Anti-diabetic Uses of Some Common Herbs in Tribal Belts of Midnapur (West) District of Bengal

Analava Mitra

B.C. Roy Tech Hospital & Adjunct Faculty, School of Medical Science and Technology, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur 721 302, West Bengal, India
Telephone: 03222-282657; Fax: 03222-282631; E-mail: amitra@adm.iitkgp.ernet.in

KEYWORDS Type 2 diabetes; tribes; herbal principles; life style; diet

ABSTRACT India is facing diabetic explosion. The cause may be both nature and nurture. Life style and diet, the factors primarily responsible, can be altered and modified to reduce the incidence. India has a rich heritage of different cultures and religions including that of tribes. Tribal influence pervades the religions, languages, medical and agricultural practices of India. Being a part and parcel of India, tribals are susceptible to diabetes also, though the incidence is less in them. They developed indigenous patterns of health care suiting their economy, culture and socio-religious perceptions. This article deals with the plant products commonly used by them as anti-diabetic measures.