
Medicinal Uses of Trees and Shrubs by the Inhabitants of Nara Desert, Pakistan

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Résumé

The Nara desert, a part of greater Thar Desert Pakistan is semi-arid to arid tract which is known with reference to ethno-flora, but the reputation was sporadic. The villagers living in the studied area possessed empirical knowledge on medicinal plants, this because the basic healthcare facilities were unavailable. The study aim was to collect information on the medicinal use of native plants, methods of preparation of herbal drugs, part of plants used in various phytotherapies.

The ethnobotanical survey of medicinal trees and shrubs was conducted inside the Nara Desert area. Altogether, 100 informants, including herbal practitioners (Hakeems), women, religious teachers (Pesh Imaam) and elders were interviewed. As result, fifty two indigenous trees and shrubs of 27 families distributed in 44 genera were used by the inhabitants of the studied area for curing various diseases. Among them, 17 species were reported and newly used for their medicinal properties compared to existing medicinal literature references.

Based on the results, it can be concluded that the detailed ethno-pharmacological screening is needed at present time for establishing a scientific ground for the reported novel use highlighted in this paper.

Mots-Clés: Nara Desert, Inhabitants, Trees and shrubs, Medicinal plants, Indo, Pak continent

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