

Ethnobotanical Studies on Medicinal Plants of Nagaland/North-eastern India

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Abstract—Nagaland, one of the most important state among the ‘seven-sisters’ of North-Eastern/NE India is known for its diverse population of people with unique ethnic & tribal background and inheriting rich biodiversity hotspots. Healthy lifestyle and habits of Naga people are related to the traditional medicinal plants of Nagaland. The rich biodiversity of Nagaland ensures tremendous potential of various indigenous folk medicine which are well known for their natural healing power. In this study we have reviewed some of the important indigenous medicinal plants and are predominantly prescribed by local medicine practitioner i.e ‘Kobiras’. Presented here is the result of ethnobotanical studies of Nagaland through detail survey/interaction with the local tribal people and medical practitioners relating to the plants/parts used by the localities for the medicinal purpose. Information were collected on different medicinal plants namely *Catharanthus roseus* (Tsuinri naro, Periwinkle), *Acacia pennata* (Chakrangaing), *Adhatoda vasica* (Kicharang naro), *Ageratum conzyoides* (Imchenriza), *Alstonia scholaris* (Lazarongpang), *Rauwolfia serpentina* (Indian snakeroot) etc and their purpose of use, plants source, parts of plants used, season of collection, process of preparing medicines. Interestingly, literature survey indicates towards abundance of alkaloids (specially indole compounds like vinblastin, yohimbine, camptothecin, ajmalicine etc.) in these plants with vast pharmaceutical applications towards gastritis, hypertension, diabetes, cancer, etc major diseases. Though traditional medicines from plant origin are quite popular here, scientific background of effectiveness of these natural drugs and their mechanism of action are yet unexplored. Thus we propose the exploration of mechanism of action of such drugs and starting with documentation of various important indigenous traditional medicinal plants found in Naga-land/NE India from chemical point of view.