

Ethno-botanical Important Plants in the parts of Shivalik Hills of Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract- The Present study has been conducted in the surrounding villages of the Shivalik hills of Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh State to document some commonly found ethno-botanical plants and their uses in this area. An ethno-botanical survey was undertaken in this region. A number of plants were collected from the study area. Local knowledgeable people of the area were contacted for the local names and different uses of plants growing there. These plants cure a number of diseases and discomforts is being used extensively by the local people.

Index Terms- Ethno-botany, Himachal Pradesh, Kangra district

I. INTRODUCTION

India is the one of the biodiversity rich country in the world. There are 4 global biodiversity hot spots namely Eastern Himalayas, Sundaland, Indo-Burma and Western Ghats and Srilanka (Anonymous, 2009) which are treasure of medicinal and economically important plants. We human beings are mainly responsible for the loss of biodiversity. The diverse natural habitats all over the Himalayan Region are rich repositories of plant diversity that are used for a variety of purposes i.e., food, fiber, fodder, medicine, spices, dyes, making agriculture implements etc. A large number of plants from the wild/cultivated are widely used in traditional systems of medicine and a few of them having trade values. Most of the total flowering plants are reported to be of medicinal importance and a large number of them are used in Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Unani systems of medicine. In the Indian Himalayan Region the use of medicinal plants is still a tradition continued by local people or ethnic communities. Even today still traditional health care practices hold much potential or most of the people depend upon local flora.

Many studies have been carried out on the use of the economical and medicinal plants in the Himachal Pradesh State (Ahluwalia et al., 1852; Chauhan et al., 1999; Uniyal & Chauhan, 1971). But, such kinds of studies have not been attempted in this area. Knowledge related to medicinal importance of the vegetation is with the local elderly people especially vaidhs, hakims so it is restricted to them, this knowledge could be utilized for the mass benefit of the society. Therefore, an attempt should be made in conservation of these important species for coming future generation.

II. MATERIALS AND METHOD

The present study is based on the ethno-botanical surveys conducted in surrounding villages found on Shivalik hills of Kangra district *i.e.*, Dhameta, Ghaith, Kangreni, near Barot and other villages also in the month of May, 2012 (Fig.1). The elderly knowledgeable persons including village Head from each village were interviewed and information was gathered about local names, indigenous uses and traditional practices of the species. Some plants were identified on the field with the help of local expert villagers and their fresh samples of the species were collected and brought to the Institute for final identification with the help of literature and local flora available. The acquired information about the medicinal plants and their uses was crosschecked with the available literature (Chowdhery & Wadhwa, 1984; Singh & Rawat, 2000; Chauhan et al., 1999 and Chauhan et al., 1988).

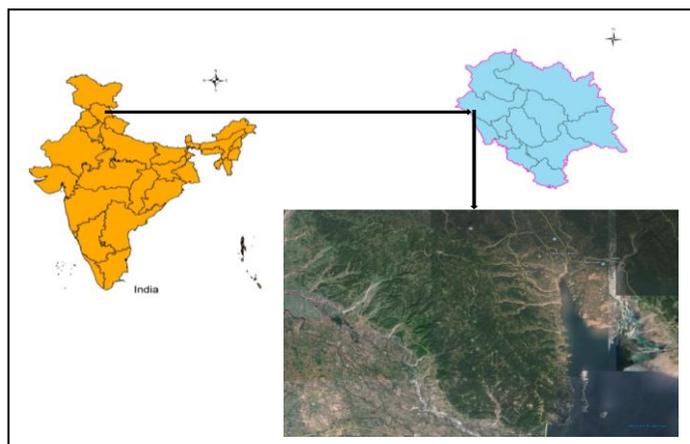


Fig. 1 Study area

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data collected are arranged in alphabetical order and given as scientific name, local name, family name, part used and uses. (Table 1). The present study was conducted to evaluate ethno-botanical important plants from Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh and to collect information regarding medicinal and economic uses by local people. The Shivalik hills of Himachal Pradesh have variety of rich flora having different medicinal and economic uses which can be boon for the present and future generation if conserved properly.

Table-1 LIST OF SOME ETHNO-BOTANICAL PLANTS FOUND IN KANGRA DISTRICT, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Scientific Name	Local Name	Family	Part Used	Uses
<i>Abrus precatorius</i> L.	Ratti	Fabaceae	Root	Diuretic and anti-tumorous.
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L.	Chirchita	Amaranthaceae	Whole plant	Decoction of herb is used as diuretic, seeds are used in treating hydrophobia and snake bite.
<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Corr. Serr.	Bel	Rutaceae	Fruit	Unripe fruit is astringent, digestive and stomachic, used for diarrhea and dysentery.
<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Neem	Meliaceae	Whole plant	Fruits, seeds, bark have antiseptic, antimicrobial property. Used in treatment of fever, diarrhea and skin diseases.
<i>Barleria cristata</i> L.	Raktajhinti	Acanthaceae	Root and leaves	Leaves and root used for coughs and inflammations.
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> L.	Karal, kachnar	Fabaceae	Root and leaves	Source of fodder. Root carminative decoction prevents obesity.
<i>Bombax ceiba</i> L.	Semal	Malvaceae	Bark, Root, flowers and fruits	Bark demulcent, tonic, emetic and styptic.
<i>Cannabis sativa</i> L.	Bhang, ganja	Cannabaceae	Whole plant	Source of hemp fiber and also of narcotics Bhang, Ganja and charas.
<i>Cassia fistula</i> L.	Amaltas	Fabaceae	Root and Bark	Used as emetic, febrifuge, laxative. It is useful, leprosy, constipation, fever and heart disease.
<i>Cassia tora</i> L.	Panwar	Fabaceae	Whole plant	Leaves purgative used in ringworm and other skin diseases.
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers.	Durva	Poaceae	Whole plant	Used in dysentery, dropsy, haemorrhage and scabies.
<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L.	Dudhi	Euphorbiaceae	Whole plant	Used in cough, asthma and digestive problems.
<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L.	Bargad	Moraceae	Fruits, leaves	Fruits are eaten at the times of scarcity. Leaves lopped for fodder. Latex applied in rheumatism and lumbago.
<i>Ficus glomerata</i> Roxb.	Gular	Moraceae	Root	Root used in diarrhea and diabetes.

Scientific Name	Local Name	Family	Part Used	Uses
<i>Ocimum sanctum</i> L.	Tulsi	Labiataeae	Whole plant	Leave oil have antibacterial and insecticidal properties.
<i>Lantana camara</i> L.	Bara phulno	Verbenaceae	Root and stem	Used as an antidote for snakebite and for making basket
<i>Morus alba</i> L.	Toot	Moraceae	Leaves and fruits	Fruits eaten, refrigerant, in sore throat, and skin infections. Leaves helpful in lowering blood pressure.
<i>Mallotus philippensis</i> (Lam.) Muell.-Arg.	Kamal	Euphorbiaceae	Fruits	Anthelmintic and dye is extracted.
<i>Melia azedarach</i> L.	Drek	Meliaceae	Leaves and Bark	Insect repellent, anthelmintic, diuretic, emmenagogue, yields gum.
<i>Murraya koenigi</i> (L.) Spreng.	Ghandhela	Rutaceae	Bark, root and leaves	Bark and roots are used as stimulants. Leaves used for diarrhea and dysentery and for curries.
<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> Sarg.	Chir	Pinaceae	Wood, leaves	Expectorant used in chronic bronchitis and recommended for gangerene of lungs. Used as a fuel wood.
<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeel.	Jamun	Myrtaceae	Leaves and fruits	Ripe fruits edible, used for spirituous liquor. Fruits also used for making preserves, jams, squashes, and jellies.
<i>Terminalia arjuna</i> (Roxb. ex DC.) Wight. & Arn.	Arjun	Combretaceae	Bark, fruits and leaves	Bark used for tanning. It is styptic, tonic, febrifuge and antidiysenteric. Fruits tonic and deobstruent. Juice of leaves used in earache.
<i>Terminalia bellirica</i> (Gaertn.) Roxb.	Bahera	Combretaceae	Fruits	Astringent, bitter, laxative and area used in piles, diarrhea.
<i>Terminalia chebula</i> (Gaertn.) Retz.	Harad	Combretaceae	Fruits	Fruits laxative, stomachic, tonic and alterative. Bark diuretic and cardio tonic. Kernels yield fatty oil. Tree yields a gum.

IV. SOME PICTURES OF MEDICINAL PLANTS FOUND IN KANGRA DISTRICT, HIMACHAL PRADESH.



Ficus glomerata Roxb.



Mallotus philippensis (Lam.) Muell.-Arg.



Pinus roxburghii Sarg.

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V. CONCLUSION

Now a day's information regarding traditional use of plants is declining day by day due to lack of information transfer from old generation to new generation. So there is urgent need of attention in this regard that whatever is known about the medicinal and economic importance of local plants should be conserved.

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