Ethnobotanical Plants used for Gynecological Disorders by the Paite Tribe of Churachandpur District, Manipur, North-East India

Leishangthem Ranibala Devi[1], Ajit Kumar Das[2]
[1, 2] Department of Ecology & Environmental Science
[1, 2] Assam University, Silchar-788011

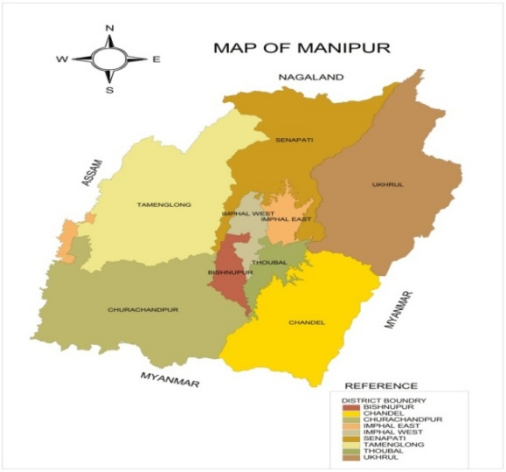
Abstract- *The present paper reports of 27 plants species belonging to 22 families with 25 genera having the potential of curing various gynecological disorders practiced by the Paite people of Churachandpur district, Manipur. They are primarily depend on the wild plants for their welfare in different ways. The reported plants are enumerated with binomial, vernacular name, family, parts used and mode of use for different ailments. Further investigation on chemical and pharmacological actions are considered to validate the claims.*

Keywords- Churachandpur, gynecological disorders, pharmacological, Manipur

I. INTRODUCTION

Manipur resides in the most northeastern tip of the Indian subcontinent. It has divided into nine (9) districts, of which one of the hilly districts, Churachandpur district, is the largest district of Manipur. The history of herbal medicine is old as human civilization. Certainly the great civilizations of the ancient Chinese, Indians and North Africans provided written evidence of man's ingenuity in utilizing plants for the treatment of a wide variety of diseases. The use of medicinal plants for the treatment of diseases is old as mankind. The search for agents to cure infections began long before people were aware of the existence of microbes (Safowora,1982). Plant and plant products are the basis of many of the modern pharmaceuticals we used today for various ailments[1][2] . At one time, nearly all medicines were derived from biological resources. Nearly 80% of the world population rely on traditional medicines for primary health care, most of which involve the use of plant extracts[4]. In India, almost 95 % of the prescriptions are plant-based in the traditional systems of Unani, Ayurveda, Homeopathy and Siddha[3].

The ethno-medicinal research is an important aspect of ethno-botanical research. The tribal oral traditional knowledge is the storehouse of information of usage of plants in the surroundings in various ways. Indigenous knowledge is a potential tool in searching for new economic and medicinal plants. Ethnic communities around the world knew the process of utilization of crude drugs from the neighbourhood herbal flora to cure various ailments. As the ethnic groups migrated from place to place in search of their livelihood, their folklore knowledge became fragmented and their findings now became the basic things for the production of new drugs. Ethno-gynaecology is an important field of study that deals with various diseases related to abortion, fertility, irregular menstruation, etc. This present paper reveals the potential of the ethnomedicinal plants used for gynaecological disorders practiced by the Paite tribe of Manipur inhabited in Churachandpur district for combating various related ailments.



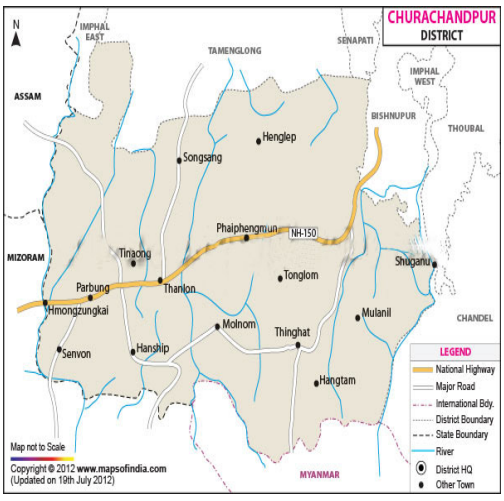


Fig. No. Diagram showing the studied area

Table No. 1: List of plants showing different gynecological problems

Scientific name/ Family	Vernacular name	Parts used	Usage
Achyranthus aspera L./ Amaranthaceae	*Vottul*	leaves	irregular menstruation
Aegle marmelos(L) Corr./ Rutaceae	*Bilthei*	Fruit	increase fertility
Bauhinia variegata L./ Caesalpinaceae	*Tangvau*	Bark	leucorrhoea.
Carica papaya L./ Caricaceae	*Singtangmal*	Fruit	promote milk flow
Celtis australis L. / Ulmaceae	*Heikreng*	Leaves	excessive uterine bleeding
Centella asiatica L./ Apiaceae	*Tangheite*	Leaves	cure dizziness in early pregnancy.
Citrus limon L./ Rutaceae	*Champra*	Fruit	good health of fetus.
Coix lacrymajobi L./ Poaceae	*Sangsanelbem*	Grains & root	menstrual disorders.
Coriandrum sativum L./ Apiaceae	*Lounamsia*	Leaves	vomiting in early pregnancy.
Dicrocephala integrifolia Kuntze / Asteraceae	*Lalukok*	Whole plant	excessive bleeding during menses
Eucalyptus citriodora Hook./ Myrtaceae	*Seemnaksing*	Leaves	cure back pain during pregnancy.
Eupatorium birmanicum DC./ Asteraceae	*Tangsaam*	Leaves	leucorrhoea.
Gossypium arboreum L./ Malvaceae	*Pat*	Seed	promote breast milk
Hedychium rubrum A.S. Rao & D.M. Verma/ Zingiberaceae	*Aitak*	Root	leucorrhoea.
Ipomoea batatas (L.) Lam./ Convolvulaceae	*Kwalkai*	Leaf	promote flow of milk.
Ipomoea quamoclit L./ Convolvulaceae	*Thangleipak*	Whole plant	leucorrhoea.
Kaemferia rotunda L./ Zingiberaceae	*Yai - Thamnamanbi*	Tuber	leucorrhoea.
Lagenaria siceraria (Molina) Standl./ Cucurbitaceae	*Umkha*	Fruit	excessive uterine bleeding.
Musa paradisiaca L./ Musaceae	*Nahteng*	Stem, flower	Promote milk flow
Mesua ferrea L. / Clusiaceae	*Helsesing*	Flowers	leucorrhoea.
Nerium indicum Mill/ Apocynaceae	*Kabirei*	Roots	abortion.

Nerium oleander L./ Apocynaceae	*Kabirei angouba*	Leaves	promote lactation.
Opuntia stricta (Haw.) Haw./ Cactaceae	*Meipokpi*	Phyllocladde	increase flow of milk.
Pandanus furcatus Roxb./ Pandanaceae	*Gamlengthei*	Flower	irregular menstruation.
Phlogocanthus curviflorus Nees / Acanthaceae	*Kolhoute*	Leaves	excessive uterine bleeding.
Scutellaria discolor Colebr./ Lamiaceae	*Namthul*	Whole plant	irregular menstruation.
Similax lanceaefolia Roxb./ Similaceae	*Vokpihabah*	Root	leucorrhoea.
Swertia augustifolia Buch. – Ham. ex D. Don/ Gentianaceae	*Aksering*	Whole plant	irregular menstruation.

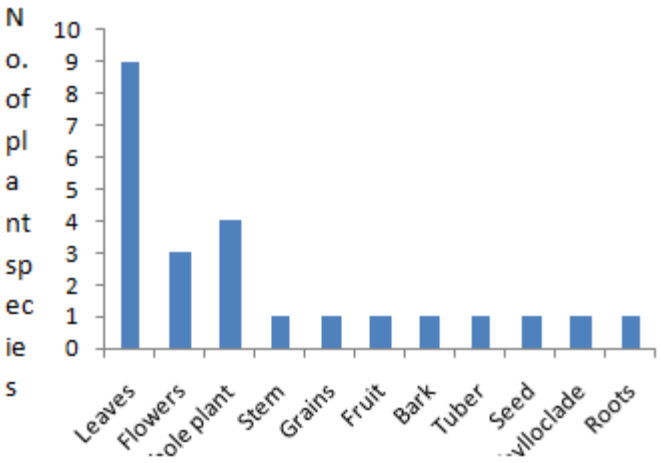


Fig. No. 2 Bar graph diagram showing the plant parts used

II. DISCUSSION

From the present study, a total of 27 plant species belonging to 22 families with 25 genera was recorded for the management of different gynecological disorders. The parts used recorded highest with leaves (7) following with roots (4) and so on. The use of plant resources as remedies prevails from ancient times till date because of unavailability of modern medical facilities due to lack of transportation and constant association with the surrounding forest. It may be concluded that further investigation on chemical approach will be needed for future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are thankful to the villagers for sharing their valuable information regarding the usefulness of the plants during the survey work. Leishangthem Ranibala Devi is heartily thankful to AUS UGC Non-NET fellowship for providing financial assistance to carry out this work.

REFERENCES

[1] Abraham,Z.1981. Glimpes of Indian Ethnobotany,Oxford & Publishing Co., New Delhi, pp.308-320.

[2] Atal,C.K. and Kapur, B.M. 1982. Cultivation and Utilization of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Regional Research Laboratory (CSIR), Jammu-Tawai,India

[3] Safowora A. 1982. Medicinal plants and Traditional medicine in Africa. John Wiley and Sons Ltd. 1st ed. 131: 168-171.

[4] Sandhya,B., Thomas,S., Isabel, W. and Shenbagarathai,R. 2006. Ethnomedicinal plants used by the Valaiyan community of Piranmalai Hills (Reserved Forest), Tamil Nadu, India.- A pilot study. African journal of Traditional, Complementary and Alternative Medicines,3(1):101-114

[5] Satyavati,G.V., Gupta, A.K. and Tandon, N.1987. Medicinal Plants of India, Indian Council of Medicical Research, New Delhi, India.