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Research Article

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Ethno-zoological aspects in Ayurveda (Part 1)

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda in its domain has hidden many treatment modalities in different kinds of ailments that the present human being is suffering from. These treatment modalities are subjected to high quality research basis and are incorporated in various texts of Ayurveda. The acharyas of ayurveda had known that the future humans will suffer from such kinds of ailments that only medicinal herbs will not be sufficient to eradicate the disease process. For that reason they took the help of ethno-zoological way of treatment modalities and incorporated in the preparation of different kinds of medicinal preparations. In this article, taking this in mind, a few diseases along with its treatment by the use of animals and animal products is taken into account.

KEY WORDS: Ayurveda, Ethno-zoological.

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda the ancient Indian system of medicine which was present since day immemorial still persists even to this day. The reason accounting to its persistence is that this eternal science has truths which have a scientific approach. Research on various subjects and diseases mentioned in Ayurveda are now being carried out at a very large scale to bring to limelight the scientific basis of this science. Apart from the detailed description about its aim that is to prevent the diseases in a person and maintenance of health in a healthy person; we also find the description of the importance of ethno-zoology and its role in the treatment of various diseases. Here it can be stated that Ayurvedic acharyas of the past have already been aware of the importance of ethno-zoology in the treatment of various diseases. Ethno-zoology is the study of the past and present inter-

relationships between human cultures and the animals in their environment. It includes classification and naming of zoological forms, cultural knowledge and use of wild and domestic animals. It is one of the main sub-descriptions of ethno-biology and shows many methodologies and theoretical frameworks with ethno-botany. Ethno-zoology focuses explicitly on human-animal relationships and knowledge humans have acquired concerning the earths fauna. Ethno-zoology is a description that connects scientific methods to traditional systems of knowledge and cultural beliefs.

Medicinal and therapeutic uses of animals

Since ancient times animals and the products derived from different organs of their bodies have constituted part of the inventory of medicinal substances used in various cultures; such uses still exist in various types

of ethnic folk medicine until the present day. Traditional knowledge is related to the use of different animals and animal products in a variety of

ways. In the following, various types of animals/products used in the treatment of diseases mentioned in Ayurveda are given below:-

Serial Number	Name of the disease	Animal/Animal products used
1.	Jwara(Fever)	Ghee, Milk, Meat soup ^{1,2,3,4,5}
2.	Rakta Pitta (Any kind of bleeding disorders).	Meat of Sasa, Mayura, Kukutta ⁶
3.	Gulma(Tumor)	Goats Milk Cow's milk ⁷ Cock, Pea-cock, titira Krauncha (Crow) ⁸ Ghee ⁹ Milk, Meat ¹⁰ Cow's milk ¹¹ Goats Milk ¹²
4.	Prameha(Diabetes)	Ghee ¹³ Soup of meat ¹⁴ Roasted meat ¹⁵
5.	Kustha(Skin diseases)	Ghee ¹⁶ Cow's urine ¹⁷ Meat soup ¹⁸ Meat ¹⁹ Butter-milk(Takra) ²⁰ Ash of bone of donkey with blood of cattle. ²¹ Fats of elephant. Urine of elephant Pea-cock's bile. ²²
6.	Rajyakshma(Tuberculosis)	Hot soup of meat of lava, tittiri, daksa and vartaka. ²³ Soup of meat of goat. ²⁴ Meat of aquatic and semi aquatic (Nadi sweda) ghee (external applications). ²⁵ Sringa (Horn) and Jalauka for bloodletting. ²⁶ Massage with ghrita. ²⁷ Pariseka with milk. ²⁸ Nava with ghee. ²⁹ Ghee ³⁰ Milk ³¹ Vasa ghrita ³² Carnivorous animals ³³ Meat of pea-cock, vultures, owls, crow. Meat of varmi. Fried meat of earth worm. ³⁴ Fox, Mongoose, cat and cubs of jackal, Lion, Bear, hyena, tiger, elephant, rhinoceros and horses. Meat of pea-cock, partridge, cock, swan and hog. ³⁵ Meat of birds and animals belonging to the categories of prasaha (snatching animals), bhusaya (burrowing animals), anupa (animals inhabiting in marshy lands), Varija (aquatic animals), varicora (birds moving in the water). ³⁶

		Meat of birds and animals of pratuda, viksira birds and dhanwaja animals. ³⁷
7.	Unmada (Psychosomatic disorders)	Medicated ghee, ghee and milk. ³⁸ Oil or ghee ³⁹
8.	Apasmara (Epilepsy)	Ghee and cow's urine ⁴⁰ Bile of cow and Jackal ⁴¹ Ghee and meat. ⁴² Cows or goats urine. Stool of leeches ⁴³ Ashes of small hair of goats, ashes of bone of donkey, ashes of nail of elephant, ashes of the tail of cow. ⁴⁴ Goat's urine in medicated oil. ⁴⁵ Urine of goat, sheep and bull. ⁴⁶ Dog bile. ⁴⁷
9.	Kshata kshina (Pthisis)	Beaks, Feather, stool of mangoose, owl, birds and cat. ⁴⁸ Milk ⁴⁹ Laksa ⁵⁰ Milk, Laksa, Ghee Bees –wax ⁵¹ Eggs of wild hen ⁵² Eggs of Sparrow ⁵³ Milk, Ghee, Blood of goat. ⁵⁴ Goats fat and cream of milk ⁵⁵ Carnivorous animals and ghee ⁵⁶ Soup of meat of goat and milk ⁵⁷ Goats meat ⁵⁸ Honey and ghee ⁵⁹ Meat of animals inhabiting in arid zone ⁶⁰ Milk of buffalo, elephant and goat. ⁶¹
10.	Svayathu (Oedema)	Cow's urine, Milk ⁶² Camel's milk ⁶³ Butter milk ⁶⁴ Meat, soup ⁶⁵ Ghrita ⁶⁶ Meat soup of viskira (group of gallinaceous birds), Jangalas (animals of dry lands and forest), tortoise, Godha (Iguana), Peacock, Medicated ghee, Meat soup. ⁶⁷ Medicated ghee/Meat soup ⁶⁸
11.	Udara roga (Abdominal disorders)	Cow's urine ⁶⁹ Meat of animals, birds inhabiting in arid zone/milk, cow's urine. ⁷⁰ Butter Milk ⁷¹ Camel's milk, Cow's milk, Buffalo's Milk ⁷² Cow's urine ⁷³ Medicated ghee ⁷⁴ Milk, soup of meat of animals. ⁷⁵ Meat, cow's urine, Milk, Buffalo Milk, Camel's Milk, Goat's milk, Milk, Butter milk, Ghee, Muscle-fats, Bone marrow, Stool of goat, Cow's urine. ⁷⁶ Snake venom. ⁷⁷

12.	Arsha (Piles)	Cow's bile ⁷⁸ Droppings of cock, Pigeon ⁷⁹ Paste of elephant bones ⁸⁰ Fats of Camel, Fats of godha fish ⁸¹ Urine of goat ⁸² Butter milk ⁸³ Curd and butter milk ⁸⁴ Soup of goats meat ⁸⁵ Meat soup of pea-cock, partridge, grey quail, cock, bustard quail. ⁸⁶ Ghee ⁸⁷ Meat soup of godha, lopaka, svavit, ustro, cow, sallaka. ⁸⁸ Meat of sasa, harina, lava, Kapinjala and ena. ⁸⁹ Soup of cock, pea-cock, tittira bird, camel, jackal. ⁹⁰ Meat soup with onion. ⁹¹ Trunk of young goat along with its blood. ⁹² Butter, curd ⁹³ Ghee, Goat meat ⁹⁴ Ghrita manda ⁹⁵
13.	Grahani Dosa(Sprue syndrome)	Ghrita ⁹⁶ Soup of meat of birds and animals inhabiting in arid land, soup of kavyada (meat eating type of birds), Butter milk. ⁹⁷ Payasa, ghee roasted meat of marshy land inhabiting creatures, fish without scales, roasted meat of sheep, bee wax, ghee, fats and bone marrow soup of marshy land inhabiting birds, milk, curd, ghee, muscle fats and bone marrow. ⁹⁸
14.	Pandu Roga(Anaemia)	Medicated ghee ⁹⁹ Milk and urine of cow and buffalo ¹⁰⁰ Soup of meat of peacock, partridge, cock. ¹⁰¹

CONCLUSION

Ayurveda in its domain has hidden different kinds of treatment procedure in different kinds of ailments and these treatment procedures needs proper research tools and techniques so that the availability become easier to the human society which are suffering in

different forms and ways. Besides medicinal aspects, proper treatment aspects are also hidden in these ethno-zoological ways and these techniques are need to be explored with scientific research so that a fruitful ways can be build up in near future for the future generations.

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