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reside in sacred groves. Though Girda panchayat is very close to Kotpad NAC, people usually depend on *Disari* or traditional healer for the common ailments. The herbs are collected locally or from nearby forests. Apart from traditional healers, the elderly people- both males and females have a very good knowledge about herbal medicines. For the present study 13 numbers of healers and knowledgeable persons were contacted, out of which 11 persons agreed to share their traditional knowledge. The interview was facilitated by the village teacher- Mr. Balaji Nayak. A total of 28 species of plants were identified and documented which are in common use by the tribals of the area in their day to day life. Plants like *Leucas aspera*, *Andrographis paniculata* and *Azadirachta indica* are used for skin problems. The leaf extract of *Annona squamosa* is used to improve the skin tone while leaves of *Chenopodium album* are taken as vegetable for giving relief from body pain due to exhaustion. The leaves of *Hygrophila auriculata* are used to treat anaemia. Leaves of *Marsilea quadrifolia* are consumed as vegetable against insomnia. For common cold, decoction of young leaves of *Psidium guajava* is given and the leaves of *Oxalis corniculata* are taken raw or the extract is taken. The fruits of *Solanum virginianum* are burnt and the smoke is inhaled to cure dental carries and toothache. The tender stem of *Pongamia pinnata* is used as tooth brush for ailments of oral cavity. The leaves of *Abutilon indicum* and *Leonotis nepetifolia* are ground to paste and applied externally (which become hard after drying) as a bandage for bone fracture. The young leaves of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* are used to control dandruff. The leaf extracts of *Bryophyllum pinnatum* and *Syzygium cumini* are administered against diarrhoea. *Bryophyllum pinnatum* is also effective in kidney stones and other urinal problems. The oil of *Ricinus communis* is used as purgative. The leaves of *Moringa oleifera* and *Plumbago zeylanica* are effective in high blood pressure. For different ailments of infants the bark of *Premna mucronata*, the roots of *Jasminum sambac* and *Crossandra infundibuliformis* are in use. The leaf juice of *Ageratum conyzoides* is put into the nostril for relief from head ache. The fruit of *Plumeria rubra* are given to cows to enhance lactation. Rhizome of *Curcuma longa* and leaves of *Vitex negundo* are used for skin diseases of neonatal and infants. Leaf juice of *Tridax procumbens* and latex of *Jatropha curcas* are used for wound healing. As the tribals are using these traditional medicines through generations they are time tested and have the potential for pharmaceutical exploration.

PHYTODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF TRIBALS OF KORAPUT DISTRICT OF ODISHA

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Forest plays an important role in providing livelihood requirements to tribal people. Majority of the ethnic groups depends on forest for their livelihood. They use the plant and plant products as food, medicine, fodder etc. and have close association with the biodiversity. The non-timber forest products play an important role in the rural economy, which provides income potential and life support sustenance to tribal people. They collect many non timber forest products like gum, resin, dyes, honey, cane, fruits, fuel wood, fodder and material required for agriculture, household and thatching etc. Thirty-one species of medicinal herbs, 33 species as food, 13 species of both fiber and oil yielding plants and 4 species are used as narcotics, drinks and intoxicants by the tribes of Koraput district of Odisha. Among these plants, *Achyranthes aspera*, *Boerhavia diffusa*, *Cassia tora*, *Euphorbia hirta*,