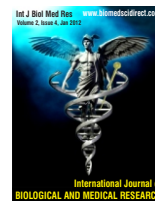


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Original article

Distribution, habitat and medicinal uses of some important flora of Dachigam national park srinagar(J&K)

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ABSTRACT

Abstract:- The forests of western Himalayas particularly the temperate forests have been reliably identified as a 'Biodiversity hot spot' a global priority for the conservation of Biodiversity. Dachigam National Park Srinagar(j&k), located amidst the boundary of western Himalaya region. In the current study distribution of flora species and habitat maps were developed in the sighting date, vegetation type and other terrain factors including altitude, slope and aspect. The current paper reports 6 Medicinal plants belonging to 6 different families of Dachigam National Park are identified, which are being used by the people of study area. The study was carried out by interviewing more than 100 informants, involving 50 males, 30 females and 20 herbalists. The medicinal herbal data sheet was incorporated to get the detail information on the specific plant used by the inhabitants. The present investigation provides baseline information of the flora of Dachigam National Park, Srinagar (j&k) for their biological activity.

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1. Introduction

As someone said, when Dachigam is in full bloom with all its wild fruits, Trees and animals, it makes us feel that this is the closest we get abode of "Gods" Try and picture a place beautiful beyond our image add wild cherry, salix, poplar, pear etc all grow wild. Dachigam National Park is one of important National park in the country, which is situated 22kms from the city srinagar covering an area of 141sqkms at an altitude 5500ft to 14000ft. above sea level. The park has been protected area since 1910 first under the care of Maharaja of (J&K) and later under the concerned Govt. authorities. It was initially created to ensure clean drinking water supply to the city srinagar. It was finally upgraded and declared as National park in the year 1981. Besides the various flora (wild cherry, poplar, willow, pear etc.) this park is also flourished with diverse group of medicinal plants which are very important for their medicinal value and need to be protected [1 - 3]

2. Materials and Methods

The habitat maps were developed from different maps and digital models of the terrain that allows the actual vegetation to be related to the other environmental factors. The study was carried out by interviewing more than 100 informants involving 50 males, 30 females and 20 herbalists from 10 remote sites of study area during Aug.-Sept.2010. The information were collected as per methodology of Ahmad et al.(2007), Qureshi et al(2009). The survey was unique in that the emphasis was given on both on both male and female members of the community. The medicinal herbal data sheet was incorporated to get the detail information on specific plant used by the inhabitants. Female interview with brief introduction and purpose of study which helped to gain the trust of female therefore allowing them to talk freely. Transect walks were carried out with tribal people for collection of correct species with their original habitat. Collection data was also cross checked in different areas from local informants either by showing plant specimen or telling the local names to the informants. Further authentication was carried out at Agarkar instt. Pune.

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3. Results:- During the course of present study plants used in the various treatment have been given special attention and following sized plants detailed flokfore information have been given bellow. The information were made in tabular form with their scientific names, local names,families, silient features and part used.

Name of the plant	Plant local name	Family	Silent features and part used
1. Malva rotundifolia	Sutsal	malvaceae	<p>When the seed bloom upward, It leaves behind a long stretch of maturing seed Pods like little flat discs with a tinny notch at the top</p> <p>The long leaf is pointed at both ends, its edge is slightly rolled under and the ribs are prominent and rough beneath, the texture is strong, fibered, and surface is rough. The leaves set in short stems with a pair of wings and the junction with the stalk and occur alternatively</p> <p>Seeds boiled in sugary (sharbat) is taken to cure cough and fever</p>
2. Urtica dioica	Soi	Urticaceae	<p>it is herbaceous perennial plant and is the best known member of the nettle genus Urtica. the plant has many hollow sticking hairs called trichomes on its leaves and stems which act like hypodermic needles that inject histamine and other chemicals that produce a sticking sensation when contacted to humans and animals Nettle is believed to be galactagogue, urtication. The plant is used for the Treatment prostatic hyperplasia, arthritis and increase free testosterone</p>
3. Prinula vulgaris	Kalwauth	Prinulaceae	<p>It is herbaceous perennial with a basal rosette of leaves. The individual plant bear pin flowers with the capita of the style prominent or thrum flowers are 2-4cm in diameter, born singly on a slender stem, pale yellow or white. Actinomorphic superior ovary which later forms capsule. The hot water bath of flowering tops is used to cure headache, fever, and body muscular pain</p>
4. Datura stramonium	Datur	Solanaceae	<p>It is an erect annual herb forming a bush upto 3 to 5 feet tall. The leaves are soft, irregularly undulate and toothed the fragrant flowers are trumpet shaped, white to creamy or violet and 2.5 to 3.5 inch long. the egg shaped seed is walnut sized and either covered with spines. The fruits and leaves are considered good for pain in the chest. the powdered leaves are applied to hemorrhoids, gastro intestinal problems, arthritis, rattle snake bites and tumors.</p>
5. Labiateae	Brarigasa	Lamiaceae	<p>The leaves are emerge oppositely, Each pair at right angles to the previous one called decussate. the stems are frequently square in cross section. The flowers are bilaterally symmetrical with unite petals, 5. united sepals, bisexual and verticillate. Infusion of leaves is used in the treatment of itches and skin eruptions, leaf juice is applied to treat baldness (alopecia). Seed powder is given to children against worm infection.</p>
6. Allium sativum	Rohun	Alliaceae	<p>The leaves are emerge oppositely, Each pair at right angles to the previous one called decussate. the stems are frequently square in cross section. The flowers are bilaterally symmetrical with unite petals, 5. united sepals, bisexual and verticillate. Infusion of leaves is used in the treatment of itches and skin eruptions, leaf juice is applied to treat baldness (alopecia). Seed powder is given to children against worm infection.</p>

4. Discussion

In the present study Majority 40% of the Bank employees were in the age group of 40 to 50 yrs, followed by 38% in 50 to 60yrs age group. In the study by Mandal S et al [10] in 250 urban population of Siliguri, Westbengal, the mean age of the study population was 52.8 years old (+ 12.6). The mean age of males was 54 years old and the mean age of females was 51.5 years old.

The findings of our study comparable with other studies conducted among urban population of Belgaum, Thiruvanthapuram and Jaipur cities. [5, 8, 9] It was also comparable with industrial employees of North India and in American population (Harvard alumni). [6]

Table 4: Showing the prevalence of the risk factors among various studies

4. Conclusion

The therapeutic use of plant species in this paper to excision and incision wound model is hardly reported earlier. So, screening for active chemical substances or plant ingredients for wound healing activity needs to be carried out which is continued in the present laboratory and will be reported elsewhere. The present investigation provides baseline information of the flora of Dachigam National Park for their biological activity.

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