

**Ethnobotanical survey of medicinal plant species used by communities around Muththunagar GS division**

*\*<sup>1</sup>Sahiya rafeek, F. and <sup>1</sup>Paheerathan, V., <sup>2</sup>Pholton Rajeev*

<sup>1</sup>Unit of Siddha Medicine, Trincomalee Campus

<sup>2</sup> District Ayurvedic Hospital, Kappalthurai

*\*sahiyarafeek@gmail.com*

An ethno botanical study of medicinal plants was carried out in forest of Muththunagar village in Trincomalee from December 2014 to February 2015. Information was obtained through interviews using semi- structured questionnaires. Field excursions with traditional healers and herbal medicine collectors were carried out. Descriptive statistics were used to present the data. Fidelity ratios and Informant consensus agreements were calculated. In this present study, a total of 176 plants species in 59 families were reported in the treatment of various health conditions. Family Leguminosae was dominant representing 13.06 % of the plant species documented. 5.68% plants included in Cucurbitaceae Family plants and Labiatae Family plants, 5.11% contributed by Euphorbiaceae family plants and Malvaceae Family plants, 3.41% by Acanthaceae family plants, Amaranthaceae family plants and Apocynaceae family plants. Fresh plants (68 %) were the most frequently used parts in preparing herbal remedies. Decoctions (24.86 %) were commonly used method of herbal medicine preparation and administration respectively. Twenty one health conditions were treated using medicinal plants. Informant consensus agreement was highest for treatment for wounds (18.1%) that included Diabetic wound, septic wound and abscess of informant's knowledge about remedies used. *Mimosa pudica*, *Indigofera tinctoria* had 100 % fidelity level for treatment of wound healing as an antiseptic and treatment for poisons as an antidote. The diversity of medicinal plant species used and the associated indigenous knowledge are of great value to the local community and their conservation and preservation is paramount. The therapeutic uses of the documented plants provides basic data for further research focused on pharmacological studies and conservation of the most important species.

**Keywords:** Ethnobotany, Medicinal plants, Muththunagar