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Ethnomedicines and vegetational pattern of Atmakur forest division of Andhra Pradesh: Strategy for conserving biodiversity of medicinal plants

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Atmakur forest division is a rich source of medicinal plants diversity which is considerably declining in recent decades due to expansion of agriculture, rapid industrialization and urban development, over grazing, soil erosions, frequent incidence of forest fires and also due to export of medicinal plants. There is a heavy extraction of medicinal plants. Hence most of the medicinal plants have become scarce and rare e.g., *Gloriosa superba* Linn., *Helicteres isora* Linn., *Bauhinia vahli* Wt. & Arn., *Smilax china* Linn., *Celastrus paniculatus* Willd. and *Holarrhena antidysenterica* (Buch-Ham) Wall ex G. Don. In the prevailing situation some measures are suggested for conserving biodiversity of medicinal plants.

The paper also presents some 16 contemporary folk recipes comprising 25 taxa of folk medicinal plants used by various tribal communities e.g. Chenchus, Erukas, Koyas and Telaga agriculturists etc., for the treatment of various common ailments. Mode of administration is given for each recipe as detailed discussed in full paper. The study is likely to contribute material for discovery of new drugs of natural origin for many diseases and conditions in far incurable in modern medicine.

Biography

V.C. Gupta has completed his Ph.D. at the age of 27 years from University of Kashmir, and served more than 30 years in research at Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine, Hyderabad under Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, Dept. of AYUSH, Govt. of India. He has published more than 40 papers in reputed peer reviewed national & international journals and presented papers in various conferences and seminars. He has been working and contributing his research experiences in the area of taxonomy, herbal drugs and pharmacognosy.

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