

## Important Medicinal Plants Used as Antidotes for Snake Bites in Bastar Region: A Review

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### Abstract

Snake bites are a significant medical emergency in many rural areas, particularly in regions with dense forests and high biodiversity such as Bastar, located in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh. Traditional healers in Bastar have used various medicinal plants as antidotes to snake venom for centuries. This review aims to compile and analyze the available literature on medicinal plants used in the treatment of snake bites in the Bastar region, highlighting their efficacy, active compounds, and potential for broader application in modern medicine.

### Introduction

Snake bites are a serious public health issue, especially in rural and forested regions of India. The Bastar region, known for its rich biodiversity and traditional knowledge, has a long history of using medicinal plants for treating snake bites. This review seeks to document these practices and explore the scientific basis for their efficacy. It also aims to bridge the gap between traditional knowledge and modern medicine, potentially leading to new, effective treatments for snake envenomation.

### Methodology

The review is based on a comprehensive analysis of existing literature, including ethnobotanical surveys, pharmacological studies, and traditional knowledge documentation. Sources were gathered from scientific journals, books, and reports, focusing on plants specifically mentioned for their use in treating snake bites in the Bastar region. Each plant's traditional use, active compounds, and pharmacological properties were examined and compiled.

### Medicinal Plants and Their Efficacy

**Table 1: Summary of Medicinal Plants Used in Bastar for Snake Bite Treatment**

Plant Name	Traditional Use	Active Compounds	Pharmacological Properties	Scientific Efficacy
<i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i>	Roots used for treating snake bites	Reserpine, Ajmaline, Serpentine	Antihypertensive, Neuroleptic, Anti-arrhythmic	Inhibits phospholipase A2 activity

<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i>	Roots and leaves in poultices and decoctions	Saponins, Tannins, Flavonoids	Anti-inflammatory, Antioxidant, Anti-venom	Neutralizes cobra and krait venom enzymes
<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	Leaves and stems used in preparations	Andrographolide	Anti-inflammatory, Antioxidant, Immunomodulatory	Neutralizes hemolytic activity of viper venom
<i>Datura metel</i>	Seeds and leaves for antispasmodic and analgesic use	Scopolamine, Atropine	Anticholinergic, Analgesic	Inhibits neuromuscular blockage; requires caution due to toxicity
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Leaves and bark in formulations	Azadirachtin, Nimbin, Limonoids	Anti-inflammatory, Antimicrobial, Immunomodulatory	Inhibits venom-induced edema and coagulopathy

**Table 2: Detailed Chemical Composition of Medicinal Plants**

Plant Name	Chemical Components	Concentration (% w/w)	Reference
<i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i>	Reserpine, Ajmaline, Serpentine	0.1-0.3	Mukherjee et al. (2007)
<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i>	Saponins, Tannins, Flavonoids	1.0-2.5	Singh & Dubey (2013)
<i>Andrographis paniculata</i>	Andrographolide	2.0-4.0	Ahmed et al. (2016)
<i>Datura metel</i>	Scopolamine, Atropine	0.5-1.2	Bisset (1989)
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Azadirachtin, Nimbin, Limonoids	0.1-0.5	Chippaux (2017)

## Discussion

The medicinal plants used in Bastar for treating snake bites exhibit a range of pharmacological activities that can counteract the effects of snake venom. The documented traditional uses align with the presence of bioactive compounds in these plants, providing a scientific basis for their

efficacy. However, the toxicity of certain plants, such as *Datura metel*, highlights the need for caution and further research. Integrating traditional knowledge with modern pharmacology could lead to the development of novel anti-venom therapies.

## Conclusion

The Bastar region's rich tradition of using medicinal plants for snake bite treatment offers valuable insights into potential anti-venom therapies. While traditional knowledge provides a foundation, rigorous scientific validation is necessary to ensure safety and efficacy. Future research should focus on isolating active compounds, understanding their mechanisms of action, and conducting clinical trials to develop standardized anti-venom treatments derived from these medicinal plants.

## References

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