

AN ETHNOBOTANICAL STUDY OF LOCAL PLANTS AND THEIR MEDICINAL IMPORTANCE IN TONS RIVER AREA, DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND

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ABSTRACT: Ethnobotanical study of plants with their medicinal importance was conducted between January to June, 2013 in Tons river area, Dehradun to document the folklore knowledge of the local peoples. The aim of the study was to provide significant information on plants with uses, disease treated, and part of the plant used, methods of preparation, and methods of application among the local communities of the region. The data was collected using semi-structured interview and through questionnaire from respondents of different age class (27-80 years) in ten villages. The present work reports total of 49 plant species belonging to 30 families from the area. The majority of the documented plants were herbs (74%), followed by shrubs (16%) and trees (10%). The part of the plant most frequently used was the roots (34%), followed by leaves (26%), fruits (8%), seeds and whole plants (6%), rhizomes and flower (5%), stem and bark (3%), and oil and gum (1%). Powder and decoction was the most common preparation method use in treating recipes. The most frequently treated diseases in the region were fever, cold, cough, stomach problem, stomach worm, asthma, toothache, pain, swellings, ulcers, nerve tonic, infection, blood purifier, skin disease, blood pressure, diabetes, headache, jaundice, snake bite, renal stones, vomiting, urinary disorders, hair fall, diarrhea and itching.

Key words: *Ethnobotany, folklore knowledge, medicinal importance, conservation*

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