

Rapid Ethnobotanical Appraisal and Rural outreach in Dibang Valley Districts

The second botanical field survey and rural outreach tour was carried out in Dibang Valley and Lohit Districts of Arunachal Pradesh from 10th July 2015 to 19th July 2015 by the deputed scholars to gather knowledge base of the Lower and Upper Dibang Valley Districts and part of Lohit District. The main purpose of the tour was to assess the cross cultural ethnobotanical knowledge base of the local communities particularly the Idu Mishmi, Adi, and Digaru Mishmi residing in the two districts and to document various uses of general ethnobotanical. We have conducted rapid cross cultural ethnobotanical surveyed 10 villages covering three culturally rich local tribes of the districts and came out with significant outcome. We have interacted with key informants which include local healers, village head men and collected some important food and medicinal uses of the plants by the local communities. The significant medicinal species collected from the study area are *Coptis teeta*, *Piper mullesua*, *Piper pedicellatum*, *Piper betle*, *Areca catchu*, *Artemissia nilagirica*, *Zanthoxylum rhetsa*, *Zingiber zerumbet*, *Ricinus communis*, *Aristolochia saccata*, *Begonia roxburghii*, *Ageratum conyzoides*, *Impatiens pulchra*, *Curcuma ceasia*, *Senna alata*, and *Spondias pinnata* which are mainly of tropical species and are used by the Mishmi and Adi communities for curing dysentery, bodyache, general debilities, stomach pain, snake bite, , malaria, cut and wound diarrhoea, cough and cool and skin inflammation. The significant ethnobotanical species used by the local communities are *Bambusa tulda*, *Bauhinia purpurea*, *Dendrocalamus hamiltonii*, *Livistona jenkinsiana*, *Duabanga grandiflora*, *Musa balbisiana*, *Calamus erectus*, *Michelia champaca* and *Sauriua armata* which are put into various uses such as home garden fencing, wood craft, wooden bridge, thatching materials, bow and arrow for hunting, handicraft and ritual items. It is concluded that the Idu Mishmi, Adi and Digaru Mishmi of Arunachal Pradesh is rich in ethnobotanical knowledge base and is interesting subject matter of further investigation. Apart from ethnobotanical studies, we have conducted ethnobiology and traditional conservation knowledge related to the mythological origin of Mithun and Mishmi Takin, the IUCN endangered species of Arunachal Pradesh. The cultural history of Idu is mysterious and strongly based on mythology and folklore. The Idu being the believers of nature is found to have strong traditional knowledge base related to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation which is worth emulating.



Fig. PI of Higher Plant Diversity Unit CPEB-II Dr. Hui Tag with *Coptis teeta* in natural habitat from Mishmi Hills (L) and PI with Mishmi Herbalist (R)



Fig. *Molinieria capitulata*-



Fig. Dr. Hui Tag, PI HPDVU CPEB-II, RGU