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Review Article

STUDIES ON SOME MEDICINAL GRASS SPECIES OF SACRED GROVE RESERVE FOREST AREA TARANAGAR OF CHURU DISTRICT, RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT

Sacred Grove 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 traditional remedies. 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 grass species, used extensively by local people and tribal communities for medicinal purpose. The listing includes botanical names, family, common names, and medicinal uses. These grass species are very useful from phytochemical, pharmacological and pharmaceutical point of view.

Keywords: Medicinal Grass Species, Sacred Grove Reserve Forest Area Taranagar, Churu District, Rajasthan.

INTRODUCTION

Flora of Rajasthan has been reviewed and documented earlier by many workers¹⁻³. 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 especially grass species of different places of Rajasthan³⁻⁵. Therefore, the present study was designed to record the botanical survey of Sacred Grove Reserve Forest Area Taranagar of Rajasthan. The plants especially grass species of have been studied for their medicinal aspects by many workers⁶⁻¹⁰. The studies have been undertaken for such grass species 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

Sacred Grove Reserve Forest Area Taranagar lies in Churu district, which is also called as 'Shyam Pandia Temple' reserve forest area. The area of this site is 141.3078 hectare. It is situated from 28°74'N Latitude and 74°99'E Longitude to 28°73'N Latitude and 75°00'E Longitude. This site is

surrounded by Nethwa village in north side, Rewasi village in west side, Kailash village in south side and Bhalau taal village in east side. It is approximately 5 Km far from Taranagar to Sahwa road. According to the record of Forest Department Churu, the selected study area is a 'Sacred Grove'. A very famous 'Shyam Pandia Temple' is situated in the middle of this area on the top of a huge sand dune. This lush green sand dune looks like a small mountain. A famous pond, which is known as 'Bhim Kund', is also there. So this is a holy and religious place for local people. This area is highly protected and harmful human activities are not allowed here. There is only a way of going to the temple. People need to walk about one kilometer to reach the temple. People are allowed to protect and preserve local flora and fauna in this area but destructive activities are not allowed at any cost. The Biodiversity of this Sacred Grove is highly rich. A variety of flora and fauna can be seen here. 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