ABSTRACT

The Rakhaing indigenous community living in the Cox’s Bazar district of Bangladesh has long been an admiration of utilizes plants around them in various purpose and they depend on their surrounding vegetation for various purposes in their daily life. An ethnobotanical survey is carried out on the utilization of medicinal plants by Rakhaing community. The information has been documented by interviewing traditional herbalists, various elderly men and women following different ethnobotanical methods. Total 82 plant species in 77 genera under 51 families with their short botanical description, local (Rakhaing) names, medicinal use, mode of preparation and application have been documented. All the voucher specimens have been collected during documentation and preserved at the herbarium of Chittagong University (CTGUH).

Keywords: Rakhaing community, Medicinal plants, Herbal treatments, Bangladesh.

1. Introduction

The surrounding environment directly and indirectly influences the human life and culture. “Many living groups of people, having diversified ethnic culture, history of rituals and performance, who are more or less isolated from modern world and are closely associated with their ambient vegetation is the emporia of ethnobotanical research.”[17] People depend on plants around them for many purposes like; food, shelter, dyes, cosmetics, clothing, medicine etc. They classify the plants on the basis of their use, store the information and knowledge of plant use and these information and knowledge passed from one generation to another. Rakhaing community has its own traditional system of herbal treatment for their primary healthcare and is still continuing. But lack of consciousness, mismanagement and without proper documentation these knowledge may be disappeared and many ethnic societies are rapidly being assimilated into modern societies and the treasure of their knowledge is disappearing rapidly. Ethnobotany as an interdisciplinary science is, therefore, in a position to contribute to development. The wealth of traditional knowledge of the indigenous people concerning their natural systems and environment, their knowledge on utilization and maintenance of plant resources on a long-term basis without damaging or destroying their habitats. Ethnobotanical data can be utilized by economic botanists to discover new plant resources, to provide fresh ideas for environment planners, as a tool for basic selection of plant species for development of drugs by pharmacologists, phytochemists and clinicians, as a new source of history through the study of plant names by linguists, as a source for locating new germplasm for agriculturists, etc. Some works on ethnobotany performed only in last decades of 20th century. Kadir in 1990 worked on medicinal plant of Bangladesh and their conservation strategy. Several work also done by other workers on this field [2, 3, 8, 9, 12, 13, 24, 25, 29].

The most recent work in this field has done by some workers [15, 6, 7, 10, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28].
Most of the Rakhaing live in Cox’s Bazar. They migrated here from Arakan because of some political violence and choose Cox’s Bazar for their residence because; from the geographical point of view, Cox’s Bazar is the closest neighbour of Arakan so they could easily communicate with their country and it was a safe harbour for them. Then few of them further migrated to Bandarban and Patuakhali districts of Bangladesh. Now it is one of the smallest indigenous groups in Bangladesh.

2. Methods

The success of ethnobotanical documentation depends on the co-operative relationship between the researcher and local informants. It is very important to locate knowledgeable informants for the study of ethnobotany. Techniques are tools, and the choice of using one over the other depends on the aims and theoretical approach of the study, field conditions, and expertise of the researcher. Documentation has been made by taking random interviews of the herbalists, elderly men and women. In field interview technique, the informants accompany with the author and data has been collected in the field. To obtain medicinal plant use information, plant interview technique has been used in the maximum cases, because the informants are sometime too busy or don’t think himself fit to accompany the author in the field. Fresh plant samples have been collected and brought to the informants. The informants identified some of the plants and describe their uses. This method is less time consuming than field interviews and the plant interview allows more informants to be included in a given period of time. By adopting open-ended and semi-structured question technique interviews have been taken and noted and recorded with a digital voice recorder. The reliability of information on each plant was confirmed through repeated interviews. All voucher specimens have been collected during documentation and preserved in the Chittagong University Herbarium (CTGUH). The specimens have been identified consulting with the experts, through several herbarium studies by comparing herbarium specimens and studying several available literatures. The description and the current nomenclature have been compared with recent book-Dictionary of Plant Names of Bangladesh.

3. Enumeration

The species have been arranged alphabetically following their botanical name and the family in the bracket and voucher number has attributed at the end of each species name. Bangla and Rakhaing name, short botanical description with the status of the species, traditional uses and mode of administration have been presented respectively.

**Abrama augusta** (L.) L.f. (Sterculiaceae) rr-30.

Local name: Utolkombal

Rakhaing name: Tongkangja

Shrub. Leaves of lower portion are big with long petiole, leaves cordate, leaf tip acute, leaves of upper portion are as like (Adhatoda vasica). Flower violet and look like butterfly. Fruit pentangle, hollow, hairy, green when fresh, gray or brown when ripe. Rare in hilly area.

Using information: Boiled leaf extract is taken during taking meal to control hiccup.

**Acanthus ilicifolius** L. (Acanthaceae) rr-17.

Local name: Hargoza

Rakhaing name: Shuvam

Herbs. Leaves are simple, opposite and decussate; stipules are lacking. Flowers are bisexual, zygomorphic, brightly colored bracts. Fruit is commonly an elastically dehiscent loculicidal capsule. Frequent around their house.

Using information: Extract prepared from root is taken three tea spoonfuls twice daily for the treatment of high blood pressure.

**Acorus calamus** L. 1753. (Araceae) rr-32.

Local name: Bach

Rakhaing name: Lunghin


Using information: Extract prepared from root and leaf, is taken two tea spoonful twice daily until cured, for the treatment of gastritis. Extract prepared from leaves is taken two to three tea spoonfuls daily and applied in the abdomen until cured for the treatment of splenomegaly in children and vomiting.

**Aegle marmelos** (L.) Correa (Rutaceae) rr-65.

Local name: Bel

Rakhaing name: Bel


Using information: Juice prepared from fruit is taken one glass instantly to treat vomiting.

**Albizia saman** (Jacq.) Merr. (Mimosaceae) rr-3.

Local name: Rain tree.

Rakhaing name: Kammorsung


Using information: Leaves are boiled in water with sugar and the extract put in direct sunlight for an hour. The extract is taken one glass daily for three to four days to treat insomnia. Fruit infuse in water and used as shampoo.

**Allium sativum** L. (Liliaceae). rr-1.

Local name: Rasun

Rakhaing name: Kasamphru


Using information: Paste prepared from leaf is mixed with cow or goat’s milk, slightly heated in a steel plate and taken one tea spoonful twice daily for four to five days to treat cough. Garlic is taken with hot rice to treat high blood pressure. Paste prepared from bulb is applied to the affected areas for three months to treat leprosy.

**Aloe vera** L. Burm.f (Aloaceae) rr-44.

Local name: Ghritokumari

Rakhaing name: Kala daru


Using information: Paste prepared from leaf is used for skin care.

**Alstonia scholaris** (L.) R. Br. (Apocynaceae) rr-25.

Local name: Chatim

Rakhaing name: Silema

A large evergreen tree. Stem with milky juice. Branched
whorled, lenticillate. Leaves simple, seven in a whorl, coriaceous, elliptic of ob lanceolate, obtuse at apex, pale beneath. Flowers yellowish-white, in umbellate cymes, sweet scented. Fruits follicles in clusterous. Seeds oblong, with tuft of hairs at each end. Occasional in Hilly areas.

Using information: Latex of leaf is applied (externally) to the lip for three to five days to cure from lip blister.

Local name: Katamarissha
Rakhaing name: Chuka hunkoni

Using information: Extract prepared from root is taken two to three tea spoonfuls twice daily until cured from diarrhoea (specially in pregnant woman).

*Ananas camosus* (L.) Merr. (Bromeliaceae) rr-66
Local name: Supari
Rakhaing name: Nendasu

Using information: Warmed leaf is applied for the treatment of headache and extract of leaf taken single cup twice daily until cured for burning sensation and general weakness. Juice prepared from pineapple is mixed with honey and taken three to four tea spoonfuls twice or thrice daily until cured in burning sensation, general weakness, headache and insomnia.

Local name: Supari
Rakhaing name: kuanchhawong
Solitary or small clump-forming palms. Stem annulate, slender, smooth. Leaves pinnate, pinnae mostly narrow. Inflorescence much branched, borne at the base of the crown shaft, female flowers in triads at the base of the rachillae, male flowers small, variously arranged on the upper part of rachillae. Fruit ovoid or oblone, exocarp fleshy, fibrous. Seeds with truncate base, embryo basilar. Common in around their house.

Using information: Extract prepared from root is taken two tea spoonfuls twice daily to treat diarrhoea.

*Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam. (Moraceae) rr-68
Local name: Kathal
Rakhaing name: Panerum

Using information: Extract prepared from root is taken twice daily as much as patient can until cured for the treatment of piles.

*Asparagus racemosus* Willd. (Liliaceae) rr-62.
Local name: Sotamuli
Rakhaing name: Sattirsoa
Scandent, spinous shrubs. Spines sub-erect. Cladodes 2-7 together, slightly compressed. Flowers in racemes, small white. Fruits berries, globose. Rare in beside the house.

Using information: Paste of root is taken two to three tea spoonfuls once daily in pregnancy complicacy and leucorrhoea until cured.

*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss. (Meliaceae) rr-26.
Local name: Nim
Rakhaing name: Tamma
A large tree. Leaves imparipinnate. Leaflets ovate-lanceolate, asymmetrical, serrate. Flowers white, in axillary racemose panicles. Drupes ovoid-oblong, one seeded, seed pendulous. Frequent in around the house.

Using information: Extract of root is taken half cup twice/thrice daily until cured for the treatment of chicken pox, high blood pressure and gastritis. Boiled leaf juice mixed with camphor is taken one to two tea spoonfuls instantly for the treatment of flatulence and vomiting due to warm weather. Extract prepared from leaf is taken two tea spoonfuls twice or thrice daily until cured in general weakness, gastritis, jaundice and malaria.

*Bacopa monnieri* (L.) Pennell (Scrophulariaceae) rr-49.
Local name: Brammishak
Rakhaing name: Pow-mow-dua
Herbs, erect or creeping. Leaves opposite. Flowers solitary, axillary or in terminal racemes. Bracteoles 1 or 2 or absent. Sepals (4 or) 5; entirely free, imbricate, upper 1 largest, lower 2 next large, lateral 2 innermost and narrowest. Corolla tube tubular, limb patent, conspicuously or obscurely 2-lipped; lower lip 3-lobed; upper lip 2-lobed. Stamens 4, didynamous or equal in length, very rarely 5; anther locules parallel, free. Stigma dilated, capitulate or 2-lobed. Capsule ovoid or globose, 2-grooved, 4-valved. Seeds numerous, minute. Common in beside the road.

Using information: Paste prepared from the whole plant is mixed with coconut oil and applied to boils until cured.

*Boerhavia repens* L. (Nyctaginaceae) rr-20.
Local name: Punarruva
Rakhaing name: Perunoo
Herbs, shrubs, trees, or sometimes spiny vines. Leaves opposite, alternate, or whorled. Stipules absent, petiole usually present, well defined, leaf blade simple, herbaceous or slightly fleshy, margin entire. Inflorescences mostly terminal, less often axillary, of cymes, umbels, or verticils. Flowers bisexual, rarely unisexual or polygamous, actinomorphic. Fruit an achene-like an throcarp enclosed by persistent perianth, ribbed or winged, often glandular. Seed 1, endosperm present, embryo straight or curved. Frequent in marginal land.

Using information: Juice prepared from boiled leaf is taken as much as patient can, twice daily until cured for the treatment of swelling in hand and leg and splenomegaly in children.

*Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Kuntze. (Fabaceae) rr-27.
Local name: Polash
Rakhaing name: Todium
A large tree. Leaves imparipinnate. Leaflets ovate-lanceolate, asymmetrical, serrate. Flowers white, in axillary racemose panicles. Drupes ovoid-oblong, one seeded, seed pendulous. Frequent in around the house.

Using information: Extract of root is taken half cup twice/thrice daily until cured for the treatment of chicken pox, high blood pressure and gastritis. Boiled leaf juice mixed with camphor is taken one to two tea spoonfuls instantly for the treatment of flatulence and vomiting due to warm weather. Extract prepared from leaf is taken two tea spoonfuls twice or thrice daily until cured in general weakness, gastritis, jaundice and malaria.

*Cajanus cajan* (L.) Millsp. (Fabaceae) rr-9.
Local name: Arhar
Rakhaing name: Hayanko

Using information: Juice prepared from leaves is applied to swelling leg and blister twice daily until cured.

**Calotropis gigantea** (L.) R. Br. (Asclepiadaceae) rr-29.
Local name: Akunda
Rakhhaing name: Muhrong

Using information: Extract of leaves is taken three to four tea spoonfuls twice daily until cured from jaundice.

**Cassia fistula** L. (Caesalpiniaceae) rr-53.
Local name: Sonalu
Rakhhaing name: Mumgbum

Using information: Extract prepared from root is taken three to four tea spoonfuls twice daily until cured for the treatment of general weakness, headache and insomnia.

**Catharanthus roseus** (L.) G. Don (Apocynaceae) rr-18.
Local name: Noyontara
Rakhhaing name: Sagusonga
Herbs. Stem smooth deep green. Leaves opposite, simple flowers in axillary and terminal cymes, tubular, deep rosy; fruits folicles, slender; seeds black. Ornamental plant in garden.

Using information: Whole plant is boiled in water and the extracts reduced up to 33%, and add camphor, this extract is taken one spoonful twice daily to control diabetes. Extract prepared from leaves is taken as much as patient can to control diabetes. Extract of leaves is mixed with camphor is taken one cup twice daily for the treatment of diabetes. Extract prepared from boiled leaf is taken one glass daily (in empty stomach) to treat gastritis. Green leaf paste with sugar is taken one glass daily until cured from jaundice.

**Cissus quadrangularis** L. (Vitaceae) rr-22.
Local name: Harjora
Rakhhaing name: Zejonglasa
A fleshy, tendrilar climber. Stems 4-angled. Leaves simple, entire or lobed, ovate or reniform. Flowers pale brown, in short peduncled umbellate cymes. Berries red. Cultivated in around the house.

Using information: Paste prepared from leaf is applied to affected areas to treat fracture.

**Citrus aurantium** L. (Rutaceae) rr-58.
Local name: Kagogi lebu
Rakhhaing name: Kowazi

Using information: Juice prepared from fruit is applied to affected area until cured for the treatment of baldness and eczema.

**Clerodendrum viscosum** Vent. (Verbenaceae) rr-50.
Local name: Vhate
Rakhhaing name: Unknown
A large shrubs; branches 4-angled. Leaves simple, ovate or orbicular, serrate, tormentose beneath. Flowers white, in terminal, sub-corymbous panicles. Drupes bluish-black. Common in slope of hill.

Using information: Ash prepared from leaf is mixed with coconut oil and applied to swelling leg and blister twice daily until cured.

**Clitoria tiliifolia** (Christm.) Swingle (Rutaceae) rr-46.
Local name: Oporajita
Rakhhaing name: Aowmabeowabong
Plants are herbs, vines, shrubs, trees, and lianas. Leaves are stipulate, nearly always alternate, and range from bipinnately or palmately compound to simple. Flowers are usually bisexual, actinomorphic to zygomorphic. Fruit is usually a legume. Seed sometimes bear a u-shaped line called a pleurogram. Ornamental plant around the house.

Using information: Extract prepared from flower with salt, is taken two tea spoonfuls twice or thrice daily until cured from gout.

**Coconut** (L.) Voigt (Cucurbitaceae) rr-52.
Local name: Vhate
Rakhhaing name: Kamui-apang

Using information: Paste prepared from leaves is mixed with salt and used for inhalation in catarrh. Warm leaves is applied to externally twice daily until cured in rheumatic pain. Latex of this plant is applied for local application to adjust as a local analgesic, an antiseptic, and is used for the treatment of gout.

**Cuminum cyminum** L. (Apiaceae) rr-19.
A large shrubs; branches 4-angled. Leaves simple, ovate or orbicular, serrate, tormentose beneath. Flowers white, in terminal, sub-corymbous panicles. Drupes bluish-black. Common in slope of hill.

Using information: Juice prepared from fruit is applied to affected area until cured for the treatment of diabetes. Extract of leaves is taken twice to three tea spoonfuls twice daily until cured for the treatment of gout.

**Country caraway** (L.) Urban (Apiaceae) rr-19.
Local name: Vhate
Rakhhaing name: Akunda

Using information: Extract prepared from root is taken three to four tea spoonfuls twice daily until cured for the treatment of general weakness, headache and insomnia.
twice daily for controlling diabetes.

*Cocos nucifera* L. (Arecalesae) rr-70.
Local name: Narcal
Rakhaing name: Unn-sthei

Stems solitary, erect or ascending, often leaning, and robust, unarmed, trunks with conspicuous nodal rings. Leaves: sheath coarse, cloth-like, not forming crownshaft; petiole unarmed; petiole base entire, blade pinnate, unarmed, Flowers unisexual, sessile. Fruits drupes, strongly to obscurely 3-angled. Seeds very large, hollow and fluid-filled. Frequent around the house.

Using information: The fruit shell is divided into two parts. The patient is stood on the shell by his leg and given slight pressure. After this processing, touching of soil or water is prohibited. This process is used for the treatment of paralysis.

*Coriandrum sativum* L. (Apiaceae) rr-71.
Local name: Dhania
Rakhaing name: Bohar pata


Using information: Paste prepared from the whole plant, mixed with leaf base of *Ananas comosus* and sugar is taken two tea spoonfuls hourly until cured for the treatment of stone in urinary bladder. Paste prepared from leaf is taken two to three teaspoonfuls twice-thrice daily until cured in gastritis and stomach pain.

*Curcuma longa* L. (Zingiberaceae) rr-72.
Local name: Halud
Rakhaing name: Nonh


Using information: Paste prepared from turmeric and mixed with lime water is taken one spoonful twice daily for three months to treat dog bite (rabies).

*Cuscuta reflexa* L. (Convolvulaceae) rr-38.
Local name: Samalata
Rakhaing name: Tagral


Using information: Extract of whole plant is taken to treat cancer.

*Cyperus rotundus* L. (Cyperaceae) rr-10.
Local name: Mutha ghass
Rakhaing name: Chawomrao


Using information: Extract prepared from whole plant with sugar, is taken one glass daily for seven days during menstrual problem. In addition the lower part of the body is washed out after half an hour of taking the medicine. Boiled water is taken in a dish and leaf of *Cyperus rotundus*, small pieces of turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) and camphor given in the water. Inhalation is taken by the patient for the remedy of fever.

*Dalbergia sissoo* DC. (Fabaceae) rr-13.
Local name: Sissoo
Rakhaing name: Sissoo gach


Using information: Decoction of bark is taken twice tea spoonfuls twice daily for seven days for the treatment of malaria.

*Datura metel* L. (Solanaeae) rr-31.
Local name: Dutara
Rakhaing name: Row-shan-they


Using information: Paste prepared from leaf, in addition with fitkiri (potash alum) polish in the swelling area after injection.

*Dillenia indica* L. (Dilleniaceae) rr-73.
Local name: Chalta
Rakhaing name: Dabroti

A large evergreen tree. Leaves simple, oblong, serrate acute. Flowers white, solitary. Fruit fleshy, globose, enclosed in accrescent sepal. Occasional around their house.

Using information: Extract prepared from bark is taken two to three tea spoonfuls twice-thrice daily for three months to treat dog bite (rabies).

*Enhydra fluctuans* Lour. (Asteraceae) rr-23.
Local name: Halancha
Rakhaing name: Codirum


Using information: Extract of whole plant (by boiling) is taken twice daily as much as patient can until cured for the treatment of hand and leg swelling.

*Entada rheedi* Spreng (Mimosaceae) rr-45.
Local name: Gila
Rakhaing name: Dola

A large, woody climber. Leaves bipinnate; leaflets oblong-ovate, obtuse. Flowers pale yellow, in panicled spikes. Pods woody, large; seeds circular, compressed. Rare in the hilly area.

Using information: Extract of root is taken twice to three tea spoonfuls twice daily until cured for the treatment of pyorrhoea.

*Erythrina variegata* L. var. *variegata* (Fabaceae) rr-57.
Local name: Madar
Rakhaing name: Kashipaow


Using information: Extract of root is taken once daily as much as patient can to control nematode.

*Eucalyptus globulus* Labill (Myrtaceae) rr-14.
Local name: Eucalyptus
Rakhaing name: Australia gach

Tropical plant, growth rate high. Stem erect round. Bark white
and remove like scales leaf simple. Flower white small petiolar. Fruit capsule. Frequent in hilly area.

Using information: Paste prepared from the ash of leaves and mixed with coconut oil and applied to the affected area until cured for the treatment of allergy.

*Eupatorium ayapana* L. (Asteraceae) rr-60.

Local name: Ayapana

Rakhaing name: Unknown

Perennials, Stems erect. Leaves mostly cauleine, usually. Petiolate or sessile, blades usually 3-nerved from or distal to bases, or pinnately. Flores corollas usually white, rarely pinkish, throats funnelform to campanulate, lobes 5, triangular. Cypsela prismatic, 5-ribbed, usually glabrous, usually gland-dotted, pappi persistent. Rare in hilly area.

Using information: Extract prepared from leaf is taken twice or thrice daily as much as patient can until cured to reduce bitterness during fever.

*Euphorbia hirta* L. (Euphorbiaceae) rr-43.

Local name: Dudhia lota

Rakhaing name: Dudhia

Mostly monoeccious herbs that are further characterized by the frequent occurrence of milky sap. Leaves are mostly alternate but may be opposite or whorled and they are simple, or compound. Flowers are unisexual and usually actinomorphic. Fruit is usually a capsular schizocarp. Common in beside the road.

Using information: Paste prepared from whole plant and is used in the fractured area. Extract of whole plant is taken twice daily as patient can until cured from diarrhoea.

*Flacourtia jangomas* (Lour.) Raetsch. (Flacourtiaeaceae) rr-59.

Local name: Pannia gola

Rakhaing name: Khoro gola

A medium sized deciduous tree. Leaves opposite, simple entire; stipules present, reduced and/or deciduous. Flowers perfect, actinomorphic. Fruit an obovoid to cylindric capsule. Frequent beside the road.

Using information: Paste prepared from leaf is taken twice or thrice daily until cured to reduce bitterness during fever.

*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* L. (Malvaceae) rr-40.

Local name: Jaba ful

Rakhaing name: Nepe

Shrubs. Leaves alternate, simple, lanceolate, dented. Flowers in axillary racemose, big, tubular below, generally reddish in colour. Plants do not produce fruits, in general. Occasionally found beside the house.

Using information: Paste prepared from leaf is taken twice or thrice daily until cured for the treatment of pneumonia. Paste prepared from leaf is applied to the lower abdomen two times daily for seven days in excessive menstruation. Paste prepared from leaf and mixed with cold water is applied to the lower abdomen one time daily in urinary problem of child.

*Ipomoea aquatica* L. (Convolvulaceae) rr-33.

Local name: Kolmi

Rakhaing name: Conzoye


Using information: Extract prepared from leaves is taken single cup twice daily until cured for the treatment of Urinary Tract Infection (UTI) and paste prepared from leaves and applied to the lower abdomen in burning sensation during urination.

*Justicia adhatoda* L. (Acanthaceae) rr-37.

Local name: Bosa

Rakhaing name: Basak


Using information: Juice prepared from leaf is applied to the lower abdomen two times daily for five days for the treatment of cough.

*Kalanchoe pinnata* (Lam.) Pers. (Crassulaceae) rr-7.

Local name: Patarkuchi

Rakhaing name: Rocha-bawn


Using information: Paste prepared from leaf is taken to remove fish bone stuck in throat.

*Ludwigia repens* L. (Onagraceae) rr-12.

Local name: Kashordum

Rakhaing name: Tulehan

Taxonomic description: Herbs slender, erect to prostrate and rooting at nodes, or shrubs or rarely small trees. Leaves alternate, usually entire; stipules present, reduced and/or deciduous. Flowers perfect, actinomorphic. Fruit an obovoid to cylindrical capsule. Frequent beside the road.

Using information: Whole plant boil in water and reduce the volume up to 33% is taken one cupful twice daily for two months to treat tuberculosis and diarrhoea.

*Mangifera indica* L. (Anacardiaceae) rr-75.

Local name: Aam

Rakhaing name: Sarabam


Using information: Tie a piece of root with a thread round the neck of frightened child.

*Manilkara zapota* (L.) P. Royle (Sapotaceae) rr-4.

Local name: Sofeda

Rakhaing name: Sofeda


Using information: Juice prepared from guava’s (*Psidium guajava*) leaf and sofeda’s leaf (*Achras zapota*) is taken one spoonful twice daily for seven days to treat diarrhoea.
Mesua ferrea  L. (Clusiaceae) nn-41.
Local name: Nagersor
Rakhaing name: Gango
Using information: Powder prepared from dry flower and mixed with the extract of root, is used in prickly heat and for coldness of body.

Mimosa pudica  L. (Mimosaceae) nn-21.
Local name: Lazzabati
Rakhaing name: Shraprem
Using information: Paste prepared from leaves and applied to the boils area for boils suppuration. Whole plant boil in water with sugar and reduce the volume up to 33% is taken one glass twice daily until cured for the treatment of jaundice and boils.

Momordica charantia  L. (Cucurbitaceae) nn-76.
Local name: Korolla
Rakhaing name: Tit korola
Using information: Paste prepared (in the internodes of bamboo) from leaves with mustard oil is used externally for the remedy of chest pain.

Moringa olfera  Lam. (Moringaceae) nn-6.
Local name: Sazina
Rakhaing name: Dendalum
Using information: Extract of leaves is taken two tea spoonfuls twice daily until cured for the treatment of burning, general weakness, headache and insomnia. Extract prepared from root and leaves is used locally for the treatment of jaundice and boils.

Musa ornata  L. (Musaceae) rr-77.
Local name: Ramkola
Rakhaing name: Tong-naa-proo-bawn
An erect herb. Pseudo stem brown. Leaves oblong, base not auricled; petiole margins opened. Spathes rose-purple. Fruits 3-5 in each bunch, angled. Occasionally found in the hilly area.
Using information: Spadix is taken as curry to control diabetes.

Local name : Kala
Rakhaing name: Kela
Tall perennial tree-like herb, 10-15 feet high. Root adventitious; underground rhizome. The aerial pseudo aerial stem is composed of long stiff leaf sheaths rolled round each other. Leaves simple, large, petiolate, obtuse, parallel venation. Inflorescence compound spadix, covered with large, violet pink colored bracts called spathe. Cultivated in Marginal land.
Using information: Ash prepared from the dried banana’s fruit shell and mixed with lemon extract is taken single tea spoonful twice daily until cured from splenomegaly of children.

Myristica fragrans Houtt. (Myristicaceae) rr-79.
Local name: Jaijal
Rakhaing name: Unknown
A lofty tree; branches skender. Leaves coriaceous, sometimes oblanceolate and tip candate, base acute, pale yellow brown, pales with red-brown nerves beneath. Male racemes flower long, ellipsoid or ciliate, nodding; bracteolate a scale under the glabrate perianth; bracteolate ovoid, sub-globose or pyriform.
Using information: Powder prepared from fruit is taken three to four tea spoonfuls twice daily to treat burning, general weakness, headache and insomnia.

Nigella sativa  L. (Ranunculaceae) rr-80.
Local name: Kalozeria
Rakhaing name: Kaillazera
Using information: Powder prepared from dry fruit is taken twice daily as much as patient can until cured for the treatment of cough, headache and pyorrhoea. Powder prepared from black cumin (Nigella sativa), is smelled continuously for three days in weakness and low pressure after delivery and excessive menstruation. Powder prepared from niger (Nigella sativa) mixed with mustard oil, is applied to the head to treat hyper pyrexia of children.

Ocimum tenuiflorum  L. (Lamiaceae) nn-61.
Local name: Tulshi
Rakhaing name: Tulshi
Herbs. Leaves opposite, simple, ovate-lanceolate, glandular. Flowers in racemes, white or purple. Fruits nutlets, black pitted. Frequent in foot of the hill.
Using information: Extract of leaf is taken one to two spoonfuls twice daily until cured to treat cough.

Orozylum indicum  (L.) Benth. (Bignoniaceae) rr-48.
Local name: Khona
Rakhaing name: Krang-sha-bawn
Using information: Paste prepared from flower is taken one tea spoonful twice daily until cured to treat leucorrhoea and leukemia.

Oryza sativa  L. (Poaceae) rr-81.
Local name: Dhan
Rakhaing name: Dhan
Using information: Cooked rice is packed by a cloth and burn in fire, mixed with cold water is taken as much as patient can until cured to treat diarrhea.
**Oxalis corniculata** L. (Oxalidaceae) rr-16.
Local name: Amrul
Rakhaing name: Kamduhuang
Using information: Extract prepared from leaves by boiling is taken one spoonful twice daily for two-three days for the treatment of bone swelling. The leaves are cooked with meat of cow tail is taken after child birth because of insufficient milk and excessive menstruation.

**Peperomia pellucida** (L.) Kunth (Piperaceae) rr-47.
Local name: Luchipata
Rakhaing name: Chasherrow
Using information: Paste prepared from leaf is applied to the soles for the treatment of boil suppuration.

**Phyllanthus emblica** L. (Euphorbiaceae) rr-35.
Local name: Amloki
Rakhaing name: Sesathe
Using information: Fruit is taken directly twice daily until cured for the treatment of cough. Powder prepared from dried fruit and mixed with honey is taken after lunch and dinner for the remedy of abdominal gas.

**Phyllanthus indicus** L. (Euphorbiaceae) rr-39.
Local name: Orboroi
Rakhaing name: Tamboitri
A small tree to medium sized tree. Leaves stipulate, stipules ovate, fimbriate. Flowers greenish yellow. Fruit fleshy globose. Frequently distributed both in marginal and slope of hill.
Using information: Curry prepared from fruit is taken as much as patient can for the treatment of tumor. When fruit is not available, extract prepared from root is taken two spoonfuls two-three times daily until cured.

**Piper betel** L. (Piperaceae) rr-15.
Local name: Pan
Rakhaing name: Pan
Small trees, shrubs, subshrubs, or rarely herbs, erect or reclining, glabrous or pubescent. Leaves alternate, pubescent. Leaf blade conspicuously pinnately veined, lateral veins ascending-arching. Spikes opposite leaves, ascending-arching, densely flowered, distally drooping. Flowers sessile, borne on surface of rachis; floral bracts fringed with whitish hairs. Fruits sessile, oblong. Cultivated in marginal land.
Using information: Extract of leaves, mixed with seed powder of *Tamarindus indica*, *Piper nigrum* and salt is taken three tea spoonfuls twice daily until cured for the treatment of fever.

**Psidium guajava** L. (Myrtaceae) rr-5.
Local name: Payara
Rakhaing name: Guyam

Using information: Young leaf is taken directly in diarrhoea. Extract prepared from root is taken two to three tea spoonfuls twice daily for two-three days in diarrhoea.

**Rauwolfia serpentina** (L.) Benth. (Apocynaceae) rr-63.
Local name: Sheto chandan
Rakhaing name: Kayamusiba
Using information: Extract prepared from root is taken one tea spoonful twice daily for three days for the treatment of insomnia and high blood pressure.

**Santalum album** L. (Santalaceae) rr-42.
Local name: Sheto chandan
Rakhaing name: Netha
Trees, branches dropping. Leaves alternate, simple, and elliptic-lanceolate. Flowers in cymes, small, brownish purple. Fruits globose, black when ripe. Rare in hilly region.
Using information: Extract prepared from stem is applied to the burning area and eczema. Extract prepared from stem, mixed with long snail shell powder and salt is taken one tea spoonful twice daily until cured for the treatment of cough.

**Saraca asoca** (Roxb.) Wild. (Caesalpiniaceae) rr-51.
Local name: Asoke
Rakhaing name: Unknown
A medium sized tree. Leaflets oblong-lanceolate or oblong acuminate. Flowers bright yellow, orange or red. Pods oblong. Occasional around their house.
Using information: Paste prepared from flower is taken three-four tea spoonfuls twice daily until cured in excessive menstruation (Menorrhagia).

**Senna alata** (L.) Roxb. (Caesalpiniaceae) rr-54.
Local name: Dadmardan
Rakhaing name: Daud
A soft wooded shrub with thick downy branches. Leaf rachis long, stout, channelled; leaflets 10-12 pairs, oblong, obtuse, glabrous. Racemes spiciform, stout with yellow flower. Rare beside the road.
Using information: Paste prepared from leaf is applied to the affected area for the treatment of eczema and paste is taken two tea spoonfuls twice daily to treat constipation.

**Solanum lycopersicum** L. (Solanaceae) rr-74.
Local name: Tomato
Rakhaing name: Khoro baiyon
Using information: Extract prepared from leaves with sugar is taken half cup twice daily for seven days for the treatment of tuberculosis. Juice prepared from tomato with sugar is taken one cupful for the remedy of bleeding during vomiting.

**Solanum torvum** Sw. (Solanaceae) rr-8.
Local name: Goth begun
Rakhaing name: Tit bayun
An armed shrub, stellate-pubescent. Leaves simple, ovate,
Using information: Extract of root is taken two to three tea spoonfuls twice daily until cured for the remedy of fever. Half teaspoonful powder of whole plant mixed with one glass of water is taken twice daily for 12-15 days for the treatment of gastritis, flatulence and stomach pain.

*Strychnos asper* Lour. (Urticaceae) rr-56.
Local name: Shaora
Rakhaing name: Wohin
A small tree. Leaves simple, ovate or obovate, serrate, obtuse to cuneate at base, acute at apex. Flowers white, in axillary cymes. Drupes enclosed in fleshy, yellow perianth. Frequent in besides the Roads.
Using information: Extract of root is taken two tea spoonfuls twice-thrice daily until cured for the treatment of excessive menstruation (Menorrhagia).

*Tamarindus indica* L. (Caesalpiniaceae). rr-2
Local name: Tentul
Rakhaing name: Tatu
Using information: Paste prepared from leaf is applied externally to the eyelid for the treatment of conjunctivitis. Slightly warmed leaves is applied to the affected area externally to relief pain in breast of pregnant women and leaf extract is taken two tea spoonfuls twice daily for seven days for excessive menstruation.

*Tectona grandis* L. (Verbenaceae) rr-11.
Local name: Segun
Rakhaing name: Chyan-way-pawn
Using information: Bark infuses in water for 24 hours and this water is taken half cup twice daily for seven days for the treatment of leucorrhoea.

*Terminalia arjuna* ( Roxb. ex DC.) Wight & Arn. (Combretaceae) rr-34.
Local name: Arjun
Rakhaing name: Tama
Using information: Leaves and bark boil in water then take bath by this water for three days for the treatment of Scabies and itching.

*Terminalia bellerica* (Gaertn.) Roxb. (Combretaceae) rr-28.
Local name: Bohera
Rakhaing name: Pangathe
A large tree. Bark bluish-grey, fissured. Leaves simple, ovate-obovate or broadly elliptic, obtuse of emarginated at apex. Flowers cream coloured, in axillary spikes. Drupes globose, obscurely 5-angled.

Brown-tomentose. Occasional in hilly area.
Using information: Fruit is taken directly twice daily until cured to treat cough and diarrhoea.

*Terminalia chebula* (Gaertn.) Retz. (Combretaceae) rr-36.
Local name: Haritaki
Rakhaing name: Tamada
Using information: Ripened fruit or green fruit is taken directly twice daily until cured for the treatment of cough.

*Zingiber officinale* Roscoe. (Zingiberaceae) rr-82.
Local name: Ada
Rakhaing name: Ada
Using information: Extract prepared from zinger by boiling and mixed with gur of *Borassus flabellifer* or honey is taken half cup twice daily for five to seven days for the treatment of indigestion and cough.

*Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam. (Rhamnaceae) rr-24.
Local name: Kul
Rakhaing name: Zebai
A much branched, thorny tree. Leaves simple, sub orbicular or ovate-elliptic. Flowers greenish-yellow, in axillary cymes, drupes globose, yellow or red when ripe. Common in around the house.
Using information: Fruit is cut into pieces and infuse into water for two-three hours is given to the child when feel thirsty in dehydration. Extract prepared from bark is taken one tea spoonful twice daily until cured for the treatment of diarrhoea.

4. Result and discussion
The Rakhaing community is used a diverse group of plants for the treatment of several diseases/illness. A total of 82 species in 77 genera under 51 families have been documented. Of them the most used family in terms of number of species is Fabaceae for medicinal purposes. Similarly Caesalpiniaceae, Apocynaceae, Combretaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Mimosaceae, Solanaceae have been used respectively. According to the informants *Allium sativum, Azadirachta indica, Cajanus cajan, Calotropis gigantea, Cassia fistula, Catharanthus roseus, Centella asiatica, Kalanchoe pinnata, Moringa oleifera, Nigella sativa and Solanum torvum* are most frequently used species to treat several diseases/illness. *Moringa oleifera* is most commonly used to treat high blood pressure. Out of all the plants of ethnomedicinal significance, 27 species are herb, 16 species are shrub, 33 species are tree and 06 species are climber. On the basis of life forms herb, shrub, tree and climber percentage are 33%, 20%, 40% and 7% respectively. By analyzing the present studied ethnobotanical data it is observed that they used different plant or plants parts as their medicine for the treatment of several diseases/illness. Most of the utilized plant part is leaf, along with other plant parts. The preference of leaf as medicine by Rakhaing community because leaf is available and easier to collect, store, processing and handling.
The Rakhaing has knowledge of herbal treatments for wide range of diseases/illness. In the present study, about 35 diseases/illness have been recorded which have been treated by 82 plant species. The most frequently treated disease/illness are skin diseases/illness (boils, blister, eczema, itches, pox, scabies and skin erosion); cough; diarrhoea; general weakness with burning and headache (GBH); menstrual problem; insomnia; gastrointestinal tract disorders (GIT); fever; jaundice; vomiting; leucorrhoea and high blood pressure (HBP) respectively. Twelve species of the present study are used by different informants for the treatment of same diseases. The most frequently cited modes of preparation are juice (extract of any plant part), paste and decoction (boiling of plant parts) and powder; infusions (steeping plant parts in water) and bath also used occasionally. Materials prepared as juice, decoction or paste is mixed with a variety of spices, oil or pharmacological agents. The maximum number of applications are orally administered or called internal application. It is preferred by the Rakhaing community because they believe that entering medicine into the body is most effective. Medicines that are indicated to be administered orally included those claimed to be used mainly for cough, diarrhoea, Topical or local application of plant as medicine is also referred by them in many cases. Bath, fomentation, inhalation, plaster, rubbing and tying plant parts to the body parts are also used occasionally. Day by day, they lost their previous glorious heritage of plant use knowledge. Lack of proper documentation and the present generation is less interested to continue it. The younger generation especially tends to be more open to health centers or doctors than their parents, and they do not know how to prepare or referred to the diseases/illness. The present generation lost the interest to continue their parental profession because it does not provide them proper financial support to their livelihood. Most of them become modernized and dependent in synthetic medicine. Plant resources become less available to meet their present necessity because of deforestation and destroying the plant habitat by different anthropogenic activities. If this condition continue; their traditional plant use knowledge, basically knowledge of medicinal plant use is under threat and may be disappearing rapidly. Now, it is a burning necessary to document their plant use information to protect them from disappearing and revive their glorious plant use heritage. These information can be the source, and help the researchers for the discovery of new drugs.

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