

SOME OF THE USEFUL HERBS FOR SNAKE-BITE PRACTICED BY GOUNDA TRIBES OF TAMILNADU

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Under the Tribal Health Care Programme at Tirupattur one of the duties is to record folk medical practice among the population. The Gounda tribals in this area are often victims of poisonous snake bite as a professional hazard, as they work in fields and forests. The area has many species of Snakes, out of which the Naagam (Cobra). Kannadiviriyan (Russells Viper), Suruttai (Saw scaled Viper) and Anali (Krait) are the poisonous ones.

The tribal's use the readily available local plants to annal the poison. The species most often used and relied upon are Eswaramooli (Aristolochia indica) Sirukurinjan (Gymnema sylvestris) Karisalai (Eclipta alba) Kazarchi (Caesalpinia bonducella) Avuri (Indigo -

fera tinctoria) Kollankovai (Corallocarpus epigaeus) Kuppaimani (Acalypha indica) Chinni (Acalypha fruticosa) Thumbai (Leucas aspera) Nilavembu (Andrographis paniculata Nees) Vembu (Azadirachta indica), Nanjaruppaan (Tylophora indica) Adutheena paalai (Aristolochia bracteata).

The botanical identity, mode of treatment and the relevance with reference to recent biological studies to the extent available are correlated with Siddha Literature.

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