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Medico ethnobotany of some tuberous plants in remote areas of Farrukhabad district

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ABSTRACT

Present study deals with medico-ethnobotany of 21 tuberous plants belonging to 19 genera of 12 families used in different concerns by local villagers in remote areas of Farrukhabad district. A medico-ethnobotanical survey was conducted in various remote areas of Farrukhabad district in different seasons. All plants included in this study were taxonomically identified. They are used with high reliability by local inhabitants. Alliaceae (Liliaceae) is the dominant family which represents 5 species. Most of the plants are utilized in more than one disease and easily available throughout the year.

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INTRODUCTION

Throughout the history of human civilization, plants and their by-products have been major sources of medicine. Medicinal knowledge of numerous plant species has made an outstanding contribution in the origin an evaluation of many traditional herbal system of medicine. The earliest mention of medicinal utility of plants is found in *Rigveda*, which is oldest written repository of human knowledge written between 4500-1600 BC. The inhibitors of Indus valley civilization used a number of medicinal plants. India has a vast diversity of geographic and climatic conditions, which increase in bio-diversity and give raise to many ethno-medicinal and folk medicinal groups of users. In India a great number of plant and their by-products are used in Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha as well as Homeopathy and Allopathic system of medicines. Over entire India, many traditional, ethnic, local, folk or household medicinal systems are popular. All these systems are closely related with plants. These plants are used as a single drug or as a component of simple or often quite complex proprietary preparation. The importance and medicinal utility of plants did not decrease after thousands of years. They play leading role in primary healthcare as well as treatment of severe diseases of rural, tribal, poor and common people of our society (Kamboj, 2005; Agnihotri *et al.,* 2006, 2007).

Present study is based on medicinal utility of some tuberous plants in remote areas of Farrukhabad district, which is situated at the central part of central Uttar Pradesh. More than 50 per cent population of district depends upon farming. Entire district is irrigated by Ganga, Ramganga, Kalinadi and Bhuriganga rivers. Potato, wheat, tobacco, guava and mango are the major crops of the district. Whole district is divided into three Tehsils and seven development blocks.

In plant kingdom, some plants have a tuber-shaped storage organ, which occurs on or below the soil surface. This tuber-shape storage region is characterized as bulb, corn, rhizome, tuberous root, stolen or pseudo bulb type. Most of the tubers have edible properties and they are utilized as fruit or vegetable form. Most of the tubers showed vegetative reproduction and they are used in a number of ethnic, folk or household medicinal formulations

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