

ETHNO-MEDICINE Ethno-Med., 2(1): 39-45 (2008)

STUDIES

ISSN 0973-5070

© Kamla-Raj 2008 PRINT: ISSN 0972-0073 ONLINE: 2456-6802

DOI: 10.31901/24566772.2008/02.01.04

Traditional Phytotherapy among the Nath People of Assam

## Mithun Sikdar\* and Uzzal Dutta\*\*

\*Department of Anthropology, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam, India E-mail: msikdar@hotmail.com \*\*Dolphin Conservation Society, Gauhati, Assam, India E-mail: dutta\_uzzal@yahoo.co.in

KEYWORDS Indigenous knowledge; caste people; medicinal plant; Northeast India

**ABSTRACT** The present paper documents the wealth of 62 medicinal plant species used by the indigenous Nath community of Assam in different types of health treatment. The botanical name, family name, vernacular name, parts used and their application has been provided in the present paper. Out of 62 plants studied, parts of 8 (13%) plants are found to be used in snakebite, 7 (11.3%) are in asthma, 6 (9.6%) in jaundice, 5 (8.0%) each in dropsy and gynecological problems, 3 (4.8%) each in piles, elephantiasis, bronchitis, rheumatism, 2 (3.2%) in leprosy, one (1.6%) each in cancer, pneumonia, paralysis, hysteria, pharyngitis and the rest for curing different other ailments like ulcer, skin disease, fever etc. The present documentation can be used for the betterment of human society.