

Research Note: Contribution to the Ethnobotany of the Palpa Area

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Introduction

From the hoary past of human civilisation an intimate relationship was developed between man and plants, and this trend continues till today. The heavy dependence of man and his animals upon plants has inspired him to learn about the uses and properties of various wild plant species and by the way of self experience, trial and accidents he happens to an ample ethnobotanical knowledge on various plants. This long accumulated knowledge of ethnobotany which holds considerable socio-economic as well as ethnopharmacological significance happens to be in jeopardy as on one hand this body of knowledge lacks written documents while on the other the practice of using wild vegetational resources is attenuating day by day. In this context, the tapping of ethnobotanical informations proves quite essential to acknowledge as well as exploit the potential vegetational resources, which represent a vast reservoir of natural products.

Nepal is a land of topographic contrast, floristic diversity and ethnic variations. Most of the people live in central hilly region owning a large number of livestock and have developed a close affinity with local vegetation in using different vegetational resources for manifold purposes like food, fodder, medicines etc. and certainly the state of rampant poverty, illiteracy & inadequacy of health facilities have augmented this dependency. As People living in the remote corners and other interior area of Nepal still have to depend on the wild vegetables, because of their negligence and ignorance of growing and consuming cultivated vegetables (Regmi, 1984:311) Similarly, the local healers of different ethnic groups make quite a lot of use of the herbal plants in the preparation of all traditional pharmacopoeia (Dobremez, 1976:97). The herbal flora of Nepal is rich in its variability, composition and distribution. In this regard it seems to be obvious that there is immense scope for proper exploitation of wild herb flora through planned botanical studies (Malla, 1977:188). So far most of the studies on Nepalese flora have been done from either floristic or ecological approach and rarely from ethnobotanical angle. Thus ethnobotany is a subject of more than scholarly or historical interest in Nepal (Sacherer, 1979:45). Regarding previous record of works in this field Toba (1975:145-170) carried out ethnobotanical studies of Khaling area, lying south of Solukhumbu during the linguistic survey of the some area and reported 225 plants of various uses. Sacherer (1979: 45-64) contributed to the ethnobotany of Rolwaling

Sherpas and reported 80 plants comprising 45 edible plants, 11 medicinal plants, 4 poisonous plants, 7 incense plants, 2 dye yielding plants and 11 special use plants like manure yielding and helpful in fermentation. Manandhar (1980:147-151, 1982:13) carried out ethnobotanical studies and reported 43 plants consisting of 35 medicinal plants, 6 toxic plants and 3 plants used for tonic purposes from Rasuwa district and 85 plants comprising 46 medicinal plants, 30 edible plants, 14 fodder plants, 3 poisonous plants and 11 plants of miscellaneous uses like basketry etc. from Nuwakot area respectively. Bhandary and Shrestha (1982:125-135, 1984:151-158) carried out ethnobotanical investigations and reported 15 poisonous plants from Annapurna and Langtang himal area and 67 poisonous plants from Kathmandu valley area successively. Joshi (1983) carried out ethnobotanical studies on several localities of Nepal and reported 142 plants having indigenous veterinary medicinal values. To the knowledge of the present author, there have been no previous report of ethnobotanical studies from Palpa area.

The present study attempts to compile a crude ethnobotanical informations on the gegetational resources of the Palpa area. The Palpa district lies at the central midland region of Nepal (Stainton, 1970). The co-ordinates are 27° 34' - 27°57' N x 83°15' - 84°22' E. Topographically the area consists of high lands, composed of Mahabharat and Siwalik hill range and lowlands around the riverbanks. The altitude ranges from 300 m - 2100 m. The altitude of sites (Bandipokhara, Banstari, Barangdi, Bhubanigaun, Dharampani, Ghorsinga, Kadebhanjhyang, Kaseni, Masyan etc.) of the present study lies between C. 500-C. 1500m. Most of the hill slopes are extensively terraced for cultivation. The area enjoys sub-tropical to temperate type of cool humid and salubrious climate with an average annual temperature and rainfall around 50° F and 60" respectively (Shrestha, 1974:5-6). The natural vegetation consist of sub-tropical to temperate types characterised by dominance of Shorea robusta, Schima - Castanopsis, Pinus roxburghii, Laurels, Rhododendrons and other mixed broad leaved decidous species. This area is ihabited by many ethnic groups of which 60% or majority is comprised by Magars and rest by Brahmins, Newars, Chhetri, Gurungs, Kumale, Sarki etc. (Shrestha, 1972). The field study was carried out between January - July 1984.

Methodology

Ethnobotanical informations on usage of various wild plant species were collected by personal interview with reliable local people showing them the sample of plants. Some villagers were also paid to accompany to the forest and to identify the plants they use. The authenticity of data were checked by interviewing people of different places of the area as well as insisting them to verify the toxic nature by referring the poisoning accidents they had experienced. The collected plant specimens were identified at the Department of Botanical Survey & Herbarium, Godavary.

Result & Discussion

The entistment of different plant species along with their various economic uses is described below in an alphabetical order. For the sake of brevity the plant descriptions have been omitted.

Abrus precatorius Linn. (Leguminosae) RATIGEDI (रतीगंडी)
Pounded 2 - 4 seeds is taken by man orally as a diuretic, to soothe inflammation during urination and to cure even a veneral disease in man locally called as 'Dhatu'.

Achyranthes aspera Linn. (Amaranthaceae) APANG (अपाङ्ग)
Stem is used as toothbrush. Paste of root is applied to cure boils.

Adathoda vasica Nees in Wall. (Acanthaceae) ASURO (असुरा)
Leaves are used in ripening of banana as well as in green manuring. It is a most popular green manure yielding plant and it is believed that upon its application rice seedlings grow better. Its twig and flower are used as vegetable and curry respectively after steaming (Regmi, 1982).

Ageratum conyzoides Linn. (Compositae) GANAUNE JHAR (गनाउने फार)
Ingestion of leaves is said to cause nausea & vomiting to livestock.

Albizzia chinensis Merr. (Leguminosae) KALOSTRISH (कालां सिरिस)
Tender shoot especially the reddish aril if ingested by livestock undergoes vomiting & intoxication.

Amaranthus caudatus L. (Amaranthaceae) SETO LUNDE (सेतां लुडे)
Young plant after removing spines is used as vegetable (Regmi, '82)

Amaranthus spinosus (Linn. (Amaranthaceae) RATO LUNDE (रातां लुडे)
Young plant after removing spines is used as vegetable (Regmi, '82)

Amaranthus viridis Linn. (Amaranthaceae) RATO LATTE (रातां लट्टे)
Seed is eaten after frying as well as used in making alcohol.

Argemone mexicana Linn. (Papaveraceae) SUNGURE KANDA (सुगुरे कांटा)
Grinded root is used to cure stomach disorder of pigs.

Artemisia vulgaris Linn. (Compositae) TITE PATI (तिते पाती)
Juice of the leaves is used to cure scabies in man. Decoction of leaves is taken to cure cough and asthma.

Arisaema Sp. (Araceae) KANCH (कांच)
Pieces of tuber mixing with beer is given to women who have just delivered baby so as to check the diarrhoea, but if taken without mixing in beer causes inflammation of mouth parts. Leaves are

discarded by livestock. It is cultivated by a few in backyards for its medicinal purpose though it has toxic property as well.

Arisaema tortuosum (Wall) Schoot. (Araceae) CHARI BANKO (चरीबाकां)
No part is edible and if ingested any part especially tuber causes inflammation of mouth parts.

Artocarpus lakocha Roxb. (Moraceae) BADHAR (बडहर)
Ripe fruit is edible. (Regmi, 1982)

Asparagus racemosus Willd. (Liliaceae) KURILO (कुरीलां)
Lwig is used as vegetable.

Basisia butyraceae Roxb. (Sapotaceae) CHYURI (च्युरी)
Filtered extract of its seed is applied on nose of livestock to expel leeches.

Berberis asiatica Roxb. ex DC. (Berberidaceae) CHUTRO (चुत्रो)
Bark is used as drug for ophthalmic diseases of man.

Boehmeria platyphylla D. Don. (Urticaceae) KHADRETI (खट्रेटी)
Leaf is used as fodder.

Boenninghausenia albiflora (Hassk.) Meisner. (Rutaceae)

GWAME JHAR (ग्वामे फार)

Fresh plant or smoke of dried plant is used in repelling fleas of poultry (Gwame).

Bombax malbaricum DC. (Malvaceae) SIMAL (सिमल)

Tender shoot and flower are used as vegetable (Regmi, 1984).

Callicarpa macrophylla Vahl. (Verbenaceae) MALBOROWA (मालबोरावा)
Paste of fruit or root is taken to cure boils of throat.

Calotropis gigantea (L.) Dryand. (Asclepiadaceae) AANK (आंक)

Latex which comes after injuring any part is used as 'sniff' to cure colds & sinusitis.

Cassia fistula Linn. (Leguminosae) RAJBRIKSHYA (राजबुद्धा)
Seeds are taken as a laxative.

Cheilanthes albomarginata C.B. Clarke (Pteridaceae) RANISINKA

(रानीसिन्का)

Pounded leaves is used to check bleeding of wounds as a coagulent.

Citrullus Sp. (Cucurbitaceae) THULO INDRENI (ठूलां इन्द्रेनी),

AIRELU (आंरु)

Fruit which is extremely bitter if inedible but its kernel is applied to cure abscess of nails and headache.

Clematis Sp. (Ranunculaceae) BAGJUNGE (बागजुङ्गे)
Raw leaves are ingested to cure stomach disorder and food poisoning.

Colebrookia oppositifolia Sm. (Labiatae) BHOGATE (भोगटे)
Juice extracted from leaves is used to cure cataract of man & livestock.

Colocasia Sp. (Araceae) DARSAN PIPAL (दर्सन पिपल)
Upon eating its any part by livestock result vomitting and in extreme cases leads to fatality. (Bhandary & Shrestha, 1984)

Croton caudatus Giesel (Euphorbiaceae) AJIPAL, (अजिपाल),
JAIPAL (जैपाल) Leaves tender as well as mature if ingested by livestock causes bloating of stomach, drastic purgation and vomitting usually leading to fatality. Again fruits if taken by man causes nausea, vomitting & diarrhoea like in 'Cholera' generally resulting to death. The local preventive measure is to feed concentrated lime jice upto 1 litre within 1 - 2 hour. It is the most reputed & familiar toxic plant of the area. It is said that its seeds are taken in 'Butwal' a nearby town to sell among the local and Indian harbalists.

Cynoglossum zeylanicum Thunb. ex Lehm. (Boraginaceae)
KANIKEKURO (कनीकेकुरा) Juice of the root is used as an eye-ointment.

Datura metel Linn. (Solanaceae) 'KALO DHATURO' (काला धतुरा)
Leaf is said to be toxic to livestock. 1-2 seeds fried in oil if fed to livestock mixing with forage acts as an antidiarrhoeal remedy but in excess dosage like 3-4 seeds causes severe vomitting. Its seed if ingested by man causes intoxication & hallucination stronger than 'Ganja' or has his addiction.

Dendrocalamus strictus Nees. (Gramineae) TAMA BANS (तामा बांस)
Young shoot after fermentation is taken as vegetable. Leaves are used as tonic to ailing livestock but long time feeding act as antigalactogue.

Drymaria cordata Willd. sensu FBI. (Caryophyllaceae)
ABIJALO (अविजाला) Crushed leaves is applied externally to act as an refrigerant but upon ingestion causes nausea & vomitting.

Dryopteris Sp. (Aspidiaceae) KUTHURKE (कुथुके)
Young frond is taken as vegetable.

Engelhardtia spicata Lech. ex BI. (Juglandaceae) MAUWA (माँवा)

Grounded tender shoots are used for stupefaction of fishes.
(Bhandary & Shrestha, 1982).

Entada scandens Benth. (Mimosaceae) PANGRA (पाङ्ग्रा)
Paste of its seed is used as a plaster to join the fractured bones in men and cows.

Erythrina indica Lam. (Leguminosae) PHALEDO (फलेदां)
Leaf serves as food material to livestock as well to bats. Young pod is eaten after steaming or boiling. It is also used as a hedge plant.

Eugenia operculata Roxb. (Myrtaceae) KYAMUNO (क्यामुनां)
Leaves is chewed or its Juice is sniffed to cure colds & sinusitis.

Euphorbia roylena Boiss. (Euphorbiaceae) SIHUNDI (सिहुंडी)
Leaf is eaten by goats but caused allergic blisters around the mouth parts. Stem upon injury exudes latex which is used in stupefaction of fish. Its latex if imposed upon human eye causes inflammation and the local remedy is application of pure mustard oil.

Ficus benjamina Linn. (Moraceae) SAMI (समी)
Juice of its leaves is used as fleas & bug repellent.

Ficus cunia Buch.-Ham. (Moraceae) KHANIYO (खनियां)
Leaves are used as fodder and fruit is edible.

Ficus glomerulata Linn.f. (Moraceae) KHASRETO (खश्रेटां)
Leaves are ingested to livestock so as to ease the expulsion of obstructed placental cord during delivery cases.

Ficus lacor Buch.-Ham. (Moraceae) KAPRO (काप्रौं)
Young shoots are used in making curry.

Ficus nemoralis Wall. (Moraceae) PANKURI (पांकुरी)
Young shoot which is sour in taste is taken as curry after boiling or steaming.

Ficus Sp. (Moraceae) BEDAULO (बेडाउलां)
Fruit is edible. Leaves using as forage acts as galactagogue.

Fraxinus floribunda Wall. in Roxb. (Oleaceae) LANKURI (लांकुरी)
Tender shoot is used as forage.

Galium hirtiflorum Wall (Rubiceae) LAHRE GETI (लहरेगेंटी)
Pounded leaves are used as an 'yeast' to bake breads.

Grewia multiflora Juss. (Tiliaceae) PHOSRE, SISSU (फांश्रे, सिस्सु)
Leaves upon using as fodder act as galactagogue or induces lactation.

Indigophera pulchella Roxb. (Leguminosae) SAKHINO (साखीना)
Tender leaves using as forage causes salivation, vomiting & swelling of stomach and even fatality in extreme cases. But matured leaves do not make any harm.

Ipoemia fistulosa Mart. ex Choisy. (Convolvulaceae) BESHARMA (बेशर्मा)
Leaves if ingested by goats & sheep are said to cause intoxication

Jatropha curcas Linn. (Euphorbiaceae) SAJIWON (सजिवन)
2-3 seeds if ingested by man causes severe nausea & vomiting
Latex from the stem is used to check bleeding in cuts. Its twig which is commonly used as a convenient tooth brush if used for long time leaves permanent black spots in teeth as well as excess of latex causes injury to teeth.

Lobelia pyramidalis Wall. (Lobeliaceae) EKLEBIR (एकलेवीर)
Root is used as a remedy against food poisoning but if taken in empty stomach results nausea, vomiting & dizziness.

Lyonia ovalifolia (Wall.) Drude. (Ericaceae) ANGERI (अङ्गेरी)
Tender shoot is highly toxic to livestock especially to goats. Upon ingestion causes bloating of stomach and severe purgation, which often leads to fatality, if not treated promptly or within 1-2 hours. (Bhandary & Shrestha, 1984). The local preventive measure includes a mixture of concentrated line juice with ash and garlic or beers & yeast (Marcha).

Maesa chisia Buch.-Ham. (Myrsinaceae) BILAUNE (बिलाउने)
Leaves are used as fodder but if taken in excess causes vomiting and debility. Its fruit taken in large quantity is said to be toxic and especially children are more vulnerable. The symptoms are nausea, vomiting, dizziness and even fatality but low quantity does make no harm. (Bhandary & Shrestha, 1982).

Mimosa pudica Linn. (Mimosaceae) LAZZABATI (लज्जावती)
Plant is used as forage and is said to be galactagogue. The milk produced by its ingestion is supposed to give better quality of ghee.

Myrica esculenta Buch.-Ham. ex D. Don (Myricaceae) KAPHAL (काफल)
Infusion of the bark is used to cure pyorrhoea

Ophioglossum reticulatum Linn. (Ophioglossaceae) JIBRESAAG (जीब्रसाग)
Leaf is used as delicious vegetable. Spike or inflorescence is discarded.

Osyris wightiana Wallex Wight. (Santalaceae) PETEN (पेतें)
Ingestion of twigs by livestock causes vomiting & bloating of stomach. Of the same plant growing in shady & sunny area former is said to be toxic and the latter nontoxic. Leaves after boiling and drying are used as 'tea leaves'.

Oxalis corniculata Linn. (Oxalidaceae) CHARI AMILO (चरी अमिला)
Infusion of its leaves is applied in eye to cure cataract.

Plumeria acuminata Ait. (Plumeriaceae) GALAICHI (गलंची)

Leaf is disaggreable to livestock. Its latex is used to kill worms of the wounds. Young leaves are ingested by man to cure abdominal cramp.

Pogostemon glaber Benth. in Wall. (Labiatae) RUDILO (रुदीलो)

2-3 drops after decoction of leaf is administered to children to cure asthma.

Polygonatum Sp. (Liliaceae) BAHADURESAAG (बाहादुरे साग)

Leaves are used as vegetable.

Polygonum viscosum Ham. (Polygonaceae) PIRRE JHAR (पिरे फार)

Crushed plant is applied on ponds to stupefy fishes.

Rhododendron arboreum Sm. (Ericaceae) LALI GURANS (लाली गुरास)

Flowers which are mild sour in taste are used as curry (Regmi, 1982) as well as a remedy to cure dysentery.

Ricinus communis Linn. (Euphorbiaceae) ANDER (अंडेर)

Seeds are used in making vegetable oil or 'dalda'.

Rubus ellipticus Smith in Rees (Rosaceae) AINSELU (ऐसेलु)

Infusion of the root is taken orally by man to cure gasrtic disorders or 'Gano' in local dialect.

Saccharum officinarum L. (Gramineae) UKHU (उखु)

Ingestion of leaves acts as an abortifacient to livestock.

Rumex hastatus (Polygonaceae) AMILIGHANS (अमिलीघास)

The plant is relished by goats as fodder. Young leaves are used in making curry. This plant is acclaimed to be effective in checking soil erosion.

Sapium insigne Benth. (Euphorbiaceae) KHIRRO (खिर्रो)

Locally it is regarded as an useless and evil tree as its latex if imposed upon eye or any other body parts causes severe inflammation. Leaves are refused by livestock. Even the smoke of its logs is said to be injurious to eyes.

Schima wallichii (Korth.) DC. (Theaceae) CHILAUNE (चिलाउने)

Pounded bark is employed to stupefy fishes. Leaves are used as green manure.

Scurrula parasitica Linn. (Loranthaceae) AINJERU (ऐजेरु)

Tender shoots upto one handful if eaten by livestock is said to cause loss of appetite, vomiting & swelling of stomach. But matured or withered shoots do no harm.

Selaginella Sp. (Selaginaceae) SIMRIK (सिम्रीक)

Pounded leaves are used to check bleeding of the wounds.

Shorea robusta Gaertn.f. (Dipterocarpaceae) SAAL (साल)
Leaves are used as forage and in making plates. Flower is used to make curry. The trunk is used to make raftars. The juice exuded during cutting of the trunk is used to cure gastric or 'Gano' and the decoction of bark is used as varnish paint.

Smilax aspera Linn. (Smilacaceae) KIKURDAINO (कुकुरडाइनो)
Tender shoot is eaten raw or after cooking as a vegetable. Ingestion of leaves is said to act as laxative.

Spondias pinnata Linn.f. Kurz (Anacardiaceae)

Stephania glandulifera Miers (Menispermaceae)

BADAL PATE (बादलपाते) Leaves are used as drug against stomach disorder in man. The mixture of its leaves and root of Timmur i.e. Zanthoxylum armatum is used as an antipyretic.

Symplocos ramosissima (Symplocaceae) DABDABE (दबदबे)
Leaves are used as fodder. It is widely cultivated for the same purpose.

Tetraria macrodonta (Fee.) C. Chr. (Aspidiaceae)
KALO NYURO (काला न्यूरो) Young shoots are used as vegetable.

Thysanolaena maxima (Roxb.) O. Kuntze (Gramineae) AMRISO (अम्रीसां)
Decoction of root is used as an ant helminthic.

Urtica dioica Linn. (Urticaceae) SISNU (सिसु)
Tender shoot and leaves after through boiling are used as vegetable by poor people. (Regmi, 1982). Leaves are given to livestock after boiling and mixing with 'Kudo' or livestock's meal so as to increase lactation.

Villebrunea frutescens (Urticaceae) CHIPL EGHANS (चिप्लेघांस)
Ingestion of leaves to pregnant livestock is said to cause miscarriage.

Vitex negundo Linn. (Acanthaceae) SIMALI (सिमाली)
Infusion of the leaves or the leaf itself is placed inside the nostrils so as to induce sniff and to cure decongestion of nose and sinusitis. Leaves are placed below pillows so as to repel bugs & fleas from the bed. Young shoots are said to be edible.

Zanthoxylum armatum DC. (Rutaceae) TIMMUR (टिम्मुर)
Decoction of seed is taken to cure colds & cough. The mixture of its seed with garlic & beer is given to poultry to cure diarrhoea. The powder of its seed is commonly applied on exposed parts as an effective leech repellent. Seeds are mixed during mushroom cooking as a safety measure.

Discussion

The present study was carried out to gather ethnobotanical information from Palpa to assess the socio-economic, cultural and ecological effects of vegetational resources on the local people. In this report altogether 83 plants comprising 29 medicinal plants, 23 poisonous plants, 22 edible plants, 5 fodder plants, 2 green manure yielding plants and 5 plants of miscellaneous usage have been reported. These data are primarily based upon the local information characterised by traditional beliefs and experiences of native people of different caste and creeds like Magar, Tamang, Gurung, Chhetri etc. of Palpa. In course of age-long practice of using different forest produces which are easily available at free of cost from nearby forest area to meet the various daily needs especially the rural population have developed close affinity with the local vegetation. The diverse vegetational resources seem to play or significant role from socio-economic cultural and ecological aspect towards the life style and outlook of the local people.

As the result indicates, the highest proportion of plants are utilized for medicinal purpose in curing different diseases of man as well as livestock. The usage of seeds of Abrus precatorius (Ratigedi) in curing the venereal disease, the ritual of administering pieces of tuber of Arisaema sp. (Kanch) to prevent diarrhoea especially among the Magar women who have just achieved motherhood as well as application of mixture of the seeds of Zanthoxylum armatum (Timmur) with garlic and beer to check diarrhoea in poultry by Magar and Tamang are notable as these are characteristic of this area. Regarding socio-economic impact almost all rural people have deep faith upon the 'healing property' of wild herbs and medical advice of tribal healers or local physicians and this can be attributed to the profound traditional beliefs and poor economic condition. Similarly they are familiar with many poisonous plants and plants like Arisaema tortuosum, Datura, metel, Lobelia pyramidalis, Lyonia ovalifolia have been reported to be poisonous from Kathmandu Valley also (Bhandary & Shrestha, 1984). In this line Croton caudatus (Ajipal) is notable as it has not been reported as poisonous plant from other part of Nepal and in Palpa area people of all caste claim it as a highly toxic plant and it happens to have commercial value also. It shows that the rural people are well acquainted with the useful and harmful properties of many plants, on one hand they are beware of poisonous plants while on the other they have exploited the possible economic benefit with extra care. Besides they use many wild plants as vegetables and know many wild edible fruits. The use of Ophioglossum reticulatum (Jibre sag), Tetraria macrodonta (Kalo nyuro) as vegetable is quite popular at the market place of Tansen. The use of Mimosa pudica (Lazzabati Jhar) as more milk & best ghee producing forage plant in this locality is quite interesting as it has not been reported for the said purpose from other places. Being aware of the bad side effect of chemical fertilizer on quality of soil the local people are still habituated in applying many plant as green manures and it is of particular significance against the expensive synthetic fertilizers. Like in other rural area here also diffe-

rent plants are used as fish poison both as a old traditional practice and as a substitute to importation of fish poison chemicals. Besides the local people of this area used some plants for unique purposes rather uncommon to other places. Like the use of leaves of Galium hirtiflorum (Lahare geti) as a 'baking yeast' and applying the paste of Entada scandens (Pangra) as a 'plaster' in cases of bone fracture of man & animal. Similarly Rumex hastatus (Amili jhar) a weed is used as a fodder as well as in making curry and in cheking soil erosion.

The above account indicates that the vegetational resources of the area prove to be useful to the local people in many ways. It has been a traditional practice, social custom & economic measure to use many wild plants for different purposes. The local flora has contributed a lot in strengthening rural economy but we should also pay due attention not only in proper exploitation of these resources in sustainable basis but also in conservation measures as well thereby maintaing an ecological harmony between man and the vegetational resources.

Conclusion

The present study indicates that the Magars or the rural people of the Palpa area have developed a close acquaintance with the local flora to meet their several daily needs like medicines, food, fodder, fertiliser etc. In course of their practice of using various vegetational resources for manifold purposes, they have gained knowledge about the useful & harmful properties or economic values of many plants. In this regard, the ethnobotanical information of 83 plants mentioned in this article seems to be authentic as these are based upon their experiences. The present enlistment cannot be said a complete inventory as there might exist many potentially useful but less known plants. However, it attempts to tap the ethnobotanical informations on the potent vegetational resources of the area so as to contribute in furthering the ethnobotanical knowledge on the vegetation of the country. These crude ethnobotanical informations might prove helpful in evaluating the medicinal, food, fodder, fish poison, green manure and other values of the wild plants. The diverse vegetational resources can also be exploited commercially to produce many natural products or useful chemical compounds thereby fostering the economy of rural community by setting cottage industries & promoting the poor national economy of our country, which happens to be rich in the wealth of natural vegetation.

Acknowledgements

I am thankful to Mr T.R. Shrestha, Asst. Lecturer of Tribhuvan Campus, Palpa for his cherished company during the field trips as well as the taxomonists of Herbarium Section, Department of Mecicinal Plants, Godavary for their kind co-operation in indentification of plants. Sincere thanks are also due to the local people concerned for their rapport in accomplishing this task.

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