Ethnobotanical survey of medicinal plants for Skin diseases and Poisonous bites in Chennampatti range, Erode district, Tamilnadu.

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Abstract: For thousands of years, medicinal plants have played an important role in treating and preventing a variety of diseases. Traditional medicinal practices based on the use of plants account for about 85% of the primary healthcare derived globally. Documentation of ethno-medicinal information have substantial role in illuminating folk knowledge which facilitates the discovery of modern allopathic drugs. The present study was initiated with an aim of documenting the medicinal plants used for treating skin diseases and poisonous bites among the people of surrounding villages in Chennampatti range. The study was conducted through intensive field surveys and about 27 plant species belonging to 20 families and 24 genera have been documented along with their botanical name, family, vernacular name, parts used and mode of preparation using interviews, group discussions and interactions with the village people and traditional healers (nattuvaidhyars). The survey revealed that herbs and trees are largely used for curing skin diseases and poisonous bites followed by climbers and shrubs. Leaves are used highly than other plant parts. The prominent family to which the plant species belong include Euphorbiaceae and Caesalpiniaceae followed by Menispermaceae, Acanthaceae and Rubiaceae. The report of this study would help to preserve the indigenous knowledge on wild medicinal plants for their sustainable utilization and conservation.

Key Words : Ethnobotanical survey, Chennampatti range, Skin diseases, Poisonous bites, Nattuvaidhyars, Medicinal plants.

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