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Biodiversity of wild food and medicinal plants of Eastern Himalayas

Hui Tag^{1,3}, Jambey Tsering¹, Pallabi K Hui² and K Raja Reddy³¹Rajiv Gandhi University, India²National Institute of Technology, Arunachal Pradesh, India³Mississippi State University, USA

Eastern Himalaya comprises of State of Eastern Nepal, Bhutan and Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh endowed with rich cultural and biological diversity. This region has been rated as one among the top 12 Global Biodiversity Hotspot by IUCN (2000, 2005). The cultural and biodiversity of Arunachal Pradesh is exceptionally unique and rich with presence of several linguistic group and endemic biological taxa most of them being significant medicinal and food plants which help in sustaining local culture and economy of the Eastern Himalayan tribes. Present paper highlights ethnobotanical aspects of the selected food and medicinal plants used by the tribes of Arunachal Pradesh. Apart from ethnobotanical knowledge bases, paper also deals with physio-biochemical and pharmacological aspects of selected species including which include *Centella asiatica*, *Chloranthus erectus*, *Potentilla peduncularis*, *Vaccinium glauco album*, *Drynaria propinqua*, *Rosa sericea*, *Quercus griffithii*, and *Quercus semecarpifolia*. The field and lab result shows that the local communities of Eastern Himalayan region of India are rich in diverse uses of traditional food and medicinal plants. Food and medicinal plants used by the local tribes are rich in anti-oxidant bioactive constituents which could be used as anti-inflammatory and anticancer agents.

Biography

The corresponding author Dr. Hui Tag did his Master of Science in Botany from Rajiv Gandhi University (2002), Arunachal Pradesh, India and obtained his PhD Degree in Botany from the same University in the year 2008. Dr. Tag has been working as Senior Assistant Professor in the Department of Botany, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh since 2005, and he is currently pursuing his DBT GOI sponsored Post Doctoral study as Visiting Scientist (DBT Overseas Associate) in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, Mississippi State University, MS USA. His focal research area is taxonomy, ethnobotany, biodiversity and physio-biochemical approach to understand the value and potency of traditional food and medicinal plants. Dr. Tag is a dynamic researcher and also a member of several scientific and professional bodies and also participated as UNDP observer in COP meeting of CBD in last three years. He has more than 50 research papers published in national and international journals of repute.

huitag2008rgu@gmail.com

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