

# Traditional phytotherapy used by the rural peoples of Hamirpur District of HP in the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases mainly Gonorrhoea and Syphilis

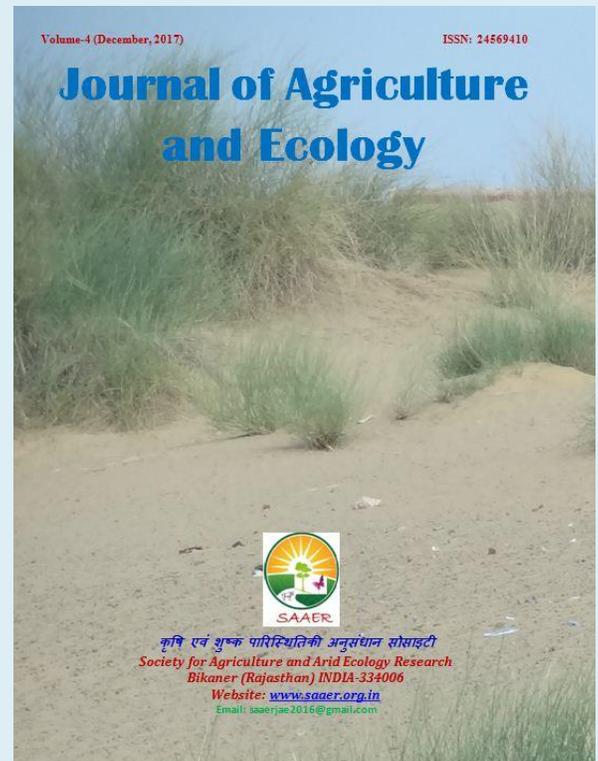
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## Traditional phytotherapy used by the rural peoples of Hamirpur District of HP in the treatment of sexually transmitted diseases mainly Gonorrhoea and Syphilis

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### Abstract

Indigenous knowledge about particular floral diversity of an area is necessary for the identification of plants and their traditional uses for the purpose such as for food, fibres, fertilizer, fodder, fuel ritual and medicinal importance. In present paper the emphasis will be given on medicinally importance plants for primary health care. The present paper reveals that there are sixteen plants species which belongs to thirteen families are used for therapeutical or traditional uses as indigenous plants of Hamirpur district for the primary health care or treatment of sexually transmitted diseases.

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### Introduction

Hamirpur district is the smallest district of Himachal Pradesh which falls in Shivalik range. This region act as a good hot spot for the herbal plants due its favorable environment and climatic condition. The people who are living in the remote area of this district yet also believe on the local plants and use their products for the treatment of various disease and in case of primary health care , so the documentation of indigenous knowledge about herbal plants and their uses is necessary in case of primary health care (Kumar & Choyal 2012). Sex is the major source of reproduction in human life but sexually practices needs cleanness of the both partner and sex organs. Sometimes sex gets

infected with various types of pathogen and causing disease known as sexually transmitted disease. STDs are infectious disease that is passed between the human during unprotected vaginal, anal or oral sexual contact, these are acquired commonly as a result of sexual intercourse with infected individual. They usually affect the reproductive system but also affect the other system of body.

Some sexually transmitted disease is Chlamydia which is caused by herpes bacteria, genital herpes caused by herpes simplex virus type 1 or type 2, gonorrhoea which is caused by *Neisseria gonorrhoea* bacteria, syphilis which is caused by *Treponema pallidum* bacteria, hepatitis-B caused by hepatitis-B virus and AIDS (Acquired immune deficiency

syndrome) which is caused by HIV virus (Human immunodeficiency virus) etc. Among these problems gonorrhoea, syphilis are the common problems of the study area. Gonorrhoea is a bacterial disease and the symptoms of the disease are thick yellowish urethral discharge from penis or painful urination, in female spread through uterine tube to lower part of the abdominal cavity resulting in pelvic inflammatory disease and which can cause sterility. Syphilis is a chronic infectious bacterial disease and the symptoms of this disease are sores on usually genital or mouth, rashes after six months later, several years with no symptoms as infection spread finally damage to heart liver nerves and brain nerves. This is focused on common sexually transmitted problem study area for which local people uses the local plants and their parts or products in their treatment. The paper document the use of 16 local plants belonging to 13 different families for the treatment of the sexually transmitted disease of study area (Sharma & Chouhan 2000).

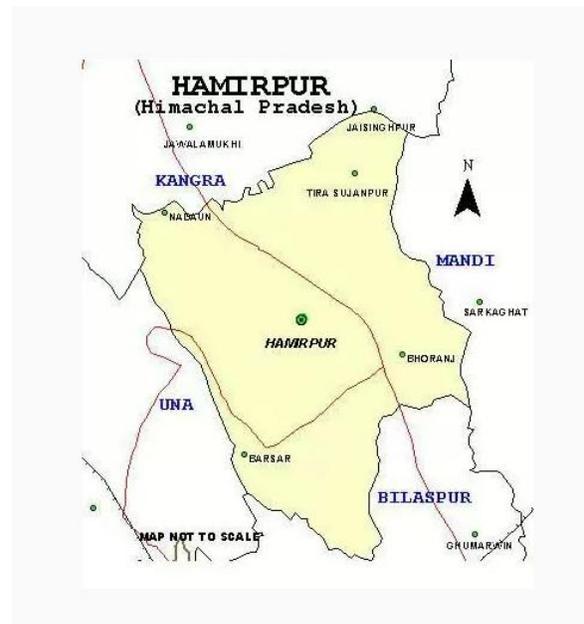
### Materials and methods

Field surveys were carried out for getting the indigenous knowledge about uses of plants for the treatment of sexually transmitted disease in the different localities of study area during this research. The first hand information was recorded on the plants used as home remedies for the treatment of sexually transmitted disease through personal interviews or local contact with people of different remote localities of study area. The collected plant specimen were preserved in the form of herbarium and identified with the help of Choudhary HJ and Bhadwa flora of

Himachal Pradesh and other relevant literature were consulted one.

### Study area

Hamirpur district is situated between  $76^{\circ}18'$  –  $76^{\circ}44'$  East longitude and  $31^{\circ}52'30''$  North Latitudes. The track is hilly covered by Shivalik range and the elevation varies from 450-1100 meters. This region possesses unique floral diversity and rich herbal or medicinal wealth which needs exploration This paper explore about the 14 plant species of study area which are used in sexually transmitted disease.



### Results and Discussion

The present study emphasized the use of 16 plant species belonging to 13 families which are used for the treatment of gonorrhoea, syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases. Among these families the Fabaceae family is predominant family with three plant species and other families belonging to one or

two plant species with their parts used for the treatment of gonorrhoea, syphilis and other sexually transmitted diseases. The plant species such as *Acacia catechu*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Santalum album*, *Tinospora cordifolia* etc are the local plant which is mainly used by local people of Hamirpur district for the treatment of sexually transmitted disease

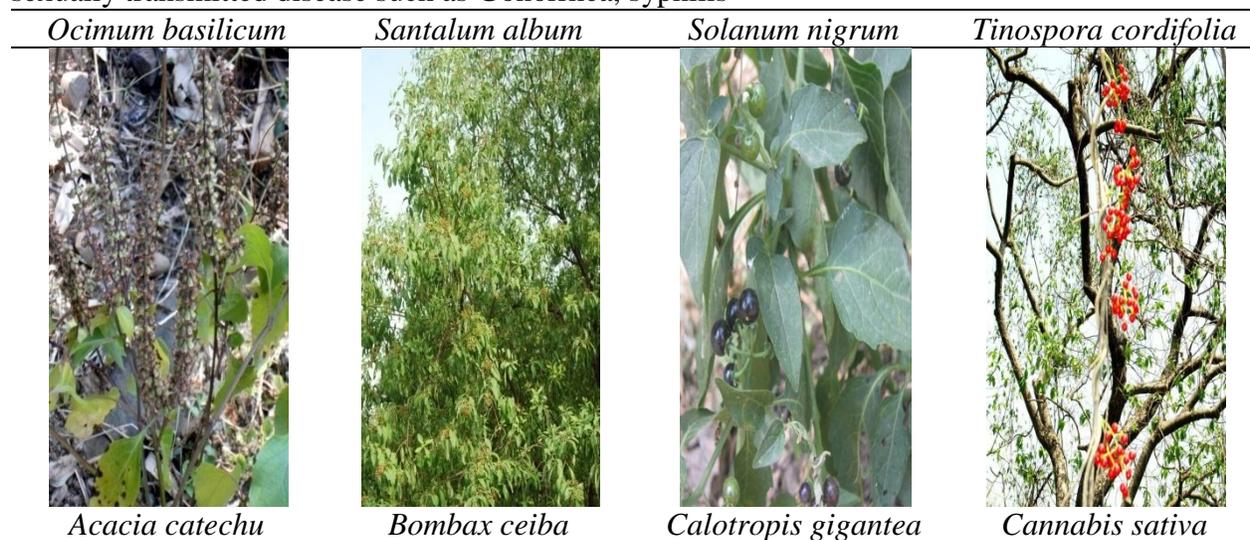
Gonorrhoea. *Cassia fistula*, *Curcuma longa*, *Ficus benghalensis* and *Solanum nigrum* etc are some plants species which are used in the Hamirpur district for the treatment sexually transmitted disease Syphilis (Kala 2005; Prakash & Aggarwal 2010; Kharwal et al. 2012). (Table 1 & Plate 1).

**Table 1.** A list of medicinal plants species along with their parts in the study region which are used in the treatment of sexually transmitted disease such as -Gonorrhoea, syphilis

S. No	Scientific name	Family	Local name	Parts used	Folk uses
1.	<i>Acacia catechu</i> (L.F.) Wild.	Fabaceae	Khair	Flowers	The extract of flowers is used in case of gonorrhoea.
2.	<i>Bombax ceiba</i> Linn.	Bombaceae	Semal, semul	Seed and bark	Decoction of seed and bark is used for the treatment of gonorrhoea.
3	<i>Calotropis gigantea</i> Linn.	Asclepidaceae	Safe, aak	Leaves and root	The paste of roots and leaves is useful in case of syphilis.
4	<i>Cannabis sativa</i> Linn.	Cannabaceae	Bhang	Leaves	Paste of leaves is used in case of gonorrhoea.
5	<i>Cassia fistula</i> Linn	Fabaceae	Amltas, aliah	Roots	The root paste is used in the treatment of syphilis.
6	<i>Cinnamomum tamala</i> Nees & Ebesm	Lauraceae	Tejpata	Bark	Bark extract is used in case of gonorrhoea
7	<i>Curcuma longa</i> L.	Zingiberaceae	Haldi	Rhizome	Paste powdered Rhizome is used in case of syphilis
8	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (Linn.) Pers.	Poaceae	Dhrub, doob grass	Whole plant material	The whole plant material extract is used in
9.	<i>Erythrina suberosa</i> Roxb.	Fabaceae	Prair	Bark and leaves	Powder of bark and leaves is useful in case of gonorrhoeal disease.
10.	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> Linn.	Moraceae	Bad	Root	Root paste is useful in the treatment of syphilis.

11.	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> Linn.	Moraceae	Pipal	Root	Root powder is useful in care of gonorrhoea.
12.	<i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lam.	Moringaceae	Sunjahana	Seed	Seeds are roasted and powdered which are mixed with coconut oil is applied in case of Sexually transmitted disease.
13.	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> Linn.	Lamiaceae	Bhabri	Whole plant material	Decoction of whole plant material is useful in case of gonorrhoea.
14.	<i>Santalum album</i> Linn.	Santalaceae	Safedchand an	Wood	Sanden wood oil is useful for the treatment of gonorrhoea.
15.	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> Linn.	Solanaceae	Makoi	Leaves	The paste of leaves and powder of leaves are used in the treatment of syphilis.
16.	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i> (Wild.) Miers.	Menispermaceae	Giloe, Guljaya	Whole plant material	Whole plant martial decoction is used for the treatment of gonorrhoea.

**Plate 1.** A list of medicinal plants species with photographs which are used in the treatment of sexually transmitted disease such as Gonorrhoea, syphilis





*Cassia fistula*



*Cinnamoum tamala*



*Curcuma longa*



*Cynodon dactylon*



*Erythrina suberosa*



*Ficus benghalensis*



*Ficus religiosa*



*Moringa oleifera*



## Conclusion

Indigenous knowledge about the local floral diversity and about the use of local plants for primary health care should be recorded and preserved. So, that next

generation should get and their benefit of the knowledge local floral diversity and their plant based traditional phyto-therapy for the treatment of various health problems. This step will prove necessary step in the conservation of traditional knowledge and

about the protection of local plants of medicinal importance of study area.

### Acknowledgement

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