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## Ethno-botanical study on the traditional healers in Pachamalai hills of Eastern Ghats, Tamilnadu, South India

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### Abstract

The present study was conducted to document the ethnomedicinal plants occurring in the local traditional healers of Pachamalai hills of Tamil Nadu, South India. The information on medicinal uses of plants is based on the interviews, structured questionnaires and discussion with traditional healers. Medicinally important 75 plant species, come under 47 families and 73 Genera. In the present study, Rubiaceae is most dominant family was used for the various ailments. The medicinal plants are prepared in the various forms such as decoction, infusion, fresh juice and crush the leaves are used as orally. Documentation of long-established knowledge on the ethno-medico uses of these plants is essential for conservation efforts for the plants resources and new drug development.

**Keywords:** Ethnobotany, Traditional healers, Ailments, Pachamalai

### 1. Introduction

Medicinal plants play a crucial role in providing primary health care to human populations, since the dawn of civilization. The knowledge of medicinal plants has been accumulated from different medicinal systems such as Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha. In India, it is reported that traditional healers use 2,500 plant species and 100 species of plants serve as regular source of medicine [1]. During the last few decades, an increasing interest in the study of traditional uses of medicinal plants has been witnessed in different parts of the world mainly due to many problems associated with synthetic drugs and emergence of multi-drug resistant pathogens [2]. Traditional medicinal knowledge of medicinal plants and their use by indigenous cultures are not only useful for conservation of cultural traditions and biodiversity but also for community health care and drug development in the present and future. There are considerable economic benefits in the development of indigenous medicines and in the use of medicinal plants for the treatment of various diseases.

The tribals belonging to the minor communities are socially, economically and among the least advanced. But they harbour a lot of knowledge on medicinal plants [3]. This diversified system of traditional practices prevails among the rural communities since time immemorial. These studies assume great importance in enhancing our traditional skills and technology about the plant grows and used for native or tribal communities for their sustenance. The current deforestation trends, which threaten the existence of medicinally important plants makes it inevitable that this information be made available and encourage preservation of their culture, traditional knowledge, conservation and sustainable utilization of the plant wealth occurring in the study area.

Ethnobotanical studies in the Eastern Ghats of Tamil Nadu have been carried out earlier by several researchers. A perusal of the available literature reveals that information on the comprehensive survey, documentation and enumeration of wild medicinal plants by the indigenous people in the Pachamalai hills of Eastern Ghats is meager and there is no such comprehensive study on this region particularly for hills as whole. Hence, in the present study, an attempt was made to survey and document the wild medicinal plant species in the study area. This is the pioneer to attempt an exhaustive analysis of the therapeutic values of such medicinal plants, which are probably drawing the attention of pharmacologists for further critical and scientific validation.

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## 2. Materials and methods

### 2.1. Study area

The present study was undertaken in the Pachamalai hills, located between the districts of Tiruchirappalli and Salem, Tamilnadu, South India. The hill is situated 2000 to 3000 feet above mean sea level and lies between 78.31' East and 11.28' North latitude. The total area is 14,122 sq. km. Pachamalai is green and natural hill range, just 80 km north of Tiruchirappalli via Thuraiyur.

### 2.2. Data collection

The field study conducted an extensive field survey in the tribal belts and other interior villages (Manalodi & Kinathur). First hand information was gathered through interactions with tribal and rural people including members of forest protection committees. During the field survey interact with traditional uses and Nattu vaithiyam about the local common diseases and using the drugs for those diseases. The ethnobotanical data (local name, useful parts, and medicinal uses) were collected through the tribal peoples in and around study area. In addition to the vernacular names and medicinal uses detailed information about mode of preparation (i.e., decoction, infusion, paste, powder and juice) form of usage with fresh or dried mixture of other plants used as ingredients were also collected.

The collected plant species were identified taxonomically using the Karnatic flora [3] and the flora of Tamil Nadu Carnatic [4], Indian medicinal plants and dictionary of medicinal plants. The identified plants species were then confirmed to the Herbaria of Rapinet, St. Joseph's College, Trichirappallai. The plants are arranged alphabetically by botanical names, family, local name, useful part and ethnobotanical uses for different diseases.

## 3. Results and Discussion

In the present study ethnobotanical survey was documented, 75 plant species are used for medicines representing 73 genera and 47 families (Table 1). (Table 2). The representing plants are mostly used to cure fever, cancer, snake bites dysentery, gastrointestinal disorders, piles, skin diseases, cough, abortion, asthma, jaundice, wounds and urinary problems and snake bite. These are medicinally important and dominated plants are observed in Rubiaceae (7), Combretaceae (3), Rutaceae (3), Euphorbiaceae (3), Apocynaceae (3), Papilionaceae (3), Menispermaceae (3), Menispermaceae (2), Malvaceae (2), Sterculiaceae (2), Tiliaceae (2), Plumbaginaceae (2), Verbenaceae (2), Moraceae (2), Dioscoreaceae (2), Araceae (2), Verbenaceae (2), Asteraceae, Caesalpiniaceae, Lauraceae, Sterculiaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Balanophoraceae, Erythroxylaceae, Melastomataceae, Hydrocharitaceae, Ebenaceae, Vitaceae, Celastraceae, Moringaceae, Verbenaceae, Acanthaceae, Meliaceae, Linaceae, Celastraceae, Hippocrataceae, Rhamnaceae, Sapindaceae, Aristolochiaceae, Ulmaceae, Palmae, Alangiaceae, Sapotaceae, Mimosaceae, Loganiaceae, Asclepiadaceae and Convolvulaceae. The plant parts used for medical preparation were bark, flowers, rhizomes, roots, leaves, seeds and whole plants. In some cases the whole plant including roots was utilized. The most frequently utilized plant parts were root (31), leaves (28), bark (20), fruit (13), flowers (9), seeds (9), wood (3), whole plant (3), tuber (2) and rhizome (1). Among them 35 trees, 28 herbs, 13 shrubs, 4 stragglers, 4 were vine (Table - 3). Collected data contains the list of plants of different families with their medicinal uses, which are listed in the order of Bentham and Hooker classification

**Table 1:** Family with maximum number of genus & species

| S. No. | Family           | No. of Genus | No. of Species |
|--------|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1      | Meliaceae        | 1            | 1              |
| 2      | Menispermaceae   | 1            | 1              |
| 3      | Menispermaceae   | 1            | 1              |
| 4      | Verbenaceae      | 1            | 1              |
| 5      | Malvaceae        | 1            | 1              |
| 6      | Sterculiaceae    | 1            | 1              |
| 7      | Sterculiaceae    | 1            | 1              |
| 8      | Tiliaceae        | 1            | 1              |
| 9      | Linaceae         | 1            | 1              |
| 10     | Rutaceae         | 1            | 1              |
| 11     | Celastraceae     | 1            | 1              |
| 12     | Hippocrataceae   | 1            | 1              |
| 13     | Rhamnaceae       | 1            | 1              |
| 14     | Plumbaginaceae   | 1            | 1              |
| 15     | Sapindaceae      | 1            | 1              |
| 16     | Caesalpiniaceae  | 1            | 1              |
| 17     | Combretaceae     | 1            | 2              |
| 18     | Alangiaceae      | 1            | 1              |
| 19     | Rubiaceae        | 1            | 1              |
| 20     | Rubiaceae        | 1            | 1              |
| 21     | Rubiaceae        | 1            | 1              |
| 22     | Plumbaginaceae   | 1            | 1              |
| 23     | Sapotaceae       | 1            | 1              |
| 24     | Mimosaceae       | 1            | 1              |
| 25     | Apocynaceae      | 1            | 1              |
| 26     | Apocynaceae      | 1            | 1              |
| 27     | Loganiaceae      | 1            | 1              |
| 28     | Verbenaceae      | 1            | 1              |
| 29     | Verbenaceae      | 1            | 1              |
| 30     | Aristolochiaceae | 1            | 1              |
| 31     | Euphorbiaceae    | 1            | 1              |
| 32     | Papilionaceae    | 1            | 1              |
| 33     | Euphorbiaceae    | 1            | 1              |
| 34     | Menispermaceae   | 1            | 1              |
| 35     | Ulmaceae         | 1            | 1              |
| 36     | Moraceae         | 1            | 1              |
| 37     | Dioscoreaceae    | 1            | 2              |
| 38     | Palmae           | 1            | 1              |
| 39     | Araceae          | 1            | 1              |
| 40     | Rubiaceae        | 1            | 1              |
| 41     | Asteraceae       | 1            | 1              |
| 42     | Menispermaceae   | 1            | 1              |
| 43     | Menispermaceae   | 1            | 1              |
| 44     | Rubiaceae        | 1            | 1              |
| 45     | Combretaceae     | 1            | 1              |
| 46     | Caesalpiniaceae  | 1            | 1              |
| 47     | Rubiaceae        | 1            | 1              |
| 48     | Lauraceae        | 1            | 1              |
| 49     | Sterculiaceae    | 1            | 1              |
| 50     | Cucurbitaceae    | 1            | 1              |
| 51     | Balanophoraceae  | 1            | 1              |
| 52     | Verbenaceae      | 1            | 1              |
| 53     | Apocynaceae      | 1            | 1              |
| 54     | Erythroxylaceae  | 1            | 1              |
| 55     | Melastomataceae  | 1            | 1              |
| 56     | Malvaceae        | 1            | 1              |
| 57     | Hydrocharitaceae | 1            | 1              |
| 58     | Vitaceae         | 1            | 1              |
| 59     | Ebenaceae        | 1            | 1              |
| 60     | Celastraceae     | 1            | 1              |
| 61     | Rubiaceae        | 1            | 1              |
| 62     | Euphorbiaceae    | 1            | 1              |
| 63     | Moringaceae      | 1            | 1              |
| 64     | Verbenaceae      | 1            | 1              |
| 65     | Moraceae         | 1            | 1              |
| 66     | Acanthaceae      | 1            | 1              |
| 67     | Rutaceae         | 1            | 1              |
| 68     | Tiliaceae        | 1            | 1              |
| 69     | Papilionoideae   | 1            | 1              |
| 70     | Rutaceae         | 1            | 1              |
| 71     | Asclepiadaceae   | 1            | 1              |
| 72     | Papilionaceae    | 1            | 1              |
| 73     | Convolvulaceae   | 1            | 1              |

**Table 2:** Ethnomedicinal plant species collected from Pachamalai hills of Eastern Ghats

| S. No | Botanical Name                                | Family           | Parts used                   | Ethno-medicinal Uses   |
|-------|---|------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 1     | <i>Swietenia mahagoni</i> (L.) Jacq.          | Meliaceae        | Bark                         | Bark used as an antipyretic, tonic and astringent: used as a substitute for cinchona bark.   |
| 2     | <i>Cyclea peltata</i> (Lam) Hook.f.           | Menispermaceae   | Roots and Leaves             | Phlegm, jaundice, Stomach pain, Liver complaints, Asthma Leprosy, Clotting of blood in abdomen and dandruff.   |
| 3     | <i>Pachygone ovate</i> (Poir)                 | Menispermaceae   | Leaves, flowers and Fruits   | Dried fruit used as a Vermicide and fish poison.   |
| 4     | <i>Clerodendrum infortunatum</i> auct. non.L. | Verbinaceae      | Leaves                       | Leaves used as bitter tonic, vermifuge, laxative and cholagogue. Leaves and roots used as external application in tumours. Fresh leaf juice used to remove ascarids.   |
| 5     | <i>Urena lobata</i> L.                        | Malvaceae        | Stem, flowers and Root       | Roots diuretic. Decoction of stem and roots used for flatulent colic. Flowers expectorant, their infusion used in aphthae and sore throat.   |
| 6     | <i>Helicteres isora</i> L.                    | Sterculiaceae    | Leaves and fruits            | Leaf decoction used to cure fever. Fruits powdered and included in tonic for women after child birth, fruit decoction for intestinal problems.   |
| 7     | <i>Sterculia urens</i> Roxb.                  | Sterculiaceae    | Leaves                       | Activates parturition, source of vitamin –A.   |
| 8     | <i>Grewia tiliifolia</i> Vahl                 | Tiliaceae        | Bark                         | Bark used in dysentery.  |
| 9     | <i>Hugonia mystax</i> L..                     | Linaceae         | Roots                        | Fever, Vermin sis, Inflammations.  |
| 10    | <i>Toddalia asiatica</i> (L.) Lam.Var         | Rutaceae         | leaves                       | Diaphoretic, Stomachic, Anti-pyretic, Diarrhoea, Rheumatism, Carminative and Painful bowles.   |
| 11    | <i>Celastrus paniculatus</i> Willd            | Celastraceae     | Leaves, Seeds, Oil, Bark.    | Alternative, antirheumatic, emetic Laxative and nervine tonic.   |
| 12    | <i>Salacia prinoides</i> DC.                  | Hippocrataceae   | Roots                        | Roots used in diabetes, also as an abortifacient, decoction given in amenorrhoea, dysmenorrhoea and venereal diseases.   |
| 13    | <i>Ventilago maderaspatana</i> Gae            | Rhamnaceae       | Bark                         | The bark is bitter thermogenics, digestive carminative, stomachic, alexeteric and tonic. It is useful in flatulence, erysipelas, leprosy, scabies, pruritus and other skin diseases, fever and general debility. |
| 14    | <i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> Linn.               | Plumbaginaceae   | Root                         | Root abortifacient, vesicant and diuretic, used in dyspepsia, piles, anasarca, diarrhoea and skin diseases.  |
| 15    | <i>Sapindus emarginata</i> Vahl               | Sapindaceae      | Fruits, Root bark            | Ear-ache, Eczema, Snake bite, Stimulate Uterus during child birth, Saponaceous, Astringent, Anthelmintic Asthma.   |
| 16    | <i>Acacia ferruginea</i> DC.                  | Caesalpinioideae | Bark, Fruits                 | Giddiness, diarrhoea, dysentery, piles, worm infestation, haemorrhage, cough, dyspnoea, skin diseases.   |
| 17    | <i>Terminalia bellirica</i> (Roxb)            | Combretaceae     | Bark, Fruits                 | Fruit one among the Triphala of Ayurveda, useful in Bronchitis, sore throat, Biliousness, Inflammations, Strangury, Asthma, diseases of Eyes.  |
| 18    | <i>Terminalia chebula</i> Retz                | Combretaceae     | Fruit                        | Fruit one among the Triphala of Ayurveda, useful in Asthma, sore throat, Thirst, Vomiting, Hiccough, Eye diseases, Diseases of heart and bladder.  |
| 19    | <i>Alangium salvifolium</i> (L.f)             | Alangiaceae      | Roots and fruits             | Laxative, nutritive, refringent and tonic, useful in emaciation, eye troubles, haemorrhage. Cooling and tonic. Paste used in rheumatic pains. Antipyretic, bitter etc.   |
| 20    | <i>Chomelia asiatica</i> (L.)Kuntze           | Rubiaceae        | Fruits                       | Fruits mashed and applied to boils to promote suppurations.  |
| 21    | <i>Morinda umbellata</i> L.                   | Rubiaceae        | Roots and leaves             | Decoction of roots and leaves useful in diarrhoea and dysentery.   |
| 22    | <i>Pavetta indica</i> L.                      | Rubiaceae        | Roots, Leaves                | Tonic, Purgative, Diuretic, Jaundice, Urinary diseases, Haemorrhoids, Boils, Dropsy.   |
| 23    | <i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> L.                  | Plumbaginaceae   | Roots                        | Acro-narcotic poison, Causes abortion, Rheumatic and paralytic affections, Ulcers, Leprosy, Enlarged spleen, Rubefacient, Piles, Skin diseases, Influenza.   |
| 24    | <i>Mimusops elengi</i> L.                     | Sapotaceae       | Bark, Flowers, Fruits, Seed. | Tonic, Lotion for wounds delivery in child birth, to increase fertility in women, Hydrophobia, Insanity.   |
| 25    | <i>Acacia catechu</i> (L.f.) Willd.           | Mimosaceae       | Root, bark and wood          | Used as sore throat and cough. Leprosy, abdominal disorder, worm infestation.  |
| 26    | <i>Alstonia scholaris</i> (L.)R.Br            | Apocynaceae      | Bark                         | Fever, diarrhoea, dysentery and increase mother milk.  |
| 27    | <i>Wrightia tinctoria</i> (Roxb) R.Br         | Apocynaceae      | Seeds, Bark, Stem,           | Tonic, Seminal weakness, Snake bites, Flatulence, Bilious troubles, Aphrodisiac, Fever.  |

|    |   |                    | Leaves                               |   |
|----|---|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| 28 | <i>Strychnos nux vomica</i> L.                  | Loganiaceae        | Leaves and Roots                     | The root bark is bitter and is useful in cholera. The leaves are applied as poultice in the treatment of chronic wound. Ulcers of paralytic complaints.   |
| 29 | <i>Clerodendrum serratus</i> (L.) Moon          | Verbenaceae        | Roots, Leaves                        | Bronchial asthma, Bronchitis, Sinusitis, Pharyngitis, Skin inflammation, Diminished appetite.   |
| 30 | <i>Gmelina arborea</i> Roxb.                    | Verbenaceae        | Whole plant.                         | Applied in scorpion sting. Leaves juice useful in cough, gonorrhoea.  |
| 31 | <i>Aristolochia indica</i> L.                   | Aristolochiaceae   | Leaves and Roots.                    | Roots and rhizome used as a stimulant and bitter tonic used for snake bite.   |
| 32 | <i>Cleistanthus collinus</i> (Roxb) Benth       | Euphorbiaceae      | Leaves, roots and Fruits.            | Leaves, roots and fruits act as a gastrointestinal irritant. Leaves used as abortifacient.  |
| 33 | <i>Indigofera trifoliata</i> Linn.              | Papilionaceae      | Seeds                                | Seeds restorative, astringent and aphrodisiac, used in rheumatism and leucorrhoea.  |
| 34 | <i>Mallotus philippensis</i> (Lam) muell Arg    | Euphorbiaceae      | Leaves                               | Chronic skin diseases, oedema, as purgative   |
| 35 | <i>Pachygone ovate</i> (Poir) HK.f. & Thoms.    | Menispermaceae     | Fruit                                | Dried fruit used as a vermicide and fish poison.  |
| 36 | <i>Holoptelea integrifolia</i> (Roxb) Planchon. | Ulmaceae           | Bark, Leaves                         | Inflammations, Leprosy, Dyspepsia, Flatulence, Colic, Rheumatism, Diuretic, Vomiting, Helminthiasis, Diabetes, Skin diseases, haemorrhoids.   |
| 37 | <i>Streblus asper</i> Lour                      | Moraceae           | Leaves, roots, bark, latex and seed. | Leaves used as a galactagogue, their poultice, applied swellings and bufoes. Roots given in dysentery. Decoction of bark used in fevers, diarrhoea, and dysentery. Latex astringent and antiseptic, applied to sore heals. Seed used in epistaxis, piles and diarrhoea, externally paste applied to leucoderma. |
| 38 | <i>Dioscorea oppositifolia</i> L.               | Dioscoreaceae      | Tubers                               | Tubers ground and applied to swellings.   |
| 39 | <i>Dioscorea pentaphylla</i> L.                 | Dioscoreaceae      | Tubers                               | Tubers used as tonic and in swellings.  |
| 40 | <i>Caryota urens</i> L.                         | Palmae (Arecaceae) | Toddy, Nuts                          | Aphrodisiac, Seminal weakness, Urinary disorders, Hemiparesis, Hair tonic and cosmetics.  |
| 41 | <i>Acorus calamus</i> L.                        | Araceae            | Rhizome                              | Leaf and stalk powder decoction, used in skin diseases, haemorrhage, fever, urinary diseases, purgative, appetizer etc.   |
| 42 | <i>Mitragyna parvifolia</i> (Roxb) Korth.       | Rubiaceae          | Bark and roots                       | Bark and roots used in colic and as a febrifuge.  |
| 43 | <i>Vernonia anthelmintica</i> (L.) Willd        | Asteraceae         | Leaf, seed                           | Leucoderma, urinary disorders, abdominal disorders, skin diseases eczema and mental disorder  |
| 44 | <i>Tiliocora acuminata</i> (Lam) Miers          | Menispermaceae     | Roots                                | Antidote to snake poison.   |
| 45 | <i>Cocculus hirsutus</i> (L.)                   | Menispermaceae     | Roots and leaves                     | The roots are bitter digestive, diuretic, anti pyretic and tonic and are useful in poisonous bites, skin diseases, cough and hypertension.  |
| 46 | <i>Pavetta tomentosa</i>                        | Rubiaceae          | Leaves and roots                     | Roots tonic, purgative and diuretic, used for visceral obstructions, urinary diseases, jaundice and dropsical affections. Decoction of leaves used as a lotion for ulcerated nose and for haemorrhoids.   |
| 47 | <i>Terminalia chebula</i> Retz                  | Combretaceae       | Bark and fruit                       | Bark diuretic and cardio tonic. Fruits laxative, stomachic, tonic and alternative form a constituent of Triphala an important ayurvedic medicine used for many ailments. Powdered fruit smoked in asthma.   |
| 48 | <i>Cassia tora</i> Linn.                        | Caesalpiniaceae    | Root, leaf and seed                  | Leaves purgative, used in ringworm and other skin troubles. Venereal diseases, inflammations and fever.   |
| 49 | <i>Rubia cordifolia</i> L.                      | Rubiaceae          | Fruits and Roots                     | Dried roots and fruits for disease of spleen. In unani medicine, drug is used as a tonic to liver and spleen. Manjishtha for scabies and chronic skin diseases.   |
| 50 | <i>Litsea glutinosa</i>                         | Lauraceae          | Leaves, flowers and bark             | Mucilaginous bark used in diarrhoea and dysentery, also used for sprains, bruises and rheumatic gouty joints and as an emollient and styptic. Leaves and flowers employed in poultices for bruises and wounds.  |
| 51 | <i>Pterospermum xylocarpum</i>                  | Sterculiaceae      | Leaves                               | Leaves used in leucorrhoea.   |

|    |   |                            |                                       |  |
|----|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
|    | (Gaertn)Sant & Wagh                                   |                            |                                       |  |
| 52 | <i>Corallocarpus epigaeus</i> (Clarke)                | Cucurbitaceae              | Seeds                                 | Syphilitic cases, Venereal complaints, Bilious diseases, coughs and Bowel complaints.  |
| 53 | <i>Balanophora fungosa</i><br>J.R.&G, Forst           | Balanophoraceae            | Whole plant                           | Whole plant Diseases of vatam and kaphm, eczema, throat diseases dyspnea, digestive disses orders.   |
| 54 | <i>Clerodendrum serratum</i> (L.)<br>Moon             | Verbinaceae                | Leave, root and seed                  | Roots used in rheumatism and dyspepsia. Leaves used as febrifuge, also as an external application in cephaigia and ophthalmia. Seeds aperients, used in dropsy.  |
| 55 | <i>Ichnocarpus frutescens</i> (L.) R.Br               | Apocynaceae                | Roots                                 | Roots demulcent, tonic, diaphoretic, and diuretic, used in combination with bitters and aromatics in fevers, dyspepsia and skin troubles. Powdered root used in diabetes and stone in gall bladder.  |
| 56 | <i>Erythroxylum monogynum</i><br>Roxb.                | Erythroxylaceae            | Wood and bark                         | Infusion of wood and bark stomachic, diaphoretic and diuretic, useful in dyspepsia and fever.  |
| 57 | <i>Memecylon edule</i> Roxb.                          | Melastomataceae            | Roots, Leaves                         | Menorrhagia, Heavy menstruation, Leaf decoction used in washing the eyes.  |
| 58 | <i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i><br>(L.) Garcke      | Malvaceae                  | Flowers                               | Emollient and resolvent, decoction given in dysentery. Flowers used as a pectoral and diaphoretic.   |
| 59 | <i>Ottelia alismoides</i> (L.)Pers.                   | Hydrocharitaceae           | Leaves                                | Plant rubefacient. Leaves used to cure haemorrhoids.   |
| 60 | <i>Tetrastigma lanceolarium</i><br>(Roxb).            | Vitaceae                   | Leaf                                  | Leaf poultice applied to boils.  |
| 61 | <i>Diospyros montana</i> Roxb.                        | Ebenaceae                  | Wood                                  | Wood used for ornamental carving.  |
| 62 | <i>Cassine glauca</i> (Rottb)                         | Celastraceae               | Root, bark and flower                 | Root snake bite poisoning, swellings .Bark flower Dysuria, wounds, burning sensation, hyperacidity.  |
| 63 | <i>Canthium dicocum</i> (Gaertn)<br>Teijsm. & Binn.   | Rubiaceae                  | Bark                                  | Bark employed as a febrifuge and applied externally in fractures.  |
| 64 | <i>Cleistanthus collinus</i> (Roxb)<br>benth.ex Hk.f. | Euphorbiaceae              | Leaves, roots and fruits              | Leaves, roots, and fruits act as gastrointestinal irritant. Leaves used as abortifacient.  |
| 65 | <i>Moringa concanensis</i> Nimmo ex<br>Dalz.          | Moringaceae                | Root, bark, stem bark, fruit, flower. | Intermittent fever, abscess, epilepsy, rheumatism, faint, Aphrodisiac, Liver diseases, joint pain and paralysis.   |
| 66 | <i>Premna corymbosa</i><br>(Burm.f.)Rottl.&Willd.     | Verbenaceae                | Roots and leaves                      | Roots used as a laxative, stomachic, cardial and tonic it is one of the important ingredients of Dasamula. Decoction of leaves given in flatulence and colic.  |
| 67 | <i>Streblus asper</i> Lour.                           | Moraceae                   | Leaves bark and seeds.                | Leaves used as a galactagogue. Roots given in dysentery. Decoction of bark used in fevers, diarrhoea. Latex astringent and antiseptic. Seeds used in epistaxis, piles and diarrhoea; externally paste applied to leuciderma.   |
| 68 | <i>Barleria buxifolia</i> L.                          | Acanthaceae                | Leaves and Roots                      | Leaves and Roots used for coughs and inflammations   |
| 69 | <i>Todalia asiatica</i> (L.)Lam.                      | Rutaceae                   | Roots, Leaves, Flowers, Fruits.       | Diaphoretic, Stomachic, Anti-pyretic, Diarrhoea, Rheumatism, Carminative, Debility during convalescence, Amenorrhoea, painful bowels   |
| 70 | <i>Corchorus olitorius</i> Linn.                      | Tiliaceae                  | Leaves                                | Infusion of leaves used as tonic and febrifuge; also as a demulcent in cystitis and dysuria.   |
| 71 | <i>pseudarthria viscida</i> (L.) W&A                  | Papilionoideae (Faboideae) | Root                                  | Used to relieve biliousness, rheumatism, breathing difficulties excessive heat, fever, diarrhoea, asthma, worms and piles.   |
| 72 | <i>Atlantia monophylla</i> (Roxb).<br>DC.             | Rutaceae                   | Leaf, fruit and root.                 | Berries yield fatty oil used externally in rheumatism.   |
| 73 | <i>Sarcostemma brunonianum</i><br>Wt. & Arn.          | Asclepiadaceae             | Roots                                 | Dried stems emetic. Infusion of roots given to persons bitten by rapid dogs.   |
| 74 | <i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam) Taub.                   | Papilionaceae              | Bark, Seeds, flowers, and leaves      | Bark astringent, used in piles, tumours, and menstrual disorders, gum called butea gum is astringent and used in diarrhoea. Seeds pounded with lemon juice acts as powerful rubefacient and used as a cure for a form of herpes called 'Dhobis 'itch. Extract of seeds, flowers and leaves reputed to have contraceptive property. |
| 75 | <i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> (L.)Linn.                 | Convolvulaceae             | Whole plant                           | Plant acts as tonic and febrifuge .Also used as vermifuge ; along with oil used in promoting hair growth   |

**Table 3:** Distribution of plants under different habits

| S. No. | Habitats | No. of Species |
|--------|----------|----------------|
| 1      | Trees    | 28             |
| 2      | Herbs    | 12             |
| 3      | Shrubs   | 17             |
| 4      | Climber  | 18             |

Documenting the indigenous knowledge through ethnobotanical studies is important for conservation and utilization of biological resources. Tribal groups, forest dwellers and rural people possess unique knowledge about plants and their uses. Traditional healers, use their eyes, ear, nose and hands to diagnose the disease, this way of diagnosis interesting because they live in interior areas and lack the use of modern scientific equipment for treatment, they however treat diseases using medicinal plants [6]. Dissemination of the knowledge of medicinal property would improve the socioeconomic status of the traditional healers. Parts of the plants used by these communities vary from plant to plant. Further studies on chemical and pharmacological actions are suggested to validate the claims. The present data on the ethno-medicinal plants will aid in conservation, cultivation of traditional medicine and economic welfare of population.

The present study revealed that medicinal plants still play an important in the primary health care of the rural communities. The information gathered from the local traditional healers are useful for further researchers in the field of ethno botany, Taxonomy and development of new drug from natural resources. This study also offers a model for studying the relationship between plants and people, within the context of traditional remedies is obviously ensure therapeutically

efficacy. Plant based traditional knowledge has become a recognized tool in search for new sources of drugs and Nutraceutical. Dissemination of the knowledge of medicinal plants and their usage would also improve the socioeconomic status of the tribes.

#### 4. References

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