

ETHNOZOOLOGICAL REMEDIAL PRACTICES BY THE MADIA TRIBE AND INDIGENOUS INHABITANTS OF DANTEWADA DISTRICT CHHATTISGARH, INDIA

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ABSTRACT : Connections between animals and humans date back thousands of years, and cultures all over the world have developed characteristic ways of interacting with the regional fauna over time. Chhattisgarh has an immense faunal, floral, as well as cultural diversity with many ethnic communities who are primarily dependent on the traditional medicinal system for their primary health care. Documentation and evaluation of this indigenous remedial knowledge may be helpful to establish new drugs for human health. The present study is intended to look into different zootherapeutic medicinal uses in the traditional health care system among Madia tribe and indigenous inhabitants of Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh. It is primarily based on field surveys carried out in villages, where dwellers provided information on animal species used as medicine, body parts used to prepare the remedies, and the illnesses to which the remedies were prescribed. The animal parts namely blood, scales, skull, feathers, ear tufts, claws, heart, liver, kidney, blood, eyes, fat, beak, tears, eggshells, meat and bones for the treatment of asthma, anemia, arthritis, joint inflammation, body pain, burns, conjunctivitis, cough and cold, gonadial disease, malaria fever, impotency, leprosy, osteoporosis, paralysis, pthysis, weakness, tingling in feet and fingers and tuberculosis. A total of 31 animal species were recorded and they are used for 24 kinds of different ethnozoological purposes. The documentation indigenous knowledge on animal-based medicines should be very helpful in the formulation of strategies for sustainable management and conservation of bio-resources as well as providing potential for the novel drugs discovery.

Key words : *Madia, Tribe, Ethnozoology, Fauna, Bastar, Dantewada.*