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Review Article

STUDIES ON SOME MEDICINAL PLANT SPECIES OF BEER RESERVE FOREST AREA TARANAGAR OF CHURU DISTRICT, RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

Beer Reserve Forest Area Taranagar is situated in Churu district of Rajasthan and rich in plant wealth. These plants have been used by Local residents, Tribal communities, Ayurveda practitioners, Hakims and subject experts since long time in herbal treatment. Kalbelia, Nats, Raika, Banjara, Gadolia-Lohar and Bavariya tribal communities of this area have a rich knowledge of plants based traditional medicines. In the present paper ten selected medicinal plant species, used extensively by local people and tribal communities, have been screened qualitatively to find out their medicinal aspects. The listing includes botanical names, family, common names, and medicinal uses.

Keywords: Medicinal Plant Species, Beer Reserve Forest Area Taranagar, Churu District, Rajasthan.

INTRODUCTION

Phytodiversity of Rajasthan has been reviewed and documented earlier by many workers<sup>1-3</sup>.

Churu district is situated in the Thar Desert area. The area of this district is approximate 16830 square km. having 07 tehsils including Churu, Sardarshahar, Ratangarh, Sujangarh, Sadulpur, Bidasar and Taranagar. The area of Taranagar tehsil is 1805 square km. which is about 13% of the total area of Churu district. A lot of work has been done on the exploration of floristic diversity of different places of Rajasthan, but references for taxonomic description about district Churu are less documented and understood<sup>4-6</sup>. Therefore, the present study was designed to record the botanical survey of Beer Reserve Forest Area Taranagar of Rajasthan. The plants of Rajasthan desert have been studied for their ethno-medicinal aspects by many workers<sup>6-17</sup>. The studies have been undertaken for such medicinal plants that are used extensively by the local residents, Hakims, Ayurveda practitioners and tribal communities of study area. The present investigation is very useful for pharmacologists, phytochemists and pharmaceuticals.

STUDY AREA

Beer Reserve Forest Area Taranagar lies in Churu district, which is also called as Bhutiya Beer. The area of this site is

225.3971 hectare. It is situated from 28°66'N Latitude and 75°03'E Longitude to 28°64'N Latitude and 75°06'E Longitude. It is flanked by Taranagar to Alayala village road and Taranagar to Mahatma Village road. The area between these roads has been protected by Forest Department, Churu. Two water reservoirs have been prepared in the vicinity of the forest area to supply water in Taranagar city and surrounding village. Each water reservoir has a perimeter of approximate 2 kilometer. The presence of these reservoirs is increasing the density of plant population in Taranagar beer reserve forest area. Any kind of destructive human interference is not allowed in this area so a variety of plants and animals are found here. The phytodiversity of this site is least studied. So this site has been selected for research purpose to explore the richness of phytodiversity especially medicinal plant diversity.

Taranagar tehsil is placed in arid zone of the Thar Desert of Rajasthan. The deviation between the temperature of summer and winter season is exceptionally high. In the summer season, daytime is scorching hot due to direct sunlight and high temperature. In May-June, the temperature rises up to 50°C. During this period plants and animals have to face scarcity of water also. In winter season the temperature falls up to 0°C. Occasionally frozen water drops can be seen on plant surface