

Inventorization of Traditional Knowledge-based System vis-à-vis Ethnobotany in Didihat and Dharchula Tehsil, District Pithoragarh

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The interaction between people and plant biodiversity is as long as human beings existence on this planet. Plants as food and medicine have remained integral part of every society but with the passage of time man explored plants resource for a number of cultural needs. Mountain communities contribute to ecosystem maintenance through their rich culture, religious and spiritual beliefs, which incorporate a knowledge that has evolved over generations. Indigenous people show an ideal case study for representing the link between culture and biodiversity because this link is likely to be more apparent than in non-indigenous societies, where management of natural resources for subsistence is less evident and often disrupted by acculturation. Medicinal preparations derived from natural sources especially from plants, have been widely used in various cultures since time immemorial.

In view of the importance, the present study was an attempt to inventories floral and faunal usage in the traditional ethno-medicines, both as cure for human and livestock disorders, as also listing the scared plant species, in Didihat and adjoining areas of Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand which is also inhabited by indigenous Bhotiya community. Study followed extensive literature review and field survey. A total of 539 plants species were recorded that were being used by the identified for various purposes (Medicinal, food, fodder, firewood and timber). Medicinal value of 59 plants were recorded for curing different health conditions in livestock such as alaction, conjunctivitis, obstruction in the throat, hemorrhagic septicemia, blister or sore of mouth, haematuria, bone fracture, broken horns, burn, worm infection, dermatitis, dysentery, constipation, cough, cuts and bruises, dog bite, fever, lesions etc. A total of 57 animal or animal parts are used in traditional healthcare system of the Bhotiyas for curing whooping cough, ringworm, wounds, paralysis, asthma, burnt, malaria, fever, diabetes, ulcer, menstrual disorders, eczema, myriad diseases, piles, constipation etc. In addition, 57 plant species (e.g. *Mangifera indica*, *Betula utilis*, *Opuntia sp*, *Terminalia chebula*, *Euphorbia*

royleana, *Aspragus adscendens* etc.) are considered as sacred which are of their socio-religious use. The study highlighted 42 plant species used as natural dye yielding by the community. The study also recorded 12 wild edible mushrooms with their medicinal values.