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Ethnoveterinary Medicinal Plants and their Utility in Salem District, Tamil Nadu, India

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ABSTRACT

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Using primary data from Salem district, Tamil Nadu, this study examines indigenous knowledge regarding ethnoveterinary medicinal plants. This survey was made among the ethnic population of the study area to understand the application of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants as a potential remedy against various diseases. Ethnoveterinary information was gathered through personal interviews and observations among the rural village people using standard questionnaire. The investigation revealed that the traditional healers used 45 species of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants belonging to 24 families and 32 genera. These plants were recorded in the survey with the help of village herbalists, village dwellers, herbal practitioners and other traditional healers. The rural village people used different morphologically useful parts of the plants, such as leaves, flowers, whole plant, Stem bark, root, fruit and stem for the treatment of animal diseases, viz., foot and mouth disease, anthrax, fungal diseases, indigestion, blue tongue, wound healing, rheumatism, psoriasis, skin diseases, diarrhea, dementia, intestinal diseases and others. In this survey, the most dominant family plants used as ethnoveterinary medicine were Meliaceae (6 genera and 6 species) and Fabaceae (3 genera and 7 species). The survey can aid in future planning of endangered species conservation as well as for experimental studies in research of modern pharmacotherapy.

Introduction

Medicinal plants have been used for curing various diseases in humans and household animals. From several decades, the reports of ethnomedicinal utility for humans and animals have been reported world-wide from ethnic communities from rural and tribal population. As well as

providing food, fodder, fuel, and other necessities, plants have been used as herbal medicines throughout human history to treat a variety of ailments. Infections of the skin, kidneys, and gastrointestinal disorders are frequently treated with these plants (Bhatia *et al.*, 2014). Biodiversity conservation, indigenous knowledge preservation, and pharmaceutical drug discovery depend

on ethnomedical research and documentation. As a result of these studies, cultural heritage is safeguarded, herbal remedies can be scientifically validated, and natural resources are treated sustainably (Weldegerima, 2009).

Documentation and ethnomedical surveys are crucial to preserving vanishing traditional knowledge in India, as well as speeding up and conserving the biodiversity of the country. It is crucial to document oral knowledge in a country where over 400 tribal communities rely on local flora for health in order to preserve it, validate herbal remedies scientifically, and drive the development of modern drugs for diseases such as diabetes, cancer, and gastrointestinal problems (Kumar *et al.*, 2021). In ethnoveterinary medicine, traditional medicinal plants replace modern pharmaceuticals as the primary means of treating animals. As indigenous knowledge disappears, biopiracy is being protected, medicinal compounds are being validated for drug discovery, and culture-based livestock healthcare is being threatened, documentation is essential (Oda *et al.*, 2024). According to ethnoveterinary herbal studies in Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, and Central India, there are over 700 species of ethnoveterinary plants (Bhat *et al.*, 2023).

Researchers in Tamil Nadu have documented a high level of traditional knowledge concerning medicinal plants, which have been used to treat ailments such as diabetes, skin cancer, and respiratory problems among tribal and rural communities. Numerous species have been identified in the Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats (such as Pachamalai, Kadambur, and Palamalai) and coastal regions including fragmentary parts of Namakkal and Salem district (Ganesan and Xu, 2017). However, ethnoveterinary medicinal plants documentation is not completed available in case of interior villages of Salem district, Tamil Nadu, India.

Veterinary services are limited, so farmers use readily available, locally grown plants to treat illnesses, saving money. Indicated in gastrointestinal disorders, insect bites, skin infections, and reproductive distress among others, the study has been mainly focused. Hence the present study has been carried out to explore the documentation of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants, ailments cured, parts of the plant used, dominant plant families utilized, mode of drug preparation and application in addition to identifying, validating, and preserving plants used by healers for a variety of ailments scientifically.

Materials and Methods

Salem district is situated between 11° 14' and 12° 53' in North latitude between 77 ° 44' and 78° 50' in East longitude and bounded on North by Dharmapuri district, South by Tiruchi and Namakkal districts, East by Kallakurichi district and West by Erode district and Karnataka state. The household medicinal plants survey was conducted in Salem district. Salem is one of the biggest districts and it is centrally situated in Tamil Nadu. A total of 250 homes and 200 ethnic group of people residing in rural areas of taluks such as Omalur, Mettur, Nangavalli, Mecheri, Jalakandapuram, Kadayampatti, and Taramangalam and adjacent areas were surveyed. The occupation of the people were observed as farmers, teachers, drivers, homemakers, weavers, shop keepers, merchants, traditional healers and herbal practitioners (Alagesaboopathi, 2015; Ayyanar, 2013; Dhole *et al.*, 2021). Further, the plant parts used, type of diseases treated, number genera and species along with family of the ethnoveterinary medicinal plants have been documented using standard questionnaire format. The plants and their ethnoveterinary utility were scientifically documented along with photographs (Fig. 1). The percentage plant parts utilized, mode of preparation of ethnoveterinary medicine and application were also documented per plant/disease treated.



Fig. 1: (A) Documentation of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants and (B) mode of application of ethnoveterinary medicine in rural areas of Salem district, Tamil Nadu, India.

Results and Discussion

The ethnoveterinary medicinal plants survey in Salem district resulted in the documentation of 45 species of plants belonging to 24 families and 32 genera (Table 1 and Table 2). In general, the ethnoveterinary medicinal plants documented in this study were used for many kinds of ailments to animals. The Fabaceae ethnoveterinary medicinal plants were *Caesalpinia pulcherrima*, *Senna alata*, *Senna auriculata*, *Senna italica*, *Senna occidentalis*, *Senna tora*, and *Tamarindus indica* which were used to treat skin diseases, intestinal parasitic infection, diarrhea, chronic wounds, urinary diseases, retained placenta after delivery, nutritional deficiency, digestive disorders and ephemeral fever.

Likewise, the Meliaceae ethnoveterinary medicinal plants include *Azadirachta indica*, *Cipadessa baccifera*,

Heynea trijuga, *Melia azedarach*, *Soymida febrifuga* and *Toona ciliata*. Among the Meliaceae ethnoveterinary medicinal plants, *Melia azedarach* was found to be largely utilized for metritis, uterus infection, endoparasitic problems, infertility problems, gastrointestinal nematodes problems, poisonous bites and swelling (Fig. 2). Among the 24 family plants documented, Fabaceae contributed higher number of species utility of seven with three genera followed by Meliaceae with six species belonging to six genera. Next to Fabaceae and Meliaceae, Euphorbiaceae and Solanaceae contributed four species each to ethnoveterinary medicine (Fig. 3A). These findings coincide with the previous study which reported that it is most common to use leaves to treat gastroenteritis, skin infections, respiratory problems, wounds, and burns, using families like Euphorbiaceae and Fabaceae (Bhat *et al.*, 2023).

Table.1 List of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants surveyed in Salem district, Tamil Nadu, India.

Sl. No.	Botanical name	Family	Vernacular name	Habit	Parts used	Mode of preparation and cured Diseases
1	<i>Abelmoschus esculentus</i> Moench	Malvaceae	kaatuvendai	Herb	Fruits, Leaves, Roots	Raw fruit: Retention of placenta. Leaf extract : Still birth, Calf pneumonia. Root powder decoction: Diarrhea.
2	<i>Acalypha fruticosa</i> Forssk.	Euphorbiaceae	Athathazhai	Shrub	Stem bark, Leaves	Stem bark decoction: Bloody diarrhea. Leaf paste: Blue tongue, mouth and eye watering.
3	<i>Acalypha indica</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Kubaimeni	Herb	Whole plant, Roots, Leaves	Entire plant paste: Maggot wound and Mastitis. Root decoction: Tympanites problems. Leaf paste: Wound and Skin diseases.
4	<i>Acalypha lanceolata</i> Willd.	Euphorbiaceae	Kolippuntu	Herb	Aerial parts, Leaves	Aerial part decoction: Sudden high milk fever, Fever, Calf pneumonia. Leaf paste: Skin disease, Burn, Inflammation and Swelling.
5	<i>Acalypha wilkesiana</i> Mull. Arg.	Euphorbiaceae	Naaikurungu	Shrub	Leaves, Roots	Leaf extract: Mouth and eye watering. Root paste: Poisonous bites and Scabies.
6	<i>Ailanthus excelsus</i> Roxb.	Simaroubaceae	Piyamaram	Tree	Leaves, Stem bark	Raw leaves: Debility, Asthenia and Increase milk production. Leaf powder: Weak cattle. Stem bark decoction: Dog bite and Snake bites, Sprain and Swelling.
7	<i>Allium cepa</i> L.	Amaryllidaceae	Vengayam	Herb	Bulb, Leaves	Bulb paste: Anthrax, Leaf extract: Contusion and Lung emphasiema.
8	<i>Allium sativum</i> L.	Amaryllidaceae	Vellaipoondu	Herb	Bulb	Bulb extract: Bloat, Anthrax, Constipation, Dyspepsia and Wart.
9	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A.Juss	Meliaceae	Veppamaram	Tree	Leaves, Fruits, Stem bark, Oil.	Leaf paste: Fungal diseases, Skin diseases and Heat diseases. Oil with Leaf powder paste: Insect repellent. Leaf extract: Intestinal worms. Stem bark decoction: Helminthiasis.
10	<i>Bacopa monnieri</i> (L.) Wettst.	Plantaginaceae	Neerpirami	Herb	Whole plant	Whole plant powder: Weak cattle for nutritional deficiency, Debility and Asthenia.
11	<i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i> (L.) Sw.	Fabaceae	Mayilkondraimaram	Tree	Flowers, Leaves,	Flower extract: Skin diseases. Leaf extract: Intestinal parasites. Stem bark decoction:

					Stem bark	Diarrhea.
12	<i>Cipadessa baccifera</i> Miq.	Meliaceae	Pulipunchedi	Shrub	Leaves	Leaf extract: Snake and insect bites. Leaf paste: Rheumatism.
13	<i>Cissus quadrangularis</i> L.	Vitaceae	Perandai	Shrub	Stems, Aerial parts, Leaves	Stem paste: Bone fracture. Aerial part decoction: Diarrhea, mouth and eye watering problems. Leaf paste: Wound healing.
14	<i>Citrullus colocynthis</i> (L.) Schrad.	Cucurbitaceae	Kumattichedi	Climber	Seeds, Leaves, Fruits	Seed powder: Weak cattle for nutritional deficiency and Debility problems. Leaf paste: Mastitis, Pyrexia and Lactation problems. Fruit juice: Hematuria, Inflammation, Indigestion problems.
15	<i>Clematis gouriana</i> Roxb. ex DC.	Ranunculaceae	Aattu meesaikodi	Climber	Flowers, Leaves	Flower paste: Psoriasis, Yoke gall diseases, Wart. Leaf paste: Skin diseases and Poisonous bites.
16	<i>Commiphora caudata</i> (Wight & Arn.) Engl.	Burseraceae	Kiluvaimaram	Tree	Leaves, Fruits.	Leaf paste: Bone fracture, Horn fracture, Horn ablation, Inflammation and Swelling. Fruit juice: Digestive problems.
17	<i>Coriandrum sativum</i> L.	Apiaceae	Kothamalli chedi	Herb	Whole plant, Seed, Oil	Whole plant juice: Intestinal disorders. Seed powder decoction: Digestive problems, Debility and weakness problems. Seed oil: Mastitis.
18	<i>Curcuma longa</i> L.	Zingiberaceae	Manjalchedi	Herb	Rhizome, Leaves	Rhizome paste: Scabies, Chronic wounds, Skin diseases, Small box and fungal diseases. Leaf paste: Foot and mouth diseases.
19	<i>Cyperus rotundus</i> L.	Cyperaceae	Korai	Herb	Leaves, Rhizome	Raw leaves : Increase milk production. Rhizome powder: Ranikhet diseases, Food poison and Yoke gall diseases.
20	<i>Heynea trijuga</i> Roxb.	Meliaceae	Karaivilanga maram	Tree	Leaves, Fruits	Leaf extract: Uterus infections, Insect rebellent. Fruit extract: Cattle insect problems.
21	<i>Ipomoea hederacea</i> Jacq.	Convolvulaceae	Kanavalikodi	Climber	Leaves, Seeds	Leaf paste: Constipation, Seed powder: Galactagogue and Horn ablation. Leaf extract: Hematuria and Conjunctivitis.
22	<i>Ipomoea indica</i> Merr.	Convolvulaceae	Neelakodi	Climber	Leaves	Leaf Extract: Constipation, Dyspepsia. Leaf paste: Bronchitis, Skin diseases and Scabies.
23	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i> L.	Acanthaceae	Aadathoda	Shrub	Stem bark, Leaves	Stem bark paste: Black quarter diseases. Leaf Extract: Respiratory disorders. Leaf Decoction: Diarrhea, Dysentery and gas problems. Leaf paste: Gastrointestinal nematodes problems.
24	<i>Leucas aspera</i> (Willd.) Link	Lamiaceae	Thumbaichedi	Herb	Aerial parts, Leaves	Aerial part extract: Helminthiasis, Internal parasites and poisonous bites. Leaf paste: Wounds healing, Yoke gall.
25	<i>Madhuca longifolia</i> (L.) J.F. Macbr.	Sapotaceae	Illupaimaram	Tree	Leaves, Fruits, Oil, Flowers	Leaf extract: Snake bite, Leaf paste: Galactagogue. Oil: Sprain, Swelling, Burn, Scabies and Skin diseases. Flower extract: Eye infection. Fruit juice: Diarrhea, Dysentery.
26	<i>Melia azaderach</i> L.	Meliaceae	Malaivembu	Tree	Leaves, Fruits, Stem bark	Leaf paste: Metritis, Uterus infection, Uterus diseases, Endoparasitic problems and Infertility problems. Dry fruit powder: Gastrointestinal nematodes problems. Stem bark paste: Poisonous bites and swelling.
27	<i>Pergularia daemia</i> (Forssk.) Chiov.	Apocynaceae	Veli paruthikodi	Climber	Whole plant, Fruits, Roots	Whole plant decoction: Black quarter Diseases, Paralytic disorders. Root powder decoction: Enteritis. Fruit juice: Infertility problems.
28	<i>Senna alata</i> (L.) Roxb.	Fabaceae	Seemaiakathi	Shrub	Leaves	Leaf paste: Skin diseases, Skin infections and Scabies. Leaf powder decoction:

						Deworming.
29	<i>Senna auriculata</i> (L.) Roxb.	Fabaceae	Aavarampoo chedi	Shrub	Leaves, Stem bark, Flowers, Seeds	Leaf paste: Chronic wounds. Stem bark decoction: Facial palsy. Flower extract: Diuretics. Seed powder decoction: Urinary Diseases.
30	<i>Senna italica</i> Mill.	Fabaceae	Nilavarai	Herb	Leaves, Seeds	Leaf extract : Intestinal worms, Diarrhea, Retained placenta after delivery. Leaf powder: Nutritional deficiency.
31	<i>Senna occidentalis</i> (L.) Link	Fabaceae	Ponnaavarai	Shrub	Leaves	Leaf extract: Insect repellents.
32	<i>Senna tora</i> (L.) Roxb.	Fabaceae	Oosithagarai	Shrub	Leaves, Seeds	Leaf Powder Decoction: Nutritional deficiency, Leaf paste: Diuretics and Digestive disorders. Seed powder extract: Debility and weakness.
33	<i>Sesamum indicum</i> L.	Pedaliaceae	Elluchedi	Herb	Leaves, Flowers, oil	Seed paste: Lactation problems. Leaf paste: Mouth blister. Flower extract: Eye diseases. Oil: Mouth ulcer and watering.
34	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Manathakkali	Herb	Aerial parts, Leaves. Roots.	Leaf paste: Foot and mouth diseases, Blue tongue, Bloody urea. Leaf extract: Intestinal disorders. Root powder decoction: Poisonous bites.
35	<i>Solanum torvum</i> Sw.	Solanaceae	Sundakkai chedi	Shrub	Leaves, Fruit	Leaf extract: Respiratory disorders, Stomach problems, Foot and mouth diseases. Fruit juice: Indigestion and Lactation problems.
36	<i>Solanum trilobatum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Thuthuvalai	Climber	Aerial parts, Fruits, Leaves	Aerial part decoction: Mastitis, Respiratory problems, Black quarter. Leaf extract: Mouth blister, Pyrexia. Fruit juice: Endoparasites problem.
37	<i>Solanum virginianum</i> L.	Solanaceae	Kandakathiri	Herb	Leaves, Fruits	Leaf Extract: Respiratory disorders, Lung emphasiema. Fruit juice: Inflammatory disorders, Bronchitis and Indigestion problems.
38	<i>Soymida febrifuga</i> Roxb.	Meliaceae	Choorakalli	Tree	Stem bark, Leaves	Leaf Paste: Malarial fever and Liver enlargement, Rheumatism and Retained placenta after delivery. Stem bark paste: Dog bite.
39	<i>Spermaceoce hispida</i> L.	Rubiaceae	Nathaisoori	Herb	Leaves, Seeds	Leaf extract: Diarrhea, Urinary infections, Venereal Diseases. Leaf paste: Gallstones and stomach problems. Seed powder decoction: Constipation, Bronchitis and Diuretics.
40	<i>Syzygium aromaticum</i> (L.) Merr. & L.M.Perry	Myrtaceae	Ilavankam	Tree	Flowers, Oil	Flower powder decoction: Digestion disorders, Respiratory infections. Oil: Blue tongue diseases and Mastitis.
41	<i>Tamarindus indica</i> L.	Fabaceae	Puliyamaram	Tree	Leaves, Seeds	Leaf paste: Weakness cattle. Leaf decoction: Ephemeral fever. Seed powder: weight gain.
42	<i>Toddalia asiatica</i> (L.) Lam.	Rutaceae	Milakaranai	Shrub	Leaves, Stem bark	Leaf extract: Stomach problems. Stem bark: Inflammatory disorders.
43	<i>Toona ciliata</i> M.Roem.	Meliaceae	Santhana vembu	Tree	Leaves	Leaf paste: Nutritional deficiency.
44	<i>Vitex altissima</i> L. f.	Lamiaceae	Kaattunochi	Tree	Leaves, Roots	Leaf extract: Diarrhea, Mastitis, Foot and mouth diseases. Leaf paste: Skin diseases and Ectoparasites problem. Root decoction: Physical disabilities.
45	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L.	Lamiaceae	Nochimaram	Tree	Leaves	Leaf decoction: Dysentery, High fever. Leaf Extract: Insects repellent. Leaf paste: Maggot wound.

Table.2 Family-wise representation of the ethno-veterinary medicinal plants from the surveyed area.

S. No.	Family name	No. of Genera	No. of Species
1	Acanthaceae	1	1
2	Amaryllidaceae	1	2
3	Apiaceae	1	1
4	Apocynaceae	1	1
5	Burseraceae	1	1
6	Convolvulaceae	1	2
7	Cucurbitaceae	1	1
8	Cyperaceae	1	1
9	Euphorbiaceae	1	4
10	Fabaceae	3	7
11	Lamiaceae	2	3
12	Malvaceae	1	1
13	Meliaceae	6	6
14	Myrtaceae	1	1
15	Pedaliaceae	1	1
16	Plantaginaceae	1	1
17	Ranunculaceae	1	1
18	Rubiaceae	1	1
19	Rutaceae	1	1
20	Sapotaceae	1	1
21	Simaroubaceae	1	1
22	Solanaceae	1	4
23	Vitaceae	1	1
24	Zingiberaceae	1	1
Total	24	32	45



Fig.2 Preparation and administration of ethnoveterinary medicine from *Melia azedarach*.

Herbs, trees and shrubs were dominant habit types utilized for ethnoveterinary medicinal purposes with the contribution of 33.33%, 28.88%, 24.44%, respectively (Fig. 3B). For different disease conditions of animals, various parts of the plants were used which includes aerial part, bulb, flowers, fruits, leaves, oil, rhizome, roots, seeds, stem bark, stems and whole plants. Among the various parts of the plants utilized, leaves (40 species) were found to be largely utilized followed by fruits (12 species), stem bark (9 species) and seeds (8 species) (Table 3).

It is common in countries like India on the utilization of leaves as a major part of the plant that can be used as ethnoveterinary medicine due to its huge availability and curative properties (Bhat *et al.*, 2023). The present findings also fall in line with the previous studies on mainly utilized plant part-leaves as ethnoveterinary medicine. The mode of drug preparation ranged from extract, decoction, juice, paste, powder and oil where the paste form of preparation was highly used followed by extract and decoction (Fig. 3C).

Table 3. Plant parts of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants used to treat various diseases.

Name of plant parts	No. of species	Percentage (%)
Leaves	40	88.88
Fruits	12	26.66
Stem bark	9	20
Seeds	8	17.77
Roots	6	13.33
Flowers	6	13.33
Oil	5	11.11
Aerial part	5	11.11
Whole plant	4	8.88
Rhizome	2	4.44
Bulb	2	4.44
Stems	1	2.22

Table 4. Number of ethnoveterinary medicinal plant species used for curing various diseases in animals.

S.No.	Name of diseases	No. of species	Percentage (%)
1	Anthrax	2	4.44
2	Asthenia	2	4.44
3	Black quarter diseases	2	4.44
4	Bloating in the stomach	1	2.22
5	Bloody urea	1	2.22
6	Blue tongue	3	6.66
7	Bone fracture	2	4.44
8	Bronchitis	3	6.66
9	Burn and Heat diseases	3	6.66
10	Calf pneumonia	2	4.44
11	Conjunctivities	1	2.22
12	Constipation	4	8.88
13	Contusion	1	2.22
14	Debility and weakness	5	11.11
15	Diarrhea	9	20
16	Digestive and indigestion problems	6	13.33
17	Diuretics	3	6.66
18	Dog bite	2	4.44
19	Dysentery	3	6.66
20	Dyspepsia	2	4.44
21	Ectoparasites problems	1	2.22
22	Endoparasites problems	1	2.22
23	Enteritis	1	2.22

24	Ephemeral fever, Fever, Malaria fever	5	11.11
25	Eye diseases and Eye infections	2	4.44
26	Facial palsy	1	2.22
27	Food poison	1	2.22
28	Foot and mouth diseases	3	6.66
29	Fungal diseases	2	4.44
30	Galactagogue	2	4.44
31	Gastrointestinal nematodes problems	2	4.44
32	Helminthiasis	2	4.44
33	Hematuria	2	4.44
34	Horn ablation	2	4.44
35	Horn fracture	1	2.22
36	Increase milk production	2	4.44
37	Infertility problems	2	4.44
38	Inflammation and swelling problems	8	17.77
39	Insect repellents	3	6.66
40	Intestinal disorders	2	4.44
41	Intestinal parasites	2	4.44
42	Intestinal worms and Deworming	3	6.66
43	Lactation problems	3	6.66
44	Liver enlargement disorders	1	2.22
45	Lung emphasiema	2	4.44
46	Maggot wound	2	4.44
47	Mastitis	6	13.33
48	Milk fever	1	2.22
49	Mouth and eye watering problems	3	6.66
50	Mouth blister	1	2.22
51	Mouth ulcer	2	4.44
52	Nutritional deficiency	5	11.11
53	Paralytic disorders	1	2.22
54	Physical disabilities	1	2.22
55	Poisonous bites	5	11.11
56	Psoriasis	1	2.22
57	Pyrexia	2	4.44
58	Ranikhet diseases	1	2.22
59	Respiratory disorders	5	11.11
60	Retention of placenta	3	6.66
61	Rheumatism	2	4.44
62	Scabies	5	11.11
63	Skin diseases	9	20
64	Snake bite	3	6.66
65	Sprain	2	4.44
66	Stillbirth	1	2.22
67	Stomach gas problems	1	2.22
68	Stomach problems	3	6.66
69	Tympanitis	1	2.22
70	Urinary disorders	1	2.22
71	Uterus infections and Uterus disorders	3	6.66
72	Venereal diseases	1	2.22
73	Wart	2	4.44
74	Weak cattle for nutritional deficiency	5	11.11
75	Weight gain	1	2.22
76	Wounds	6	13.33
77	Yoke gall diseases	3	6.66

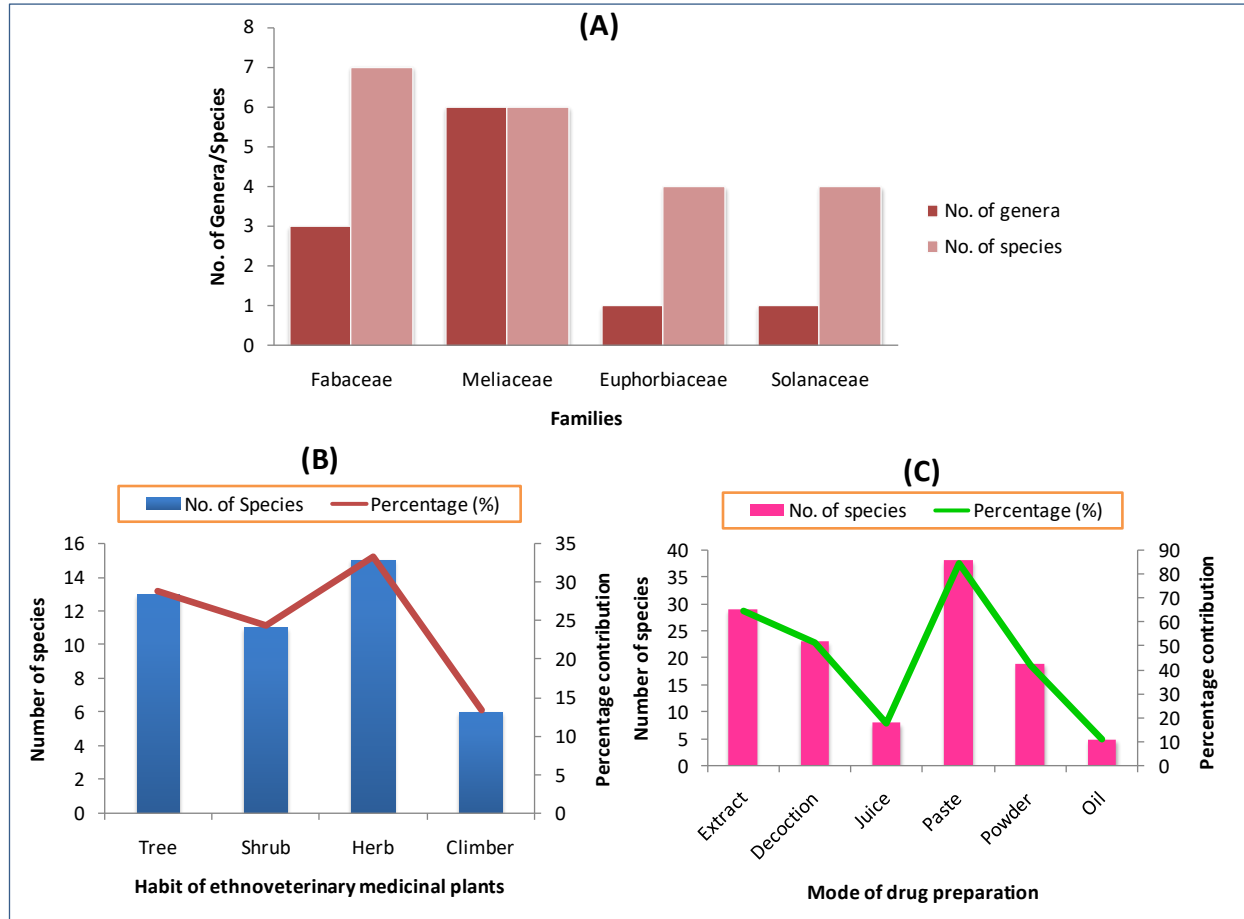


Fig. 3: Ethnoveterinary medicinal plants utility in Salem district, Tamil Nadu, India: (A) Top four contributing families; (B) Habit-wise distribution of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants; (C) Distribution of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants based on mode of drug preparation.

The total number of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants used for diarrhea and skin diseases were the top ranked among the plant species used for other disease conditions followed by inflammation and swelling problems and wounds (Table 4). This indicates that the cattles are frequently encountering diarrhea, inflammation and wounds. For the conditions like bloating in the stomach, bloody urea, conjunctivities, contusion, ectoparasites problems, endoparasites problem, enteritis, facial palsy, food poison, horn fracture, liver enlargement disorders, milk fever, mouth blister, paralytic disorders, physical disabilities, psoriasis, ranikhet diseases, stillbirth, stomach gas problems, tympanitis, urinary disorders, venereal diseases and weight gain, only one medicinal plant was used. Very common ethnomedicinal plants recorded and documented in this study include *Acalypha indica*, *Allium cepa*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Cissus quadrangularis*, *Coriandrum sativum*, *Curcuma longa*, *Senna spp.*,

Solanum nigrum, *Tamarindus indica*, and *Vitex negundo* and these medicinal plants have been reported for curing human ailments by previous studies (Alagesabooopathi, 2009; Sikarwar and Tiwari, 2020; Arul Prakash and Subitha Shajini, 2023).

In Conclusion, the ethnoveterinary medicinal plants survey and documentation in Salem district, South India revealed 45 plant species belonging to 24 families and 32 genera. Fabaceae, Meliaceae and Euphorbiaceae are the families contributed higher number of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants in the study region. Leaves were found to be most used plant parts to cure many ailments (88.88%) followed by fruits and stem bark. Trees and herbs were the dominant habit of plants utilized widely. A maximum number of nine ethnoveterinary medicinal plants were used to treat diarrhea. *Acalypha indica*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Allium cepa*, *Coriandrum sativum*, *Senna spp.*, *Solanum nigrum*

and *Vitex negundo* are some of the common ethnomedicinal plants which have been reported in the present study also. There are 45 key plant species used to treat livestock ailments rural population in Salem district based on ethnoveterinary medicinal plant surveys. It has been concluded that leaves are the main part used in herbal remedies, and that these alternatives are essential and cost-effective.

Author Contributions

A. Samiyappan: Investigation, methodology, formal analysis, writing—original draft. R. Sengottuvel: Validation, methodology, writing—review and editing.

Data Availability

The datasets generated during and/or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

Declarations

Ethical Approval Not applicable.

Consent to Participate Not applicable.

Consent to Publish Not applicable.

Conflict of Interest The authors declare no competing interests.

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