughing sound, it indicates death of a person in the nearby area. oI</li> </ul>
27	Indian cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	Posia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This bird produces tones of sound" Kosam pako, samiya</li> </ul>
28	Red wattle lapwing	<i>Vanellus Indicus</i>	Titahari	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If the bird make shrill sound, it predicts rain fall in the near future. WF</li> </ul>
29	MAMMAALIA Cow	<i>Bos spp.</i>	Gaumata	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Urine is used as an eye drop. M</li> <li>▪ Skin is used to make Tambura, Dhol, Timki, Kinnari, Mandar etc, EM</li> <li>▪ Excreta smeared in the floor of traditional houses. SR.</li> </ul>
30	Bull	<i>Bos spp.</i>	Bail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bull is used for ploughing (bukhar), sowing (nagar), and urine and dung is used as manure. A</li> <li>▪ Bull is attached to rehangi, Khachar, gara for transport. T</li> <li>▪ Bull is worshiped by farmers in the festival called pola. SR</li> <li>▪ Dung and cake used for fuel. Fu.</li> </ul>
31	Goat	<i>Capra Indica</i>	Bakri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Milk is poured in fingered tips to be protected from sun stroke. M</li> <li>▪ Urine is administered orally 2 tea spoon 21 days regularly to cure tuberculosis. M</li> <li>▪ Dried droppings ground to a smooth paste with water and is applied to relief gout swelling and pain. M</li> </ul>
32	Ass	<i>Equus asinus</i>	gadha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Milk mixed with wine to cure drug addiction. M</li> <li>▪ Urine is used as eye liner for eye power. M</li> <li>▪ Ass is used as beast of burden. T</li> </ul>
33	Horse	<i>Equus hemionus</i>	Ghoda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sweat mixed with wine and administered orally for drug addiction. M</li> <li>▪ Ash of dung mix with baneful oil and use for hair fall. M</li> </ul>
34	Pig	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>	Sungara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pork is cooked and eaten. F</li> <li>▪ Fat oil applied in burns and fractures. M</li> <li>▪ Cooked liver used for cancer patient. M</li> <li>▪ Offering is given to god during important festival. SR</li> </ul>

Indications - M - medicinal, F - food, SR - Socio religious, T - transport, MR - magico religious, OI - omen indication, EM - ethno musical, fu - fuel, WF - weather forecast

#### 4. Results and Discussion

Ethnozoological knowledge of tribal community of Sidhi district reveals various uses of 34 genera belonging to 34 families. Out of these 13 animal species are invertebrate group and 21 animal species belonging to the vertebrate group. Out of 13 animals from the invertebrate group, 1 (7.6%) animal belongs to the phylum Annelida, 11 (84.6%) animals are from the phylum Arthropoda and 1(7.6%) animal from the phylum Mollusca. In the vertebrate group, 1 animal (4.7%) belongs to the class Amphibia, 3 animal (14.2%) belong to the class Reptilia, 10 animals (47.6%) belong to the class Aves and 6 animals (28.5%) are class Mammalia. of the Total 59 uses 12 (20.3%) falls in the food, 28 (47.4%) medicinal use category, 6 (10.1%) in the socio - religious use category, 3(5.0%) in the magico religious, 2(3.3%) in omen indication, 4 (6.7%) in agriculture, 2 (3.3%) in weather forecaster and 2 (3.3%) in ethno musical use category. (Table-1).

#### 5. Acknowledgement

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