

Ethno-Botany of Some Useful Forest Trees of District Rajouri (Jammu and Kashmir) India

Abstract

An ethno-botanical study was carried-out in order to document the folk uses of forest trees in the District Rajouri (Jammu & Kashmir) India. The population of the region primarily depends upon plant resources for their domestic needs. A wide variety of tree species are present in the study area but this paper includes only those species whose common use is either known locally or they are in daily use for various purposes. Although the authors observed only 20 tree species are utilized for multiple purposes in the study area. Most of these tree species are also used for medicinal purposes. The informative data on ethno-botanical plants were conducted with the local inhabitants and selected informants. The ethno medicinal data was gathered from the tribal medicine men. Villagers and vaidhyas Questionnaires were adopted during the surveys in order to get qualitative and participatory approach about the plant resources and their utilization by the local people. Questions concerning the utility of different plants. Quantity of plants used. Rate of consumption availability. economics/ market value and fuel wood/ fodder head loads had been asked.

Keywords: Ethno-Botany Forest Trees. Rajouri

Introduction

Ethno-botany, area of human ecology defines the interface between people and their forests. And offers clues needed for rural development based on suitable yields of forest product (Thomas et al. 1989). The importance of timber and other tree products from outside forest is interesting to increase attention, to help meet growing demands and reduce pressure on natural forests and plantations (Holding et al., 2001). Trees growing in open areas seem to have potential to provide option for rural livelihood and biodiversity conservation (Pasicznik et al., 2006). These trees can contribute to poverty mitigation serving as subsistence "safety nets" or low income "gap fillers". In addition to environmental stabilization, trees are useful for industrial, cultural, pharmaceutical, and socio-economic purpose to man, contributing billions of dollars yearly to the world's economy. Estimates have shown that about 90 percent of cooking and heating energy comes from trees (WWF, 1994). Traditional societies in Africa and elsewhere have always used plants to promote healing and traditional medicine is still the predominant means of health care in developing countries (Bussmann et al., 2006; Okali et al 2007). Trees growing in the open areas of this region can contribute to the wide ranging needs of the local people. These trees are currently used in the region for multiple purposes such as honey production, food, dye, fiber, fodder, medicines, fuel wood, building materials and production of kitchen utensils. Some of these trees have support roles for sustainable agriculture, livestock production, and hunting activities while others have cultural, religious or judicial functions. Most of the activities of forest trees are to generate major income of local inhabitants. For example, collection and marketing of the wide range of non-timber products such as edible fruits, nuts, seeds and medicines. The barks of some trees are used to produce ropes, straps and traditional oil containers while the woods of some are often valued for fuel wood and furniture. While the knowledge on the usefulness of these plants remains high and lead to the high percentage of exploitation.

Objective of the Study

How the medicinal trees are important for treatment of various diseases especially for tribal peoples of Rajouri to boost the economy and learning capacity of the people.



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Material and Method

Study Area

District Rajouri famous for its natural assets, landform water sedges, lush green forest and floristic diversity. The Large human populace with diverse life styles, belief, traditions and cultural heritage inhabiting D.R has learnt to utilize natural resources and products in various ways. local areas of Saaj, Thanamandi, Behrote, Darhal, Budhal, Ujhan, Rakiban, Samote, Dodasan Balla, Badakana, Manjakote, Kalali, Dehra ki Gali, Doongi, Nowshera, Sunderbani, Lam Darhal, dhanikassi, peer Badaser, Kalakote, Moghla, teryath, Koteranka etc. of district Rajouri sustain unique and rich vegetation in wide range of habitats. The high range of latitudes (1000m). Semi structured questionnaires were used to interview the local population about their ethnobotanical knowledge of trees.

Plants Survey and Identification.

Field survey have been made during 2008-2011 to gather data on traditional uses of medicinal plants across various villages in the block. Personal

interviews and inquires were also conducted during field trips. Interviewees were chosen without distinction of gender after seeking the consent from each respondent. People from all age groups, except children below 18 years were interviewed on their knowledge about the uses of trees in this region. The random sampling technique was used and a total of 80 questionnaires were distributed out to 35 males and 45 females in the site of the study. Information regarding the different folk uses of trees, parts used, availability status, and vernacular names was recorded. Informants were asked to name trees they knew, and to reveal the uses of the respective species. Informants often accompanied the investigators to the field to collect plant material. In cases of illiterate informants, photographs and fresh plant specimens from the field were presented to them and questionnaires were filled from their responses. Information was also recorded on the medicinal use of trees, plants parts used, diseases treated, modes of preparation and administration (Table 1).

Table 1. Ethno-Botany of some Useful Forest Trees of District Rajouri Blocks Thanamandi, Darhal, Nowshera, Sunderbani, Kalakote & Manajakote of Jammu & Kashmir State, India.

Botanicalname/ Family	Local name	Status	Plant parts used and mode of administration
Trees <i>Acacia catechu</i> (L.f.) Willd. (Mimosaceae)	Khair	+++	Decoction of wood and bark is given in cough and inflammations of throat. it is given in diarrhea and applied on mouth sores. Wood is used locally for making agricultural tools and fuel wood. Sometimes leaves are used as fodder.
<i>Acacia nilotica</i> (L.) Willd. (Mimosaceae)	Kikar	++	Infusion of bark and leaves used in fever, bronchitis, asthma and dysentery . Wood is used locally for making agricultural tools and fuel wood. Leaves are used as fodder.
<i>Aegle marmelos</i> (L.) Correa (Rutaceae)	Bel	+	Decoction of root is given in fever, cough and hoarse throat. Fruit pulp useful in diarrhea. Dysentery, stomach infection and bronchial inflammation.
<i>Bombax ceiba</i> L.	Semal	++	Gum from stem given in diarrhea, dysentery and Leucorrhoea. Decoction of fruits is given in suppressed urination. Sometimes roots powder used in epilepsy.
<i>Dendrocalamus strictus</i> (Roxb.) Nees	Bans	++	Leaves are given to horse for curing cough and cold. Branches are used as building material, for making ladder, hatching huts, carts and pipes. The splits stem is woven into baskets and mats. Low cost fuel wood.
<i>Ficus religiosa</i> Roxb.	Peepal	++	Bark decoction is given in gonorrhoea and scabies while fruit are edible, laxative and also given in infertility. Leaves used in psychomedicine especially in snake bite.
<i>Grewia optiva</i> J.R. Drummond ex Burret (Tiliaceae)	Bheemal	+++	Fruit is used in digestive disorders. Bark juice is given to women to facilitate delivery and used in shampoo. Leaves are used as fodder. Bark from branches is used for fiber and making ropes.
<i>Juglans regia</i> L. Juglandaceae	Akrot	+++	It is used in standard furniture, also used for carving. Bark is used for cleaning and sparkling teeth. Leaves are also used as lips make-up, Nuts can infect throat due to its oily nature. it has warm nature and can cause jaundice. It is also used as a dye. Decoction of leaves is given in eczema and intestinal worms.
<i>Mallotus philippensis</i> (Lam.) Muell-arg. (euphorbiaceae)	Ruina	+++	Bark juice is given to children in diarrhea and dysentery. Paste of fruit powder is applied externally on cuts, wounds and also used in natural dye. It is used as fuel wood.
<i>Melia azedarach</i> L. (meliaceae)	Dharik	++	Decoction of bark used in gonorrhoea, bark paste is applied on skin eruptions. Infusion of heart wood is given in asthma. Leaves. fruits and seeds are useful in skin diseases.

<i>Phyllanthus emblica</i> L. (<i>Euphorbiaceae</i>)	Amla	++	Fruits are used in digestive disorders and fruits juice useful in leucorrhoea. Fruit is a best source of vitamin-C, hair oil, conditioner, shampoo. achnes, and mouth ulcer. Quench thrust and mixed with Tripphalla Churna (Seeds powder of <i>Terminellia bellirica</i> and Seeds powder of <i>T. chebula</i>).
<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> Sarget (<i>Pinaceae</i>)	Chir	+++	Timber wood, fuel wood, used for making furniture, cones are used for burning and decoration purposes. It yields edible seeds. Needles are used for sheltering and for keeping fruits in crates. Resin of bark. Locally known as "Jaula", is stimulat used in ulcer, snake bites, scorpion stings, skin diseases and blood purifier. Saw dust is used by barbaras to warm water. It is also used for cleaning utensils.
<i>Punica granatum</i> L. (<i>Punicaceae</i>)	Darim	++	Leaves are used in skin diseases. Dysentery, fruit is astringent, colling, blood purifier. Fruit pericarp is used for whooping cough, it is laxative Seeds are dried and known as "anardana" which are condiments and used as spices. Bark of stem and root is anthelmintic, mouthwisher, antipyretic and expectorant.
<i>Pyrus pashia</i> Buch- ham, ex D. Don (<i>rosaceae</i>)	Melu	++	Fruits are edible, astringent, febrifuge, sedative and laxative. Fuel wood. It serves as rootstock for grafting apple and pear. Honey bee species.
<i>Quercus leucotrichophora</i> A. Camus	Banj	+++	Stem used as best agricultural implements, gun butts and walking sticks, fuel. Leaves used as fodder. Seeds are sometimes edible, astringent and diuretic, used in diarrhea, indigestion and asthma. Children use seed cups as playing tops.
<i>Rhododendorn arborium</i> Smith (<i>Ericaceae</i>)	Burans	+++	Its wood is used as fuel. Flowers are ornamental and are sold in the market. Flower petals are used as heart tonic and are eaten by local people. Juice makes from petals (Burans juice).

Conclusion

Field survey have been made and traditional uses of medicinal plants across various villages in the block.people from all the age group were interviewed on their knowledge about the uses of trees in the region.

References

1. Thomas ET AL.1989:The importance of timber and other tree products form outside forest is interesting to increase attention,to help meet growing demands and reduces pressure on natural foresta and plantations.
2. Holiding ET AL.2001: Trees growing in open areas seem to have potential to provide option for rural livelihood and biodiversity conservation.
3. Pasicznik ET AL. 2006: These trees can contribute to poverty mitigation serving as subsistence"safety nets" or low gap fillers.
4. Wwf 1994:Tradional societies in Africa and elsewhere have always used plants to promote healing and tradional medicine.
5. Bussmannet AL, 2006: Trees growing in the open areas of this region can contribute.
6. Okali ET Al.2007: To the wide ranging needs of the local people these trees are currently used in the region for multiple purpose such as honey production.