

Anti-diarrheal plants use by the rural folks in Arunachal Pradesh, Northeast India

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Arunachal Pradesh State in Northeast India is inhabited by 28 major tribes and about 110 sub-tribes with rich treasure of indigenous knowledge. Diarrhea is one of the commonest diseases in the state. In remote villages, medicinal plants are an integral source of therapeutic drugs and play a significant role as easily available remedy among the rural folk. A good number of anti-diarrheal plants (viz., *Manihotesculenta*, *Musa paradisiaca*, *Ocimum sanctum*, *Piper betel*, *Spilanthesacmela*, *Terminaliachebula*, *Terminaliamyriocarpa* and *Piper mullesua*) were reported where leaf was the most preferred plant part. Of late, however, folk medicine is no more an attraction to the younger generations and is seriously threatened due to deforestation, environmental degradation and acculturation, currently taking place in the state. Documentation through ethnobotanical studies, nevertheless, is critical for conservation and utilization of this indigenous knowledge. It is worth mentioning that men, elder people and illiterate ones had better knowledge on medicinal plants use as compared to women, younger and literate people. Findings of this documentation study can be used as an ethnopharmacological basis for selecting plants for future phytochemical and pharmaceutical studies.