

Indian J. Trop. Biodiv. **20(1)** : 1 - 8 (2012)

© Society for Promotion of Tropical Biodiversity, Jabalpur

ETHNOMEDICINAL KNOWLEDGE OF KHASIA TRIBE IN SYLHET REGION, BANGLADESH

MOHAMMAD BELAL UDDIN¹ AND SHARIF AHMED MUKUL²

¹*Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, School of Agriculture and Mineral Sciences, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet 3114, Bangladesh*

²*School of Agriculture and Food Science, Faculty of Science, University of Queensland, Brisbane Qld 4072, Australia*

²*Centre for Research on Land-use Sustainability, Maijdee 3800, Noakhali, Bangladesh*

²*Corresponding author: sharif_a_mukul@yahoo.com*

ABSTRACT: A survey was performed over the *Khasia* tribe of Sylhet region to find out their ethnomedicinal knowledge and plant parts utilization for curing various ailments. A total of 26 species were identified. The data revealed that the *Khasia* tribes rely extensively on herbal medicine for treating 29 different ailments. They frequently used these species to retrieve from different common ailments like, fever, cough, dysentery, diarrhoea, joint ache, indigestion and others. For medicinal purposes they mostly used tree species (53%) followed by some herbs (27%), shrubs (8%), creepers (8%) and palm (4%). For medicinal preparations they mainly used green leaves, fruit, root/rhizome, bark, seed, flower, whole plant and resin. Since the shrinking of natural forest areas increasingly limits the indigenous people's ability to access in traditional plant-based medicines throughout the tropics. Introduction of culturally important medicinal plants (MPs) outside their natural habitats could ensure their sustainable supply as well as *ex situ* conservation.

Key words: *Ethnomedicinal plant usage, Khasia tribe, Medicinal plants, Sylhet region*