TS1-O1

Biodiversity of medicinal plants in north east India: their systematic utilisation

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North eastern India comprising of eight states namely Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura is widely rich in biodiversity belonging to different climatic conditions varying from tropical subtropical, temperate and alpine zones which covers the major occurrence of medicinal plants. The different states of North east India are falling into different hill zones like Eastern Himalaya beginning from Sikkim to Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh, Naga hills covering the areas of Nagaland and Manipur states, Lusai hills with Mizoram and Tripura states and Garo, Jayantiya and Khasi hills occupying the state of Meghalaya. The biodiversity distribution extents even to neighbouring countries like China, Myanmar and Bangladesh. Classification of different hills of north eastern India provides the distribution of specific medicinal plants like Sikkim is the richest source for Bergenia ciliate, Cordiceps sinensis, Hippophae species, Nardostachys jatamansi, Picrorhiza kurrooa, Swertia chirayita; Arunachal Pradesh for Acorus calamus, Aquilaria agallocha, Berberis aristata, Cinnamonomum tamala, C. zeylanica, Coptis teeta, Cordiceps sinensis, Embelia ribes, Paris polyphilla, Rubia cordifolia, Gynocordia odorata, Illicium griffithii, Taxus wallichiana, Valeriana jatamansi; Nagaland and Manipur for Smilax glabra, Asparagus adscendens with less occurrence of Rubia cordifolia, Taxus wallichiana, Thallictrum foliolosum etc; Jayantiya hill of Meghalaya comprises of wider distribution of Embelia ribes; Lusai hill covering the state of Mizoram and eastern plains of Tripura comprises of Holorhena antidysenterica, Mallotus philippinensis, Saraca asoka, Smilax glabra, Stephania glabra and Terminalia chebula. Plants belonging to Zingiberaceae like Curcuma aromatica, C. caesia, C. zedoaria, Hedychium coronerium, H. spicatum and Phyllanthis amarus are widely distributed in foot hills of Arunachal Pradesh and other north eastern states and adjoining part of Assam. Various cultivation practices have developed the sites for cultivation of Alstonia scholaris, Andrographis paniculata, Asparagus racemosus, Elaeocarpus sphericus, Mesua ferrea, Oroxylum indicum etc. in the tropical region. Paper deals with various cultivation practices of some of the high demand medicinal plants in north eastern states.

TS1-O2

Threatened medicinal flora of Udanti wildlife sanctuary, Chhattisgarh

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Udanti wildlife sanctuary is an important protected area of Chhattisgarh. The sanctuary is densely covered with rich biodiversity. The exploration of this sanctuary yielded 78 medicinally important plant species; belonging to 35 families and 75 genera. Out of the total 78 medicinal plants documented, 24 species have been assessed to be threatened in India. Among the threatened plant species, there were 12 trees, 5 herbs, 4 shrubs and 3 climbers. The threat categories included 7 endangered, 7 vulnerable, 4 indeterminate, 3 least concerned, 1 low risk, 1 near threatened and 1 not evaluated. Major threats to the medicinal flora of the sanctuary were found to be forest fire and biotic interferences.

TS1-O3

Conservation and sustainable utilization of medicinal plant diversity of Kashmir Himalaya

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Kashmir Himalaya harbors a rich diversity of valuable medicinal flora, which are used in pharmaceutical industry and herbal drugs. Kashmir has old tradition of utilization of herbal drugs for curing of ailment.