

Ethnomedical Practices among the Tai-Khamyangs of Assam, India

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ABSTRACT The present study briefly reports the indigenous ethnomedical knowledge of the Tai-Khamyangs of Sivasagar district, Assam. Data was collected in the year 2008 through extensive personal interviews, concrete case studies and participant observation. The Khamyang ethnomedical system constitutes herbal medicine as well as magico-religious-spiritual practices. Various locally available medicinal plants are used to cure a host of diseases/ailments. More than one medicinal plant species are used more frequently than the use of a single species for remedy preparations. Plant species are identified with the help of relevant and standard literatures and are presented along with their scientific names, family, English and vernacular names, part/parts used, methods of preparation, and modes of administration in the target disease. The present study was conducted for understanding floral and faunal resources and their utilization pattern as ethno-medicine by the Khamyangs in their indigenous knowledge system. The study also reveals the belief among the people upon certain malevolent super natural agencies as source of disease causation and the use of magico-religious-spiritual practices as curative and preventive measure.