

## BRIEF ETHNOBOTANICAL FIELD REPORT ON THE TAGIN COMMUNITY OF UPPER SUBANSIRI DISTRICT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH

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Ethnobotanical field survey under NIF sponsored project, Department of Botany, RGU was conducted in 6 villages namely, Taliha, Kodak, Lamrang, Mosi, Sigia and Motu of the Tagin community of Upper Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh during the months and year of 15 – 26 May 2018, and 5 - 15 January 2019 using semi structured questionnaire and focused group discussion methods. The current data on ethnobotanical investigation reveals 70 plant species belonging 62 genera and 44 families which is used by the Tagin community of Upper Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh. The most dominant plant family recorded is the Asteraceae (7) followed by Arecaceae (6) Solanaceae (4), Lauraceae (3), Polygonaceae (3) and Moraceae (3). Out of total 70 species of ethnobotanically useful plants recorded, 23 are the herb species, 22 are the shrubs, 19 of trees and 6 are of climbers. The plants with various ethnobotanical uses has been recorded from the local residents which includes edible, medicinal, construction, ritual, livestock medication and poisoning agents.

**Wild edible plants:** Of the total plant recorded, 37 plant species are typically used as wild edible food by the local residents. Some of the common and most frequently used edible plants are *Acmella paniculata*, *Crassocephalum crepidioides*, *Litsea cubeba*, *Mussaenda roxburgii*, *Phoebe cooperiana*, *Piper pedicellatum*, *Pouzolzia hirta*, *Solanum torvum* etc.

**Medicinal plants:** The study revealed 8 medicinally useful plants which were used by the local residents of rural localities for the treatment of various ailments such as diarrhea, toothache, stomach pain, blood pressure, blood clotting, breast and back pain during lactation period. Some of the significant plant species recorded includes *Begonia aborensis*, *Chromolaena odorata*, *Clerodendrum glandulosum*, *Solanum spirale* etc.

**Plants used for construction:** Tree species like *Altingia excelsa*, *Caryota urens*, *Duabanga grandiflora*, *Livistona jenkinsiana* and *Spondias pinnata* were found to be used for the housing and godown construction purposes.

**Plants used for local rituals:** The Tagin community living in both rural and semi-urban localities use some plant species in traditional rites and rituals ceremony. The total of 4 plants species has been recorded which include *Dalhousiea bracteata*, *Pinanga gracilis*, *Bambusa stricta* and *Saurauia armata*.



**Plants used for Livestock medication:** The domestic livestock feeds on the pastoral areas of Tagin community which are often infected by worms and other diseases. A total of 3 plants have been shown as livestock medication which include *Cyclosorus extensus*, *Drymaria cordata*, and *Ricinus communis*.

### CONCLUSION

It is concluded from present findings that the ethnobotanical resources and associated traditional knowledge and skills prevalent among the Tagin community of Upper Subansiri District is rich and diverse which they have acquired over the generations through oral traditional transmitted from their ancestors. The traditional knowledge and skills prevalent among the community is relevant to their ethnoecological and biocultural landscape which help them sustaining their livelihood since millennia. The ethnobotanical resources reported are utility in nature and have economic, ecological and cultural significance. Further scientific studies on food and medicinal plants reported to be used by the target community would yield valuable information about bioactive compounds of economics and commercial significance. Quantitative ethnobotanical studies could unveil resource utilization patterns and could contribute to effective conservation and sustainable utilization of local ethnobotanical resources.



1. *Amomum pterocarpum* (Used as spice)



2. *Ficus auriculata* (Carbohydrate source)



3. *Hodgsonia macrocarpa* (wild edible nut)



4. *Rubus ellipticus* (wild edible berry)



5. Senior Tagin women at their traditional house corridor



6. Typical traditional house of Tagin community of Upper Subansiri, Arunachal Pradesh



7. Tagin man in their village hut.



8. Our Research Scholar Ms Rubu Rinyo, Department of Botany, RGU and her associate on the plant hunt at Tagin biocultural landscape.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the author or researcher mentioned in the captions.