

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE BASED INVENTORY OF WILD PLANTS OF WATALA NATIONAL PARK AND ALLIED VILLAGES FROM BHIMBER DISTRICT, AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR, PAKISTAN

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(Received 26th Apr 2019; accepted 11th Jul 2019)

Abstract. An ethnobotanical (EB) research was conducted on the wild plants of Watala National Park (WNP) and allied villages of Barnala, District Bhimber, Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), Pakistan. EB data have been collected by questionnaire method employing structured and semi-structured interviews. A total of 79 interviewees (47 male, 32 female) having age 25-65 years were included in the EB study. 92 plant species of 37 families were studied and the obtained data were compiled in an inventory form consisting of ethnomedicinal (EM) use, parts used, mode of application and EB use. For validation of EM data of plants different microstatistical tools like frequency of citation (FC), relative frequencies of citation (RFC), use value (UV), fidelity level (FL) and informant consensus factor (ICF) were used. Direct matrix ranking (DMR) and priority ranking (PR) were applied on EB data for quantitative analysis to find multiple use forms of plant(s) and calculate biotic threats for the plants. Study results depicted that FC ranged 59 to 11, RFC was 0.75 to 0.14 and UV was between 0.82 and 0.15. Leaves were the most frequently used (31%) part of plants and powder form (25%) was the most commonly used form. The highest FL was found for *Senegalia modesta* species (100%) and diseases such as fever, flu, headache, bronchitis and cough ranked first (0.94) in ICF analysis. DMR results showed that *Senegalia modesta* was the first regarding multifarious use. Fuel wood cutting and fire burning were top two threats for the flora of the area. Due to anthropogenic pressure and climatic dynamics plants of the area are under severe threats and there is urgent need to conserve the flora of WNP, District Bhimber for future generations and to introduce sustainable applications.

Keywords: *traditional ethnobotanical knowledge, informant consensus factor, relative frequency, folklore therapeutics, green drugs, conservation status*

Introduction

Plants have been used by man for his sustenance on the planet. Wild plants had been part and parcel of daily needs of people inhabiting different rural parts of the world. Plants provide fundamental necessities of daily life because rural communities are primarily dependent on wild plant resources for fulfilling the needs of their life (Ishtiaq and Khan, 2008).

Ethnobotany (EB) is discipline of botany in which we study the native people's relationship with indigenous flora of the area and it encompasses the biocultural diversity of plants and human sociological paradigms (Harshberger, 1895; Ishtiaq et al., 2016). It was demonstrated that ethnobotany and ecology are interlinked with each other and this

intermingling of two or more disciplines give ecoethnobotany (EEB) discipline which give significant importance of plants in the life of indigenous communities and ecosystem sustainability (Jones, 1941; Ford, 1978; Ajaib et al., 2014a). EB is the study of direct interaction between human beings and the flora through their coinciding biodiversity and civilization/cultural diversity in the form of index of biocultural diversity (IBCD) which describes this interdependence (Pie, 1995; Ahmad et al., 2008; Ishtiaq et al., 2013a). Plants perform variety of keystone roles in our daily life such as plants provide food, fodder, medicines, shelter, cosmetics, shadow, hedging and fencing, dyes, fuel and aesthetics in the form of ornamental taxa. They have a great role in environmental functions such as stabilizing soil, recycling of nutrients, photosynthesis, protecting water drainage areas and help to restraint rainfall through the process of transpiration (Mehmood et al., 2012; Naseem et al., 2018). Plants are also involved in the manufacturing of different phytochemicals also called secondary metabolites which are potential sources of disease treatment through drug discovery and development process (Ajaib et al., 2014b).

Pakistan has rich and abundant plant resources and nearly more than 6000 plants have been reported, particularly more than 2000 species are known as medicinal plants (MPs) being used in the cure of many diseases by local communities of the country (Ali et al., 2001; Umair et al., 2017; Sher et al., 2016). The plants have been playing pivotal role in coping the basic needs of rural communities in various parts of Pakistan and AJK (Ishtiaq et al., 2013b). The indigenous people of mountainous and remote areas of AJK had been dependent primarily on local plants for obtaining needs of life such as food, fodder, shelter and ethnomedicines. The information about plants regarding their role as EMs and other EB necessities is very helpful to ecologists, pharmacologists, taxonomists, watershed and wild life managers. These are documented to conserve the civilization norms and folklore traditions of various ethnic groups and areas and describe how plants are inevitable in the prosperity of indigenous communities of the area (Ishtiaq et al., 2012, 2013a; Ajaib et al., 2014b; Chassagne et al., 2016).

Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) is a territory that connects Pakistan with China and India. Kashmir has a historical background and it was an independent empire in the 18th century but later on during 1940s decade when India and Pakistan emerged on the map of world, this state was tetra-furcated into four sections; one of those is called as AJK (Ishtiaq et al., 2013b). Azad Jammu and Kashmir state has ten districts and Bhimber is one of these and it is located at the southern side connecting District Gujrat of Pakistan and Districts Rajori and Jammu of the Indian part of Kashmir. The study area of Watala National Park (WNP) and allied villages is located in Tehsil Barnala of District Bhimber, AJK. Collectively Districts Mirpur and Bhimber make one division of AJK and it consists of 2526 km² area (*Fig. 1*). District Bhimber has plain area with some high mountains in Tehsil Samahni only and its area is 1516 km². The population of District Bhimber is 0.343 million with a growth rate of 2.6% and house hold size of 6.7 (Ishtiaq et al., 2016).

The climate of the study area is warm and temperate with an average annual temperature of 23.5 °C. The average rainfall is 752 mm in a year. June is the warmest month of the year, temperature fluctuates with range 40-48.2 °C. January is the coldest month of the year, with an average temperature of 12.1 °C. November is the driest month, with 5 mm of rainfall. In July, the precipitation reaches its peak, with an average of 222 mm (Mehmood et al., 2012; Ishtiaq et al., 2016). Study area (Watala) is located in the North-East of Azad Jammu and Kashmir along 32° 54 (32.9023°) N and 74° 17 (74.2962°) E at an average elevation of 444 m above sea level (GPS Garmin Nuvi) (Nadeem et al., 2014; Ishtiaq et al., 2016).

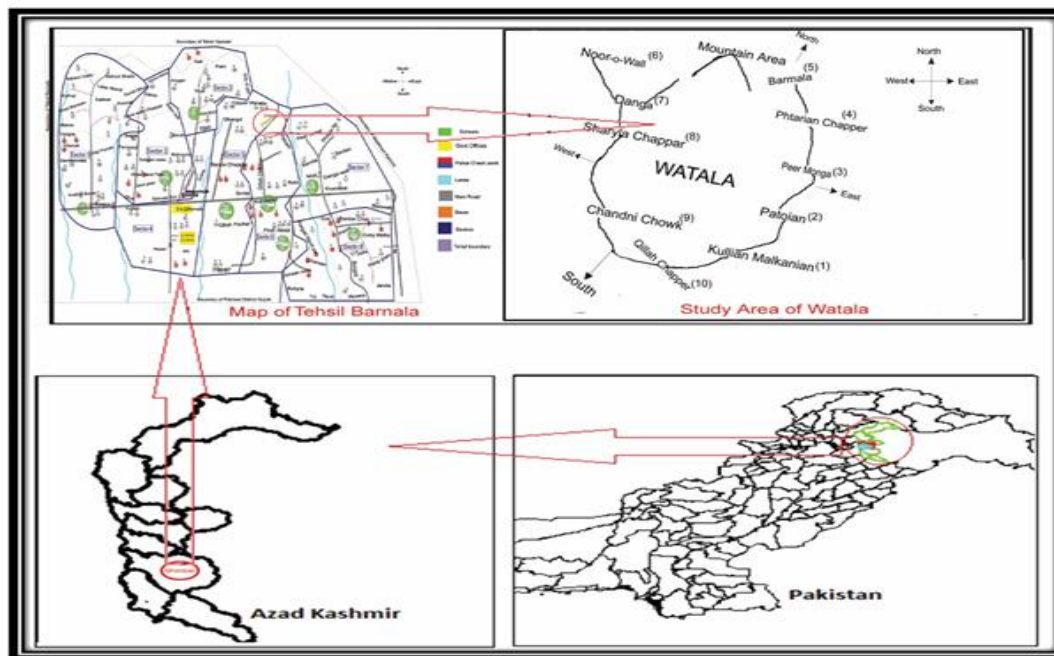


Figure 1. Map showing location of study area, Watala, District Bhimber within Tehsil Barnala, Azad Kashmir and Pakistan

WNP area has different ethnic groups residing such as Gojars, Jat, Rajput, Jaraal, Syed, Mirza, Kashmiri, Chibs and Awans (Ishtiaq et al., 2007a). In the area key languages spoken are Punjabi, Kashmiri, Saariki, Gojari, and Parhayee and each has different linguistic dialects that fluctuates from one village to other due to mixing of various cultures by bonds of marriages or by migration of people due to Indian firing, long drought spell, or any other cause (Ishtiaq et al., 2013b, 2016).

On many parts of Pakistan commendable work have been reported on EB studies by different workers describing that EB research is very important in drug discovery and development (Shinwari and Khan, 2000; Ishtiaq et al., 2007b). Albeit many sporadic research works are reported on EB studies of different areas of AJK (Qamar, 1996; Amjad et al., 2017; Dar et al., 2018; Ajaib et al., 2015; Ishtiaq et al., 2012, 2013b) but hitherto nothing is published on Watala National Park (WNP) and allied villages of District Bhimber, AJK. This is a first time an attempt to describe the ethnobotanical research on WNP using quantitative analysis by applying various microstatistical indices such as CF, RCF, FL, ICF and UVs. The IBCD, DMR and PR tools were used for determining biotic threat levels on the various plant species of WNP and then recommendations were made for the conservation of these taxa for their sustainable ecosystem services. The pivotal objectives of the research study were to: (i) study the plant biodiversity of the Watala National Park (WNP) and its allied area by preparing check list of plant flora; (ii) investigate and explore ethnobotanical potential of plants of the WNP in the life of rural communities by documenting multiple purpose uses; (iii) traditional folklore therapeutic recipes of medicinal plants (MPs) that may serve drug discovery research in the future; (iv) to document the cultural heritage of the indigenous communities of the WNP area and to calculate the conservation of various plants with recommendations for their protection and conservation for the future.

Materials and methods

An ethnobotanical (EB) study was conducted during years 2015 and 2016 in Watala National Park (WNP) and allied villages of District Bhimber to collect the plant specimens for experimental analysis. During four seasons of the year, several planned and random field trips were conducted in the study area to collect EB information and data were recorded in triplicate manner for each parameter. The EB data were collected through use of Visual appraisal assessment (VAA) and rapid rural appraisal (RRA) methods (Okuthe et al., 2003; Ishtiaq et al., 2007b). In VAT, observations were made in wild areas and in the community houses and market visits and all of important information were instantly documented in a notebook. In RAA method, questionnaire method following Ishtiaq et al. (2013a, 2016) was used. In the process, structured and semi-structured interview patterns were used and data were collected from field visits and from local market surveys including botanic drug sellers (dealers), timber dealers, fuel wood sellers, local hakims and farmers in the research. The data collected from the local people included: botanical name, vernacular name, local name, folklore uses, therapeutic recipes, plants' part used, occurrence in area, characters involved in the collection, trade marketing, mode of usage and other related information like: disease name cured. According to economic values and drug potential, plants of WNP were further categorized into medicinal plants (MPs), food, fruits, fodder, vegetable, thatching, hedging, shelter, ornamental and fuel wood etc. based on the gathered data through interviewing questionnaire from botanic drug sellers, timber dealers, fuel wood sellers, local hakims and farmers. In this research analysis, preference was given to local elder people and hakims, who were the actual consumers and had a lot of indigenous traditional and cultural information about the plants and local ethnic groups with ritual paradigms (Ishtiaq et al., 2016). The collected data compiled in documentary form and it was compared with published and online papers for authenticity and verification.

Data collection and identification of plants

The plant specimens were collected from the area (WNP) for identification and extraction of EB data from villagers by showing them the plant specimens and asking them to answer the questions asked through different interview formats. The collected plants were dried, pressed, mounted properly on herbarium sheets and voucher numbers were assigned to each taxon according to protocol of Alexiades (1996), Cook (1995) and Ishtiaq et al. (2013b). All of these plant taxa were submitted for further reference in the Herbarium (MUH-), Department of Botany, Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST), Bhimber Campus. The plants were identified mainly with the help of Flora of Pakistan (www.eflora.com) following printed Flora book (Nasir and Ali, 1970-1989; Ali and Qaiser, 1993-2015), whereas the International Plant Name Index (IPNI) (www.ipni.org) was also used to obtain authentic botanical names.

Quantitative ethnobotanical data analysis

For the corroboration and to analyze the homogeneity of the collected ethnobotanical data, various quantitative indices were used. The collected EB data were formulated in form of a matrix (MS excel worksheet) and summarized as per protocol of Cook (1995) and Ishtiaq et al. (2013b). The obtained data were compared with previous research work published on the same area or on different areas of AJK but with same topic by

using online searching for authentication and reliability. Due to stringent peer review procedure only authentic information were kept for the meta-analysis of the study. The applicability, reliability and authenticity of ethnobotanical research work was rechecked and supported by calculating frequency of citation (FC), use value (UV), relative frequency of citation (RFC), fidelity level (FL), informant consensus factor (ICF), data matrix ranking (DMR) and priority ranking (PR) microstatistical tools following protocols of Ishtiaq et al. (2007b) and Fisseha et al. (2009).

Relative frequency of citation (RFC)

The index of relative frequency of citation (RFC) was determined by using the following formula (Vijayakumar et al., 2015).

$$RFC = FC / N \quad (\text{Eq.1})$$

where FC is the number of informants reporting use of a particular species and N is the total number of informants.

Use value index (UV)

The use value was calculated by using the following formula (Vijayakumar et al., 2015).

$$UV = \sum U_i / N \quad (\text{Eq.2})$$

where U_i is the number of uses mentioned by each informant for a given species and N is the total number of informants.

Fidelity level (FL)

The fidelity level (FL), the percentage of informants claiming the use of a certain plant for the same major purpose was calculated for the most frequently reported usages or ailments as:

$$FL(\%) = \frac{N_p}{N} \times 100 \quad (\text{Eq.3})$$

where N_p is the number of informants that claim a use of a plant species used for a particular purpose/disease and N is the number of informants that use the plants as a botanic/medicine to fill/treat any given demand/disease (Alexiades, 1996).

Informant consensus factor (ICF)

Informant consensus factor (ICF) was calculated for each category of ailments to identify the agreements of the informants on the reported medicures for the group of ICF was calculated as follows: number of use citations in each category (nur) minus the number of species used (nt), divided by the number of use citations in each category minus one (Heinrich et al., 1998).

$$ICF = \frac{nur - nt}{nur - 1} \quad (Eq.4)$$

Data matrix ranking (DMR)

Data matrix ranking (DMR) describes the multiple usages of one plant for various purposes by the indigenous community and the data is presented in tabular form with % age index of each use-form ailments (Fisseha et al., 2009; Ishtiaq et al., 2013a).

Priority ranking (PR)

Priority ranking (PR) method was used for indicating the preference of the local people about the potential use of each plant in certain use and it describes the biotic pressure on the plants of the area and it assist to calculate the conservation status of various species in the study area (Ishtiaq et al., 2007a, 2013b).

Results

The Ethnobotanical research work is very important because it provides basic information on plant biodiversity, cultural diversity and traditional ethnomedicinal knowledge (TEK) of an area. The current research work was conducted in the rural area of Tehsil Barnala mainly focused on Watala National Park (WNP) and its allied village areas of Tehsil Barnala, District Bhimber Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan.

The area of WNP is very rich for biocultural diversity as it has a historic background. King of Dogra empire “Mahraja Hari Singh’s” maternal grandparents belonged to this territory of WNP. The princess visited this region during his regime. There is a garden of mangoes in this region that is named as “Princess’ Garden” locally called “Raani ka Baagh” which was established by the King in desire of the Princess (Baheem, 1890).

In this research work various parameters were studied which included the following steps: (i) social and geographical characteristics of the sample and study sites, shown in *Table 1*, (ii) Family-wise contribution and ethnomedicinal flora, (iii) plant collection, identification and preservation and (iv) documentation of floristic composition of the plants of the area.

Inhabitants of WNP and allied area (10 villages) were interviewed with the above said methodology for documentation of folklore therapeutics and ethnobotanical knowledge of the plants of the area (*Fig. 1*). The interviewees were of both gender with age range of 25-to-65 years and if age groups were made on the basis of 10 years age differences, then it was found that age group “56-65 years” was more knowledgeable due to their keen interest in local plants uses and their personal experience of life (*Table 1*). Less ethnobotanical knowledge was exhibited by age group “16-25 years” due to their preference for use of western medicines. However, the 56-65 years and 60 < years age group showed high level of traditional knowledge which is a good sign of traditional knowledge consistency in the area. The graphical age difference of respondents is shown in (*Fig. 2*).

Table 1. Social characteristics of study sites of Watala National Park, District Bhimber AJK, Pakistan

Village names of WNP and allied area	Barmala	Saryala-Chapper	Danga	Pataria-Chapper	Noor-o-Wall	Chandni-Choke	Peer-Monga	Patoian	Kulian-Malkanian	Qilla-Chapper
Village size (number of families)	23	52	38	25	26	61	16	42	36	40
Sample size (number of informants)	9	6	10	7	9	11	5	7	9	6
Dependency on livestock as a source of income	82%	50%	87%	65%	55%	40%	51%	55%	62%	59%
Informants average age	56-21	72-18	69-16	46-14	50-12	61-15	67-20	59-25	67-28	62-25
Average number of family members	14-5	12-3	18-3	11-5	10-2	11-4	16-2	12-4	10-2	16-4
Migration ratio	10%	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Bilingualism	9%	40%	35%	20%	30%	45%	25%	35%	42%	30%
Elevation (m.a.s.l.)	396	410	465	438	398	472	458	442	394	447



Figure 2. Graphical age difference of respondents of ethnobotanical study of Watala National Park of AJK, Pakistan

Family-wise contribution and ethnobotanical flora of Watala National Park and allied areas

For the documentation of ethnobotanical knowledge of the plants of Watala National Park (WNP) different plants were collected from the selected villages and WNP area according to protocol of Ishtiaq et al. (2007b). The collected plants were pressed, dried and mounted on herbarium sheets for preservation in the herbarium of the Department of Botany, Mirpur University of Science and Technology Bhimber AJK. Each collected plant specimen was assigned a herbarium voucher number with prefix: MUH-. The collected plants were herbaria numbers initiating from MUH-3031 to MUH-3122 (Table 3). The collected plants were verified and identified mainly with the help of Flora of Pakistan library booklets and online data (www.eflora.com) following Nasir and Ali (1970-1989) and Ali and Qaiser (1993-2015) whereas the International Plant Name Index (IPNI) (www.ipni.org) was also used to obtain correct botanical names, if not found in the herbarium or eflora website. Distribution of medicinal plant (MPs) species according to their family is presented in tabular form and it was

found that Poaceae was the first having 15 species (16.31%), followed by Amaranthaceae with 08 species (8.69%) and Malvaceae ranked at third with 6 taxa (6.52%) as described in Table 2 and in Figure 3 in graphical format.

Table 2. Percentage distribution of medicinal plants according to their family from Watala National Park of AJK

Sr. no.	Family name	No. of spp.	Percentage contribution	Sr. no.	Family name	No. of spp.	Percentage contribution
1-	Acanthaceae	3	3.26%	20-	Flacourtiaceae	2	2.17%
2-	Amaranthaceae	8	8.69%	21-	Lamiaceae	3	3.26%
3-	Anacardiaceae	1	1.08%	22-	Malvaceae	6	6.52%
4-	Apocynaceae	2	2.17%	23-	Martyniaceae	1	1.08%
5-	Asclepiadaceae	1	1.08%	24-	Meliaceae	1	1.08%
6-	Asparagaceae	1	1.08%	25-	Mimosaceae	4	4.35%
7-	Asteraceae	4	4.35%	26-	Moraceae	3	3.26%
8-	Boraginaceae	1	1.08%	27-	Nyctaginaceae	1	1.08%
9-	Brassicaceae	1	1.08%	28-	Oxalidaceae	1	1.08%
10-	Cactaceae	1	1.08%	29-	Papilionaceae	4	4.35%
11-	Cannabaceae	1	1.08%	30-	Poaceae	15	16.31%
12-	Capparidaceae	3	3.26%	31-	Potamogetanaceae	1	1.08%
13-	Celastraceae	1	1.08%	32-	Primulaceae	1	1.08%
14-	Combretaceae	1	1.08%	33-	Rhamnaceae	2	2.17%
15-	Commenlinaceae	1	1.08%	34-	Sapindaceae	1	1.08%
16-	Convolvulaceae	4	4.35%	35-	Solanaceae	3	3.26%
17-	Cucurbitaceae	2	2.17%	36-	Tiliaceae	2	2.26%
18-	Cyperaceae	1	1.08%	37-	Verbenaceae	1	1.08%
19-	Euphorbiaceae	3	3.26%				

Documentation of wild plant species

Ethnobotanical data of the wild plants of the WNP of AJK were documented containing voucher numbers, botanical names, vernacular name, family name, plant part used, field collection period, exact gathering sites, traditional medicinal uses and other use forms (Table 3). In the investigated area, 92 plant species belonging to 83 genera and 37 families were recorded. Among them, Poaceae ranked first having 15 species (16.31%), Amaranthaceae was second having 8 species (8.69%) whereas Malvaceae showed the third highest number having 6 species (6.52%), respectively. Asteraceae, Convolvulaceae, Mimosaceae and Papilionaceae each having 4 species (4.35%) while Acanthaceae, Capparidaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Lamiaceae, Moraceae and Solanaceae each has 3 species (3.26%). Apocynaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Flacourtiaceae, Tiliaceae and Rhamnaceae each has 2 species (2.17%). Anacardiaceae, Asparagaceae, Boraginaceae, Brassicaceae, Cactaceae, Cannabaceae, Celastraceae, Cleomaceae, Combretaceae, Commenlinaceae, Cyperaceae, Martyniaceae, Meliaceae, Nyctaginaceae, Oxalidaceae, Potamogetanaceae, Primulaceae, Sapindaceae and Verbenaceae each has 1 species only (1.08%). A pie-chart of medicinal plant species according to their contribution to each family is shown in (Fig. 3). Most of the plant species in the area identified as having an ethnomedicinal value were herbaceous (55%), followed by trees (20%), grasses (12%),

shrubs (10%) and climbers (3%) (Fig. 4). These results reflect the high altitude of the study area where the herbaceous flora is dominant with fewer grasses and trees.

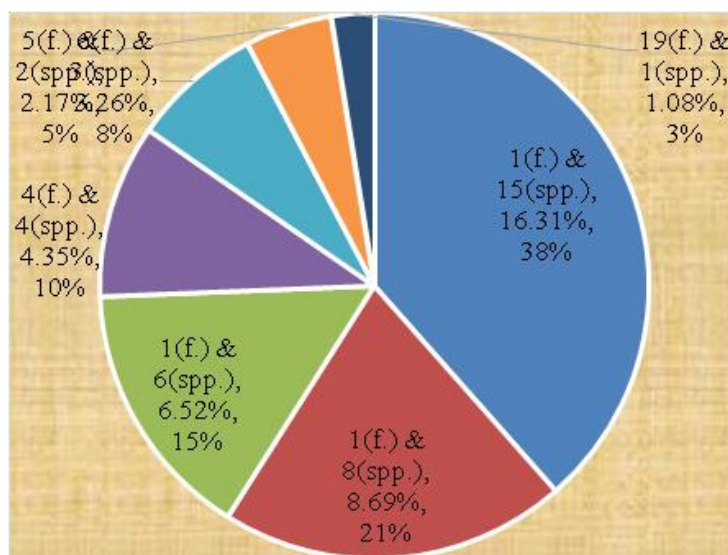


Figure 3. A pie-chart of medicinal plant species according to their contribution to their family (f: no. of families & spp.: no. of species)

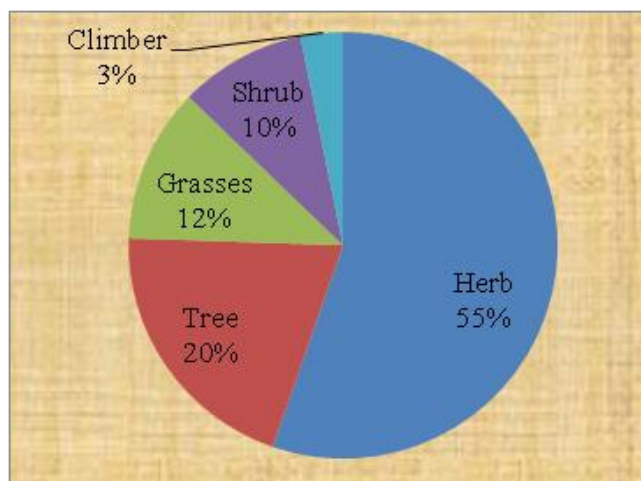


Figure 4. Life form of plants used in ethnobotanical study of Watala National Park of AJK, Pakistan

Plant part(s) used

Different plant parts are used in different ways in herbal medicines depending upon the knowledge of indigenous communities and accessibility of those plants to local inhabitants. In the present study, leaves (L = 31%) were the most commonly used plant part in the herbal therapeutic preparations followed by whole plant (WP = 21%), root (R = 10%), fruit & seed (FS = 8.8%), wood (W = 7%), bark (B = 6%), stem (S = 5%), flowers (F = 3%) and legume (Lg = 1%) as shown in Figure 5. Ethnobotanical and medicinal uses of plants were also recorded and presented in Table 3.

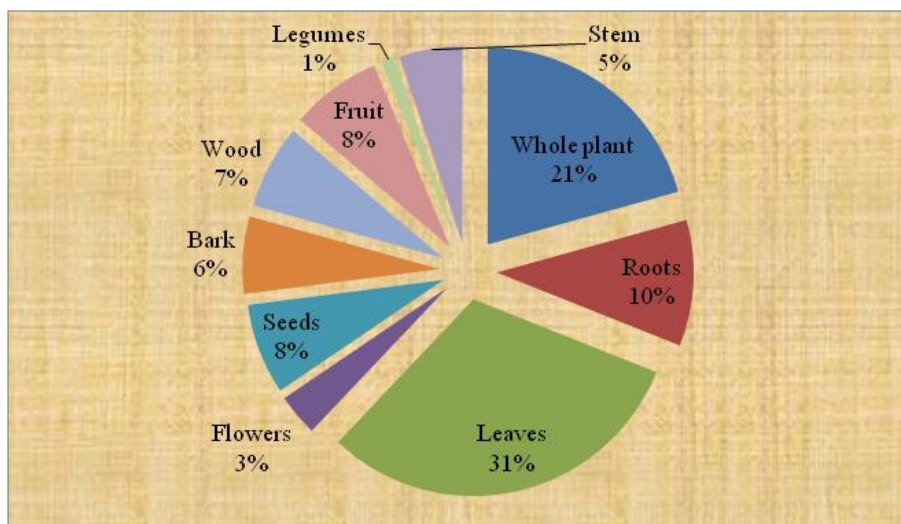


Figure 5. Plant parts used in herbal recipes in terms of% age from Watala National Park of District Bhimber, AJK

Method of preparation of folklore therapeutics and mode of administration

Plants are very important source of food and medicines because plants contain many primary and secondary metabolites and the latter ones make them potential sources of medicinal use. Different parts of plants of various types and variable quantity of phytochemicals are used. The different plant parts were mostly used in herbal preparations in various modes such as decoction (22 spp.), extract (18 spp.), wet paste (17 spp.), dry & powder (17 spp.), fuel (16 spp.), juice (11 spp.), palatable (9 spp.), vegetable (8 spp.), poultice (5 spp.) and gum (4 spp.). During the research various methods of folklore tonics' preparation were documented by interviewing the indigenous inhabitants of WNP and allied villages. Common form and mode of herbal therapeutics formation and its administration form were as: food/fodder (direct WP used) with the highest value (25%), and decoction, paste, juice, powder, extract, tea and gum as the least used form (6%) (Fig. 6).

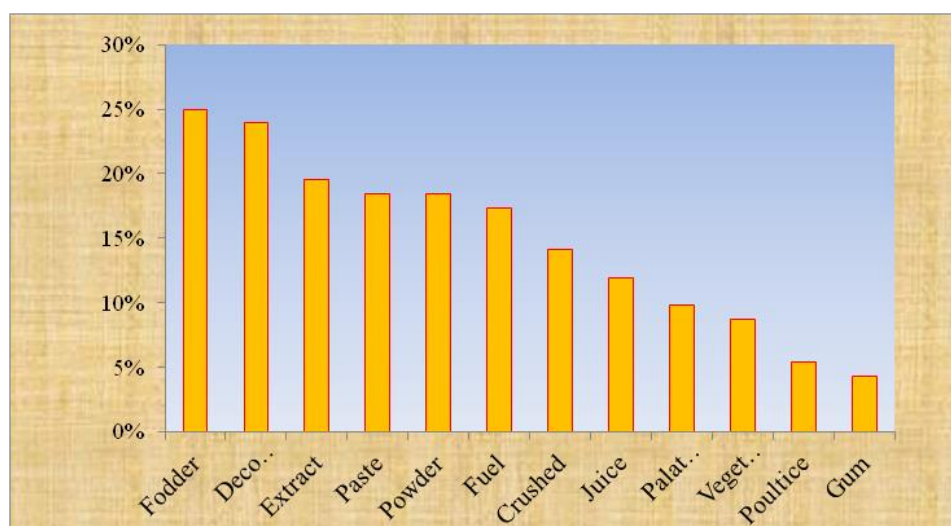


Figure 6. Common methods of preparation of folklore therapeutics and their mode of administration

Table 3. Traditional ethnomedicinal and ethnobotanical uses of wild plants recorded from study area Watala National Park of District Bhimber of AJK

Sr#	Family, botanical name & voucher no.	Habit	Common name	Used parts	Gathering period	Gathering area(s)	Traditional medicinal uses	Ethnobotanical uses	FC	RFC	UV
(1) Acanthaceae											
1-	<i>Dicliptera bupleuroides</i> Nees MUH-3031	Herb	Kalu	Whole plant	Spring	Waste-land	The poultice is used for scabies. The host insect from this plant is collected to make powder, which is very effective to cure pneumonia and hypertension	It is used as fuel in dried form.	48	0.61	0.63
2-	<i>Justicia adhatoda</i> L. MUH-3032	Herb	Bhaker	Leaves and almost whole plant	Spring	Waste-land	Half kg of fresh leaves is extracted with 500ml water, used against diabetes and in blood purification. Leaves and flowers are taken, dried under shade, crushed to acquire powder, 50gm of this powder is mixed in 15ml of honey and used to treatment of chest infection. Decoction of leaves is used for skin infection. The stem and leaves are useful for fever and hypertension	It is used for thatching, fuel ,hedging, shadow for other micro-plants, and used as fodder	No	0.66	0.68
3-	<i>Peristrophe paniculata</i> (Forssk.) Brummitt MUH-3033	Herb	Kaluu / Kali-Buti	Whole plant	Spring	Bushy-vegetation	The host insect from this plant is collected to make powder, which is very effective to cure pneumonia and hypertension	It is used as fodder, fuel.	19	0.24	0.31
(2) Amaranthaceae											
4-	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i> L. MUH-3034	Herb	Puth-Kanda	Whole plant	Spring	Bushy-vegetation	The paste acquired from the root has been used to cure snake bite. Decoction is diuretic. Seeds and leaves are given in prolepses in cattle. Seed powder is also used in treatment of strong abdominal pain. Shade dried whole plant powder is mixed with honey is effective for pneumonia	It is eaten as fodder, also used as fuel in dried form.	46	0.58	0.52
5-	<i>Aerva sanguinolenta</i> (L.) Blume MUH-3035	Herb	Booti	Branches	Spring	Bushy-vegetation	A decoction of immature branches is used to cure haematuria and irregular or painful menstruation	It is used as fodder and bioremediator	11	0.14	0.22
6-	<i>Alternanthera pungens</i> Kunth MUH-3036	Herb	Kanda-Buti	Leaves and Roots	Spring	Beside pedestrian passes	Roots and leaves paste is beneficial for liver disorder. Roots are used for eye tumor as well as its decoction for cough and pulmonary disorder. Leaves and roots are diuretic and used in blood purification	It is used for fuel in dried form.	18	0.23	0.16

7-	<i>Amaranthus graecizans</i> L. MUH-3037	Herb	Hardar-Chalei	Whole plant	Spring	Bushy-vegetation	The whole climber plant shade dried and ground to form powder is used for cardiac diseases, diabetes and aphrodisiac. Leaves are crushed with sugar and occupied along with black tea for treating constipation and gastrointestinal problems. Poultice of leaf is prepared along with mustard oil for the cure of abscesses	It is used as vegetable and source of fodder.	12	0.15	0.51
8-	<i>Amaranthus viridis</i> L. MUH-3038	Herb	Ganar	Whole plant	Spring	Bushy-vegetation	The leaves are used on snake bite and scorpion sting. Root is used to restraint menstruation. It is also used as vegetable (saag)	It is used as vegetable and fodder	43	0.54	0.24
9-	<i>Celosia argentea</i> L. MUH-3039	Herb	Gutta-Buti	Whole plant	Spring	Fertile-valley	About 20ml of root extract is used to check undue menstruation. It is used as fodder for cattle	It is used as fodder for cattle	12	0.15	0.23
10-	<i>Digera muricata</i> (L.) Mart. MUH-3040	Herb	Tandola / Dawurra	Whole plant	Spring	Waste-land	Extract of the whole plant juice is used as laxative. Leaves are used as vegetable. The tender tips extract is also used for kidney stones	It is used as bioremediator and fodder and vegetable	29	0.36	0.15
11-	<i>Pupalia lappacea</i> (L.) Juss. MUH-3041	Herb	Jojera	Whole plant	Spring	Bushy-vegetation	10-12gm of fresh leaf paste mixed with 50-60ml of <i>Sesamum indicum</i> oil, mixture is used for bone fracture	It is used as vegetable and chick feed	57	0.72	0.54
(3) Anacardiaceae											
12-	<i>Lannea coromandelica</i> (Houtt.) Merr. MUH-3042	Tree	Gandela	Whole plant	Summer	Forest	The gum acquired from the stem is used in confectionery. The bark powder is used as a flavoring. The plant is grown as a hedge as well as a fence	It is used as Fuel wood, shelter and fodder	32	0.41	0.51
(4) Apocynaceae											
13-	<i>Carissa opaca</i> Stapf ex Haines. MUH-3043	Tree	Grunda	Whole plant	Spring	Mountain-forest	1kg decoction of fresh roots is used for asthma, jaundice and kidney pain. 30g dried root is crushed to form powder and used in the cure of animal wounds. Milky juice extracted from ripen fruit is effectively used to cure iron deficiency, liver disorders and blood deficiencies. Leaves are used as fodder for goats and sheep. Stem and root are used as fuel especially in local ovens	It is used as fodder, fuel wood, hedging and fencing, fruit	44	0.55	0.36
14-	<i>Telosma cordata</i> (Burm. f.) Merr. MUH-3044	Herb	Pakalana	Roots and flowers	Spring	Waste-land	The plump roots are used to make a sweetmeat. The flowers are used in the treatment of conjunctivitis	It is used as fodder and dry fuel	51	0.65	0.72
(5) Asclepiadaceae											

15-	<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Aiton) Dryand. MUH-3045	Shrub	Desi-aak	Whole plant	Summer	Barren-land	Whole plant extract is used for dog bite. Commonly latex is used for ring worm and skin diseases. The milky juice is toxic	Its toxic material, kills goats if eaten too much	41	0.52	0.23
(6) Asparagaceae											
16-	<i>Asparagus gracilis</i> Browicz MUH-3046	Herb	-	Whole plant	Spring	Bushy-vegetation	The plant is used for its anti-oxidant and anti-urease activity	Fodder for animals	23	0.29	0.41
(7) Asteraceae											
17-	<i>Artemisia scoparia</i> Waldst. & Kitam. MUH-3047	Herb	Chahuu	Leaves	Spring	Waste-land	Leaves are used as tonic and anthelmintic	It is used as fodder for goats, dry fuel	41	0.52	0.72
18-	<i>Bidens biternata</i> (Lour.) Merr. & Sherff MUH-3048	Herb	-	Leaves and seeds	Summer	Waste-land	Leaf juice is used to treat eye and ear infections. The scoured leaves are applied to skin infections as haemostatic on wounds, and enfolded around the umbilical cord of babies. The seeds are used as an anthelmintic in animals	It is used as fodder and bioremediator	12	0.15	0.55
19-	<i>Tridax procumbens</i> (L.) L MUH-3049	Herb	Coat button	Whole plant	Spring	Waste-land	The leaves are used in the treatment of bronchial catarrh, dysentery and diarrhea. The leaves paste is applied to reduce swelling of haemorrhoids and to stop bleeding. Smoke produced by burning of the plant is used to repel mosquitoes	It is used as dry fuel, and fodder.	35	0.44	0.65
20-	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i> L. MUH-3050	Herb	Motta-Jojera	Whole plant	Spring	Bushy-vegetation	120ml decoction is prepared from 60mg of dried root of this plant and used in diabetes. Leaves decoction is used for long malarial fever	It is used as fuel	59	0.75	0.52
(8) Boraginaceae											
21-	<i>Ehretia laevis</i> Roxb. MUH-3051	Tree	Cham-road	Stem and bark	Summer	Forest	Stem bark powder is used internally to check blood dysentery for three days	Fire wood, shelter, fodder	56	0.71	0.29
(9) Brassicaceae											
22-	<i>Coronopus didymus</i> (L.) Sm. MUH-3052	Herb	Thandi-Buti	Whole plant	Spring	Fertile-valley	The plant is used as fumigant to repulse the insects. The plant brings feelings of coolness in the body	It is used as bioindicator	24	0.31	0.52
(10) Cactaceae											
23-	<i>Opuntia monacantha</i> (Wild.) Haw. MUH-3053	Shrub	Tarapar-thor	Whole plant	Summer	Barren-land	It is used as hedge plant for fencing the fields	It is used as raticide	23	0.29	0.15
(11) Cannabaceae											

24-	<i>Cannabis sativa</i> L. MUH-3054	Herb	Bhaang	Whole plant	Summer	Beside pedestrain passes	The fruit and leaves are used as soporiferous commonly called "Charas". Decoction of seeds is given to cattle for increasing milk. Leaves are also used for constipation, stomach diseases, aphrodisiac and muscle contraction. It is also used for stopping menses and whooping cough. Seeds are used to stop releasing sperms	It is used for fuel, thatching material used in mud-houses	31	0.39	0.44
(12) Cappariaceae											
25-	<i>Capparis sepiaria</i> L. MUH-3055	Shrub	Daddur	Whole plant	Spring	Forest	The fruit is used to make powder and effectively used to cure anemia, liver disorder and aphrodisiac. The leaves are used as fodder for goats. Wood is useful as fuel wood	It is used as fuel plant, fodder as well	23	0.29	0.71
26-	<i>Cleome gynandra</i> L. MUH-3056	Herb	Talwar-Buti	Leaves	Spring	Hedgerows	Leaf juice is used as an ear-ache drop by drop. Half tea-spoon of leaf juice is used daily for cold. 10g of leaves crushed with the same amount of pepper and garlic extract is used daily for fertility to women after completion of menstrual period	It is used as fodder plant	15	0.18	0.31
27-	<i>Crateva adansonii</i> DC. MUH-3057	Tree	Barna	Whole plant	Summer	Barren-land	It is suitable in disorders of urinary organs, urinary tract infections, pain and burning micturition, renal and vesicle calculi.	Fuel wood, shelter and cattle shades	25	0.32	0.29
(13) Celastraceae											
28-	<i>Maytenus royleana</i> (Wall. ex M.A. Lawson.) Cufd. MUH-3058	Shrub	Pataki	Whole plant	Summer	Forest	Root extract is abortifacient. Leaves are palatable. Whole dry plant is used as fuel wood especially in local ovens	It is used as fodder, hedging plant	31	0.39	0.39
(14) Combretaceae											
29-	<i>Anogeissus latifolia</i> (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Bedd. MUH-3059	Tree	Qaam	Stem bark	Summer	Mountain-forest	Stem bark is crushed and soaked in water over night, 2 spoons of the filtered extract is given twice a day to cure whooping cough	It is used as fuel tree, shelter and fodder	19	0.24	0.18
(15) Commelinaceae											
30-	<i>Commelina benghalensis</i> L. MUH-3060	Herb	Churra	Whole plant	Spring	Shady-land	Leaves are used as vegetable (saag). Plant is used as fodder for cattle. Leaves are laxative	It is used as fodder and vegetable	15	0.18	0.29
(16) Convolvulaceae											

31-	<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i> Roxb. MUH-3061	Climber	Neela-Dhari	Whole plant	Summer	Fertile-valley	Stem juice is useful for epilepsy and other mental disorder. Paste of the plant powder is prepared in butter and visibly useful for wounds. The whole plant is crushed and boiled in 8liter of water for an hour. It is filtered and advised the patient to take a bath with this decoction without using soap for scabies	It is used for roping and knitting of wooden goods	41	0.52	0.32
32-	<i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> (L.) L. MUH-3062	Herb	Vishnuki ranthai	Whole plant	Spring	Fertile-land	Whole plant extract is considered as strong anti-dote for snake bite	It is used as fodder	36	0.45	0.39
33-	<i>Ipomoea carnea</i> Jacq. MUH-3063	Shrub	Valeiti-Aak / Jangli	Whole plant	Summer	Waste-land	It is used as a medicinal and hedge plant. It is used to stop the soil erosion in naked land. It is also used as fuel wood	It is used as fuel plant, hedging one	13	0.16	0.24
34-	<i>Ipomoea pes-tigridis</i> L. MUH-3064	Climber	Alra-Kalyari / Kangi-poncha	Whole plant	Spring	Bushy-vegetation	It is used for poultice sores, pimples, boils, carbuncles etc. Entire creeper is crushed and the juice is given orally for treatment of rabies, if one is bitten by rabid dog. It is also used for wound healing as well as various painful conditions like head-ache, swelling, poisonous sting, snake bites etc.	It is used as fodder and vegetable	29	0.36	0.82
(17) Cucurbitaceae											
35-	<i>Coccinia grandis</i> (L.) Voigt MUH-3065	Herb	Chiwra/ Kandyari	Leaves, root and fruit	Spring	Waste-land	Softened roots are used for diabetes. Softened leaves are applied on swellings. Also its fruit, leaves and stem mixed with neem is used to cure diarrhea, blood purifier, loss of appetite and indigestion	It is used as fodder and dry herb as fuel.	33	0.42	0.69
36-	<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i> (L.) C. MUH-3066	Herb	Cucumbe r / Sivadond	Leaves	Summer	Waste-land	Slightly warmed leaf juice is used as rheumatic swellings in cattle	It is used as fodder and bioindicator	49	0.62	0.45
(18) Cyperaceae											
37-	<i>Cyperus iria</i> L. MUH-3067	Herb	Deela-Kaa / Muthri	Tubers, leaves	Spring	Fertile-land	Decoction of crushed tubers is used for fevers. The plant is considered good tonic, stimulant, stomachic and astringent. It is used as fodder for cattle	It is used as fodder and tonic herb	42	0.53	0.16
(19) Euphorbiaceae											
38-	<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L. MUH-3068	Herb	Duudeil	Whole plant	Spring	House-garden	Whole plant is very effective for liver disorder and ring worms. Leaves juice is taken in diabetes. It is effectively suitable for stomach pain	It is used as fodder herb	21	0.26	0.36

39-	<i>Euphorbia prostrata</i> Aiton MUH-3069	Herb	Hazar-Dani	Whole plant	Spring	Beside pedestrian passes	Dried plant is crushed to make powder and used as anti-renal fall. Plant powder mixed with sugar is effective for liver disorder. The paste is also suitable in skin diseases. Plant decoction is used as dermatocides, especially for ring worm. Dried plant powder is used in diarrhea	It is used as protector	54	0.68	0.82
40-	<i>Ricinus communis</i> L. MUH-3070	Shrub	Hernoli	Leaves, seeds and oil	Summer	Waste-land	Leaves are emetics, poisonous and strongly laxative. Poulitice is applied to swelling. Castor oil is laxative, oil is given in constipation before and after child birth to mothers. Seeds are sedative	It is use as fuel wood and hedge plants	39	0.49	0.42
(20) Flacourtiaceae											
41-	<i>Casearia tomentosa</i> Roxb. MUH-3071	Tree	Cheela / Jeela	Leaves and fruit	Summer	Waste-land	The tender leaves are placed on abdomen of babies to cure abdominal pain. The fruit is used for fish poisoning.	It is used as fuel wood and fodder	44	0.55	0.62
42-	<i>Flacourtia indica</i> (Burm. f.) Merr. MUH-3072	Tree	Ko-ko	Fruit and wood	Summer	Forest	Fruit is palatable and also suitable for liver disorder and stomach disorder. Wood is used as fuel wood	It is used as wild fruit tree, fuel wood	47	0.59	0.53
(21) Lamiaceae											
43-	<i>Anisomeles indica</i> (L.) Kuntze. MUH-3073	Herb	Boo-Buti / Sankhia	Whole plant	Spring	Fertile-valley	Leaf paste is used to treat snake bite. Whole plant extract is an excellent blood purifier. It is effectively used against cancer, jaundice and hepatitis	It is used as fodder plant	42	0.53	0.26
44-	<i>Leucas cephalotes</i> (Roth) Spreng. MUH-3074	Tree	Kareen	Whole plant	Summer	Near human settlement	The seeds are used to control stomach-ache, as contraception and abortifacient. The seed gum is used as a binder. The plant is supposed to be a worm repellent and also used in treating fevers, flu, colds and reduce back pain and menstrual cramps. The immature pods are palatable as well as vegetable. The legumes act as a great source of fodder for cattle	It is used as fuel wood and shadow tree. Leaves as fodder and thatching	49	0.62	0.68
45-	<i>Ocimum americanum</i> L. MUH-3075	Herb	Naizboo	Leaves and seeds	Spring	Near shady-land	The seeds are effectively used as aphrodisiac, gas trouble, dyspepsia and indigestion. The leaves paste is used for the treatment of skin diseases. It is also applied to wounds and burns that are not healing well	It is used as fodder	50	0.63	0.55
(22) Malvaceae											

46-	<i>Abutilon bidentatum</i> Hochst. Ex A. Rich MUH-3076	Herb	Kanghi Buti	Whole plant	Spring	Waste-land	The plant is used to comfort childbirth and expel the placenta. The plant is used as bandage to comfort kidney pain and is mixed with sticky rice and it is useful to ulcers. The roots are also used to cure cough and tooth-ache. The leaves are flowers are suitable to abscesses	It is used as bioindicator and fodder	48	0.61	0.59
47-	<i>Abutilon indicum</i> (L.) Sweet MUH-3077	Herb	Kanghi Buti	Whole plant	Spring	Waste-land	Leaves decoction is beneficial to cure gout, tuberculosis, ulcers and leucorrhoea. The juice of leaves supports to discharge toothache. The whole plant can be stewed down into a decoction to discharge the symptoms of lung ailments, tuberculosis and bronchitis. It is also used in the treatment of colds and fever	It is used as fodder plant	34	0.43	0.53
48-	<i>Malvastrum coromandelianum</i> (L.) Garcke MUH-3078	Herb	Hatmii- Khubazii	Leaves and flowers	Spring	Fertile-land	Leaves and flowers are used as aphrodisiac	It is used as bioremediator	52	0.66	0.62
49-	<i>Sida cordata</i> (Burm. f.) Borss. Waalk. MUH-3079	Herb	Paavani	Leaves	Spring	Shady-land	Crushed leaves paste is applied externally for body tumors, boils, cuts	It is used as fodder species	38	0.48	0.43
50-	<i>Sida cordifolia</i> L. MUH-3080	Herb	Berela	Leaves and root	Spring	Shady-land	Leaf extract is useful in dysentery as well as blood fluctuation. Root extract is used in urinary troubles and haematuria. The plant is used for tonic, in fever, nervous disorders, colic, general debility and heart irregularity	It is used as fodder plant	59	0.75	0.29
51-	<i>Urena lobata</i> L. MUH-3081	Herb	Kangi / Burr- Mallow	Whole plant	Spring	Shady-land	The immature leaves are used as vegetable. The leaves are used as poultice on wounds and skin diseases. A decoction of root is used to treat colds, dysentery, goiter, ingestion, malaria etc. The bark is used to heal cuts. A decoction of flowers is used for dry cough. A fiber is acquired from stem which is used to make ropes, papers etc.	It is used as fodder and bioindicator species	54	0.68	0.23

(23) Martyniaceae

52-	<i>Martynia annua</i> L. MUH-3082	Herb	Bichhu / Kutta- buti	Leaves and fruit	Spring	Bushy-land	Leaves and fruit are used in scorpion and snake bite	It is used as fodder plant	18	0.23	0.66
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(24) Meliaceae

53-	<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss. MUH-3083	Tree	Neem	Leaves, seeds, bark, wood and stem	Summer	Barren-land	Tender leaves of the plant are given daily to the person suffering from diabetes. 15ml of leaves extract is taken in hollow stomach continuously one month for treatment of diabetes as well as blood purification. Paste of 6 seeds with 50ml rice and 5ml of ghee should be given after meal in case of long standing diabetes. A shade dried powdered leaves are useful for blood purification and liver diseases	It is used as fuel wood, kitchen utensils, mosquito repellent and shelter tree	59	0.75	0.48
(25) Mimosaceae											
54-	<i>Albizia lebbek</i> (L.) Benth. MUH-3084	Tree	Sreeia / shreen	Leaves, Wood and Seeds	Summer	Near human settlement	The flowers decoction is used for heart blockage. Dried leaves and seeds are equal in weight mixed with water then desiccated and honey is added. The mixture is very effective for kidney disorder. Bark decoction is used to treat diarrhea. Seeds are used for treating severe kidney infection. Leaves provide shade which is used as hallowed for the treatment of various diseases. Wood is used as fuel wood and for making agitator. Leaves are also delicious and weight increasing in cattle	It is used as fodder and shelter tree. It is used fuel wood tree	32	0.41	0.68
55-	<i>Leucaena leucocephala</i> (Lam.) de Wit. MUH-3085	Herb	Trakhrad -Medana	Whole plant	Spring	Fertile-land	The leaves are used as vegetable. Whole plant is used as fodder for cattle	It is used as fodder tree	28	0.35	0.23
56-	<i>Senegalia modesta</i> (Wall.) P. J. Hurter. MUH-3086	Tree	Plai / Pharli	Gum, Leaves and Wood	Summer	Mountain-forest	Gum and powder is prepared fresh leaves of this plant, are mixed with wheat flour and desi ghee and make Halwa that is used for back-ache. Gum extracted from fruits is used as tonic and stimulant. Leaves are used as fodder for goats. Wood is used as fuel. Leaves powder mixed with milk and butter is effectively treat kidney and urinary disorder	It is used as fodder, hedge plant and gum tree, it is used as fuel wood	52	0.66	0.75

57-	<i>Vachellia nilotica</i> (L.) P. J. Hurter & Mabb. MUH-3087	Tree	Kikar	Leaves, Wood, Flowers and Legumes	Summer	Barren-land	Flowers are mixed with mustard oil, which is used in the treatment of skin inflammation. Leaves powder is used as toothpaste and gum is acquired from stem is aphrodisiac. Extraction of fresh roots, leaves and seeds are applied as alcohol (sharab) and also narcotic. Four grams of gum is applied as paste with water that is an effective aphrodisiac. Legume is used as tonic, and for ailment of dysentery and diabetes. Leaves and legumes are used as fodder for goats. Wood is hard and is used for construction, fuel and agricultural tools	It is used as fodder, fuel wood tree, it is shelter tree and used for hedging and thatching	33	0.42	0.41	
(26) Moraceae												
58-	<i>Ficus benghalensis</i> L. MUH-3088	Tree	Bohar	Whole plant	Summer	Barren-land	The latex acquired from aerial parts of the plants (leaves and immature branches) and mixed with honey is used orally to control high blood glucose level as well as diabetics. Latex from aerial root is energetic and used to fill cracking of feet. Latex is aphrodisiac and effective in dysentery. Wood is used as a fuel wood	It is used as fuel wood, fodder and thatching tree	39	0.49	0.35	
59-	<i>Ficus palmata</i> Forssk. MUH-3089	Tree	Phugwara	Whole plant	Summer	Waste-land	Fruit is palatable and laxative. It comforts the bee sting by simple rubbing on the skin. Wood is hard and used for making household tools. It is also used as fuel wood	Fruit, fuel wood, and fodder tree	18	0.23	0.42	
60-	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L. MUH-3090	Tree	Pipal	Wood, bark and fruit	Summer	Waste-land	Decoction of bark is used in vomiting, gonorrhoea and scabies. Burn the bark and make powder from it and take 5g of it orally with water for diarrhea. Fruit is palatable and laxative. Wood is used as fuel wood	It is used as fodder and shelter and fuel	55	0.69	0.49	
(27) Nyctaginaceae												
61-	<i>Boerhavia procumbens</i> Banks ex Roxb. MUH-3091	Herb	Eeit-seit	Roots and leaves	Spring	Near human settlement	Roots and leaves paste is useful for liver disorder. Root decoction is useful for cough and pulmonary disorder. Leaf paste is lapped on wasp sting as antidote	Yes	Yes	58	0.73	0.82
(28) Oxalidaceae												

62-	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L. MUH-3092	Herb	Khati / Luuni- Buti	Whole plant	Spring	Beside pedestrian passes	Leaves powder is mixed with silver water, heated and cooled and effectively used for blood purification. Silver water mixed with honey is used effectively for Alzheimer, fever and kidney diseases. Leaves decoction is used in fever and dysentery. Fresh leaves are used as vegetable. It is also used as fodder and forage for cattle	It is used as fodder	39	0.49	0.23
(29) Papilionaceae											
63-	<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam.) Taub MUH-3093	Tree	Cheechra	Leaves, flowers, gum and wood	Summer	Forest	10ml of leaves extract is applied once a day for 5-10 days on hollow stomach to reduces blood sugar and also useful in glycosuria. Gum is mixed with sugar and milk used as tonic and also given for back-ache after birth in woman. Wood is used as fuel wood	It is used as fuel and fodder tree, thatching plant	38	0.48	0.69
64-	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> DC. MUH-3094	Tree	Sheesham / Tali	Whole plant	Summer	Mountain- forest	70g of immature leaves of buds are crushed and one glass of water is added to it and strained. The strained decoction is used daily for treatment of piles and jaundice. Wood boiled with water to make syrup is used as blood purifier, irritation, tumors and pimples. Ground leaves is bandaged on mammary glands to reduce pain. Branches are used as Muswak and kills worms in the teeth. Black wood of old tree is used for making furniture as well as fuel wood	It is used timber tree, fodder, shelter making, fuel wood, and hedging and fencing	53	0.67	0.73
65-	<i>Desmodium gangetium</i> (L.) DC MUH-3095	Herb	Jojrii / Salpani	Whole plant	Spring	Forest	A decoction of leaves is used against gall bladder and kidneys stones infections while a decoction of root is used to treat kidney problems, swelling, chronic fever, cough, diarrhea and dysentery. The leaves are used for the treatment of head-ache while the root is used for the treatment of tooth-ache. The whole plant is used to be anthelmintic	It is used as fodder plant	50	0.63	0.49
66-	<i>Tephrosia purpurea</i> (L.) Pers. MUH-3096	Herb	Sarmak	Whole plant	Summer	Fertile-land	The plant is used for curing many diseases like leprosy, ulcers, asthma, tumors, liver, spleen, heart and blood related diseases. The leaves and seeds is used as fish poison. A decoction of the root is used in treating depression, diarrhea, rheumatism and urinary disorders. The root powder is used for cleaning the teeth and reduces dental pains	It is used for fodder plant	52	0.66	0.67
(30) Poaceae											

67-	<i>Apluda mutica</i> L. MUH-3097	Grasses	Santali / Chofki	Whole plant	Spring	Hedgerows	Root is crushed and mixed with little mustard oil, the paste is applied on the mouth sore of cattle. It is used as a thatching material by Santal clans	It is used as fodder	24	0.31	0.63
68-	<i>Chrysopogon fulvus</i> (Spreng.) Chiov MUH-3098	Grasses	Lamb-Kaa / Khandol	Whole plant	Spring	Mountain	Peels of Culm and bark is used for cough and chest pain. It is also used as fodder for cattle	It is used as bioremediator	46	0.58	0.66
69-	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers. MUH-3099	Grasses	Khabal	Whole plant	Spring	Beside pedestrian passes	Paste of fresh leaves is applied to cut, wound bleeding and piles. Juice of the plant is used for diarrhea as well as diabetes. The whole plant and flowers crushed and mixed with milk and butter is useful on diabetic ulcers. Plant extract mixed with salt is bandaged on bone fracture. It is used as fodder for cattle	It is used as fodder and carpeting for ground. It is used as fuel if dried	22	0.28	0.31
70-	<i>Dactyloctenium aegyptium</i> (L.) Willd. MUH-3100	Grasses	Palwan-kaa	Whole plant	Spring	Fertile-land	Decoction of the whole plant is used for the treatment of lumbago (back-ache). Extraction of the leaves mixed with the seeds is used to accelerate childbirth. A decoction of the leaves is used as a cure for dysentery. It is also used as fodder for cattle	It is used fodder and fuel source if dried	16	0.21	0.29
71-	<i>Dichanthium annulatum</i> (Forssk.) Stapf MUH-3101	Grasses	Phuul-Kaa / Marvel	Whole plant	Spring	Beside pedestrian passes	The whole plant is used as a favorite fodder grass for animals, and also suitable for silage and hay if cut earlier than flowering	It is fodder and bioindicator	18	0.23	0.58
72-	<i>Echinochloa colona</i> (L.) Link MUH-3102	Grasses	Sard-Kaa / Jangli-rice	Leaves	Spring	Fertile-land	The whole plant is used as fodder for animals	It is used as fodder plant	12	0.15	0.28
73-	<i>Heteropogon contortus</i> (L.) P. Beauv. Ex Roem. & Schult. MUH-3103	Grasses	Sryalla-Kaa	Whole plant	Spring	Barren-land	The culms of the grass are used for thatching. They are also used in mats. The root is stimulative, diuretic and used in rheumatism. It is also used as fodder for cattle	It is used as fodder and fuel plant in dried form	32	0.41	0.21

74-	<i>Lolium temulentum</i> L. MUH-3104	Herb	Cheeri-Bajra	Whole plant	Spring	Waste-land	The seeds are useful for fever by placing it in sleep bed as well as decoction. Occasionally used to treat head-ache, rheumatism and sciatica. It is used to treat dizziness, insomnia, blood congestion and stomach problems. It may also be used for skin problems like herpes, scurf and sores. The plant is poisonous and can cause death	It is used as fodder and phyto-remediator	57	0.72	0.58
75-	<i>Panicum antidotale</i> Retz. MUH-3105	Herb	Gyrum	Whole plant	Spring	Shady-land	The whole plant is used as fodder for grazing animals	It is used as fodder species	19	0.24	0.23
76-	<i>Paspalidium flavidum</i> (Retz.) A. Camus MUH-3106	Grasses	Ghass / Arisi pullu	Grains and seeds	Spring	Waste-land	Grains are palatable. Seeds are boiled and eaten as a substitute for rice by kattunaicka and paniya clans	It is used as fodder plant	32	0.41	0.15
77-	<i>Saccharum spontaneum</i> L. MUH-3107	Herb	Saroot	Whole plant	Summer	Waste-land	The honey acquired during July from this plant is very effective for diabetes. Its pulped stem is also effective for diabetic condition.	It is used as hedging and thatching plant, fodder	41	0.52	0.41
78-	<i>Saccharum bengalense</i> Retz. MUH-3108	Herb	Kaei	Whole plant	Summer	Waste-land	Whole plant juice is mixed with milk for the treatment of cough. Dry plant is used as fodder for cattle. It is also used for making ropes and for roof thatching	It is used as fodder and hedging plant	35	0.44	0.72
79-	<i>Sporobolus coromandelianus</i> (Retz.) Kunth MUH-3109	Grasses	Cheeri-Kaa	Whole plant	Spring	Waste-land	The plant is used to augment the blood, reduce swellings and correct gonorrhoea. A fiber is acquired from the leaves	It is used as fodder species	23	0.29	0.23
80-	<i>Themeda anathera</i> (Nees ex Steud.) Hack. MUH-3110	Grasses	Bhari-Kaaa	Whole plant	Spring	Mountain-forest	It is used as fodder for cattle	It is used as fodder and fuel species	16	0.21	0.24
81-	<i>Urochloa panicoides</i> P. Beauv. MUH-3111	Grasses	Harat / Jhun-Kaa	Whole plant	Spring	Waste-land	The whole plant is excellent fodder for cattle and horses	It is used as fodder plant	13	0.16	0.41
(31) Potamogetanaceae											
82-	<i>Potamogeton nodosus</i> Poir. MUH-3112	Climber	Jujuli	Whole plant	Spring	Forest	Leaf extract is applied on irritating skin. Leaves also used for constipation. Whole plant form is excellent bio-fertilizer and used in crops	It is fodder and thatching plant	35	0.44	0.52
(32) Primulaceae											

83-	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> L. MUH-3113	Herb	Neeli-Buti	Whole plant	Summer	Mountain-forest	Dried whole plant is crushed into powder. 2g of the powder with 5g of wheat flour is mixed for cure of rheumatism. It is also used as fodder for cattle	It is used as fodder plant	43	0.54	0.44
(33) Rhamnaceae											
84-	<i>Ziziphus jujuba</i> Mill. MUH-3114	Tree	Jannd	Fruit as well as whole plant	Summer	Forest	Bake the fruit and eat for the treatment of stomach problems. 5 g of root powder and 7 pieces of black pepper, grind mixed and is used to cure diarrhea and abdominal pain. Bark is mixed with honey to use in diarrhea and dysentery. Fruit is palatable, blood purifier and used in indigestion. The leaves are used as fodder for goats. Wood is used as a fuel wood	It is used as fruit tree, fodder and fuel wood species, hedging and fencing	59	0.75	0.29
85-	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lam. MUH-3115	Shrub	Jangli-Barii	Whole plant	Summer	House-garden	Decoction of fruit and bark is mixed with a cup of milk to treat constipation and dysentery. Fresh leaves are chewed daily to lower blood glucose level. Ripen fruits are palatable. Leaves are used as fodder for goats	It is used as fruit, fuel wood, fodder and hedge plant	53	0.67	0.21
(34) Sapindaceae											
86-	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i> (L.) Jacq MUH-3116	Shrub	Sanatha	Whole plant	Summer	Hilly-forest	Shoots are collected to form besoms for sweeping lawns. Bark is anthelmintic. Oil is extracted from wood by keeping it on pain and used for tooth-ache. Oil is used in cure of paralysis the patient. It is also used as blood purifier. This plant is used for fencing and wood is used as fuel wood. The leaves are warmed and kept on joints to relieve pains. (rheumatism)	It is used as fodder, hedging plant and shelter, fuel wood in dried form	41	0.52	0.16
(35) Solanaceae											
87-	<i>Datura innoxia</i> Mill. MUH-3117	Herb	Datura	Fruit, leaves and seeds	Spring	Bushy-vegetation	Leaves are used as repellent and vermicide. Fruit is used to heat up the buffalos. Two and half fruit of Datura is used to heat up the cattle. Seeds are antipyretic and soporiferous	It is used as fodder, poisonous plant and pesticide	39	0.49	0.75
88-	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L. MUH-3118	Herb	Canch-manch	Shoots, leaves and fruit	Spring	Fertile-land	Fresh aerial parts of the plant are used as vegetable and to control diabetes. The leaves are crushed to form a paste is used for inflammation, of body such as legs and arms etc. It is also useful for liver disorder. Whole plant juice is abortifacient and the fetus is discharged in a short time. The leaf juice is useful in kidney diseases. Leaf extract is also used to heal up the wounds and tumors	It is used as vegetable, fruit herb, fuel of dried form	26	0.33	0.67

89-	<i>Solanum surattense</i> Burm. f. MUH-3119	Herb	Jangli- Betaun / Mokri	Whole plant	Spring	Barren-land	Fruit is dried, crushed and powder is used for the treatment of abdomen pain, gas trouble, cough, fever and pain in chest. It is expectorant, diuretic and anti-gonorrhoea	It is used as fodder, fruit, vegetable herb	31	0.39	0.52
(36) Tiliaceae											
90-	<i>Grewia optiva</i> J.R. Drumm. Ex Burret MUH-3120	Tree	Dhaman	Leaves, fruit and wood	Summer	Forest	Fresh leaves are boiled in water to prepare concentrated paste at low temperature. The concentrated paste is used for joint pain. The outer bark and fruit are soaked in water, the yield is a gelatinous material which after drying, is used to make tablets that are used as aphrodisiac. Leaves are palatable for goats. Wood is used as fuel wood	It is used as fodder, fuel wood, hedging and thatching one	23	0.29	0.49
91-	<i>Triumfetta pentandra</i> A Rich. MUH-3121	Herb	Permothi i	Whole plant	Spring	Bushy- vegetation	The bark of green shoots of a mucilage used for making sticky soups and sauces. The mucilage is often used as baby food and for young children not so far able to eat common starchy foods. Because of its high energy value, the soup is given to women who have delivered a child. It is also used as appetizer. Fresh roots are used as a poultice on sores and small wounds. The crushed leaf is applied in plaster for treatment of goiter and deformities	It is used as fodder species	34	0.43	0.33
(37) Verbenaceae											
92-	<i>Vitex negundo</i> L. MUH-3122	Shrub	Banna	Leaves, root, stem and seeds	Summer	Barren-land	The decoction of leaves is used for jaundice. 60g dried seeds, 30mg prior weed and 2-3 tea-spoon of common salt are crushed to form powder that is used for anti-pyretic, jaundice and gastrointestinal problems. The seeds are crushed to acquire powder and are taken with water for kidney stone. The paste of leaf is used externally to treat snake bite.	It is used as shelter plant, fuel, hedging and fencing plant	37	0.47	0.62

Relative frequency of citation and use values

The RFC shows the local importance of every species with reference to the informants who cited uses of these plant species (Vitalini et al., 2012). In our work, RFC ranges from 0.75 to 0.14 (Table 3). *Senegalia modesta*, *Grewia optiva*, *Pupalia lappacea*, *Xanthium strumarium*, *Ehretia laevis*, *Sida cordifolia*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Boerhavia procumbens*, *Ziziphus jujuba* and *Butea monosperma* were the most cited ethnomedicinal plant species. These species are native to the area and have been known to local cultures over a long time period. Thus their specific properties for curing different diseases have become popularized and well-established among the indigenous people.

The use value (UV) is a measure of the types of uses attributed to a particular plant species. In the present study *Datura innoxia*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Tephrosia purpurea*, *Abutilon bidentatum*, *Ricinus communis*, *Cuscuta reflexa*, *Calotropis procera* and *Digera muricata* had UV values of 0.75, 0.73, 0.67, 0.59, 0.49, 0.32, 0.23 and 0.15, respectively. As the values for the UV and RFC are dynamic and change with location and with the knowledge of the people, so the values of UV and RFC may vary from area to area and even within the area.

Determination of fidelity level (FL)

The plants are used for treatment in different forms by local inhabitants of WNP of District Bhimber, AJK. This fidelity level analysis describes how the people of local area use a particular plant for the cure of specific disease and it also depicts their trust and belief on the specific plant used for cure that ailment. The analysis showed that highest FL values with first rank were *Grewia optiva* and *Senegalia modesta* (100% each) while *Justicia adhatoda* was at number two with 93% FL value and least *Maytenus royleana* with 23% weightage of worthiness in community popularity index (Table 4).

Determination of informant consensus factor (ICF) for ethnobotanical study of Watala National Park of AJK

The informant consensus factor (ICF) is a very important tool being used in ethnobotanical analysis and it describes how frequently a herb is used for cure to a particular disease. It indicates that how much community is unanimously agree to use different number of plant species for cure of particular disease or group of specific ailments. In this study, the highest values were obtained for jaundice, spleen and liver disorders (0.93); and kidney and urinary disorder (0.93). The ratio of cardio vascular diseases with reference of ICF was 0.50 (Table 5) and it is the least common disease prevailing in the area. These ICF calculations predictive of herbal therapeutics are used in the culture of indigenous communities.

Direct matrix ranking (DMR)

The data matrix ranking is an important microstatistical tool that describes what frequency of utilization is in an invariable form of a particular species for species purpose in daily life of man. This indirectly measures usage pressure on one species that is being exploited for different purposes by human beings. According to the informants' preview and key information *Senegalia modesta* has the highest DMR values and

ranked at first while two taxa of genus *Ficus* named: *Ficus palmata* and *Ficus religiosa* were at number two. While plant *Butea monosperma* was third at 6th rank as shown in Table 6. This DMR table depicts that there are several severe biotic threats due to anthropogenic interference on plants life.

Table 4. Fidelity level (FL) values of plants of Watala National Park and allied area, District Bhimber, AJK

Species and family	Vernacular name	Family	Ethnomedicinal uses	Fidelity level (FL)
<i>Grewia optiva</i> J. R. Drumm. Ex Burret	Dhaman	Tiliaceae	Aphrodisiac, antihypertension	100%
<i>Senegalia modesta</i> (Wall.) P. J. Hurter	Phulai	Mimosaceae	Tonic, anti-inflammatory	100%
<i>Justicia adhatoda</i> L.	Baikar	Acanthaceae	Chest infection, hypertension	93%
<i>Alternanthera pungens</i> Kunth Bot.8	Kand booti	Amaranthaceae	Haematuria and menstrual disorders	82%
<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.	Makoo	Solanaceae	Splenic pain, liver disorders	70%
<i>Ziziphus jujuba</i> Mill.	Bairee	Rhamnaceae	Skin disorder, fruit source	69%
<i>Butea monosperma</i> (Lam.) Taub	Cheechra	Rhamnaceae	Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia, glycosuria	66%
<i>Ficus palmata</i> Forssk.	Phakwaree	Solanaceae	Leprosy, Rheumatism	64%
<i>Flacourtia indica</i> (Burm. f.) Merr.	Sheesham	Flacourtiaceae	Jaundice, Stomach disorders	62%
<i>Albizia lebeck</i> (L.) Benth.	Shereen	Mimosaceae	Kidney, stomach	61%
<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> DC.	Sheesham	Papilionaceae	Sore throat, cough, dysentery, stomachache	60%
<i>Azadirachta indica</i> A. Juss.	Dhareek	Miliaceae	Syphilis, amenorrhoea, edema	58%
<i>Calotropis procera</i> (Aiton) Dryand.	Desi Aak	Asclepiadaceae	Skin disease, dog bite, sting	57%
<i>Casearia tomentosa</i> Roxb.	Cheela	Flacourtiaceae	Anti-ulcer, fish poisoning	43%
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers Poaceae	Khabal graas	Poaceae	Antitumor hey fever, flatulation, epilepsy, asthma	40%
<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i> Roxb.	Akaasch Bail	Convolvulaceae	Elipsy, scabies, and wound healer	32%
<i>Maytenus royleana</i> (Wall. ex M. A. Lawson.) Cufd.	Patakee	Celastraceae	Abortifacient agent	23%

Table 5. Informant consensus factor (ICF) by categories of diseases in the study area (WNP) AJK

S no	Category/plants used for disease(s)	Species	(%) All species	Use citations	(%) All citations	ICF
1	Diabetics and blood pressure	18	09.83%	33	08.61%	0.88
2	Fever, flu, headache, bronchitis, cough	37	20.21%	71	18.53%	0.94
3	Epilepsy and mental disorders	14	07.65%	23	06.0%	0.69
4	Stomachic, constipation, haemorrhoids	26	14.20%	48	12.51%	0.88
5	Jaundice, spleen and liver disorders	45	24.59%	86	22.45%	0.93
6	Cardiovascular disorders	13	07.10%	19	04.96%	0.50
7	Rabies and other sting pains	11	06.01%	18	04.69%	0.70
8	Gut, tuberculosis, ulcers and leucorrhoea	15	08.19%	27	07.04%	0.85
9	Arthritis and joint disorders	16	08.74%	30	07.83%	0.93
10	Kidney and urinary disorder	15	08.19%	28	07.31%	0.92

Table 6. Direct matrix ranking (DMR) of plant species with different uses other than medicinal value (total score of 10 informants) in Watala National Park of District Bhimber AJK

S. No	Uses	<i>Senegalia modesta</i>	<i>Ficus palmata</i>	<i>Butea monosperma</i>	<i>Ficus religiosa</i>	<i>Carica opaca</i>	<i>Ziziphus jujba</i>
1	Construction	56	26	11	25	11	15
2	Hedge, fencing	22	05	14	21	52	29
3	Fuel wood	40	19	16	37	37	30
4	Shelter, timber	53	38	13	42	12	21
5	Fodder/feed	04	10	33	25	15	16
6	Wild fruit/food	09	04	01	19	30	33
Total		184	102	88	169	157	144
Rank		1 st	5 th	6 th	2 nd	3 rd	4 th

Priority ranking (PR)

The priority ranking (PR) analysis was also determined from the primary data collected from indigenous communities of WNP and allied villages of Barnala AJK. In order to explore the biotic pressure on plants of the study areas PR was calculated in tabular form and destructive threats were categorized in terms of six ranks: $6 < 5 < 4 < 3 < 2 < 1$; number 6 represents the most destructive value, as shown in Table 7. This determines how respondents of interviewees of the area declare that which parameter is the most dangerous for the flora or specific plant. The PR analysis depicts that fuel wood cutting of plants is a major threat for the flora of the area, followed by fire burnings (that may be accidental or deliberate fires). As village people mostly depend on wood or its products for making shelter or cattle sheds so this is third number key factor of plants degradation or loss from the environment. Among the studied eight threatening factors hedging and fencing cause the least impact on the loss of plant biodiversity of the area.

Table 7. Priority ranking (PR) of factors perceived as threats to plant biodiversity based on their level of destructive effects in the study area (destructive threat order is: $6 < 5 < 4 < 3 < 2 < 1$; 6 is the most destructive value)

Threat Factors	Respondents (R1-R6)						Total	Percentage	.m
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6			
Fuel source	6	3	6	4	6	6	31	15.57	1 st
Construction of houses	5	3	4	4	2	3	21	11.05	8 th
Urbanization mechanism	4	4	6	4	3	4	25	12.56	4 th
Agriculture Clearing	5	3	4	4	3	4	23	11.55	6 th
Timber Cutting	5	5	4	3	4	5	26	13.06	3 rd
Fire Effects	6	4	3	4	6	4	27	13.56	2 nd
Fodder and feed	1	4	5	3	6	5	24	12.06	5 th
Hedging and Thatching	2	4	5	6	5	2	22	11.07	7 th

Discussion

The plants are very important for the life of all human but their significance is increased many times for rural communities of any area because they depend solely on their natural habitat (plants) while coping their basic needs of life. In this research analysis, plants of the Watala National Park (WNP) and allied villages were surveyed and documented in the form of checklist. The key aim was to explore their traditional ethnomedicinal uses and describe their main ethnobotanical applications in daily life of that area. As indigenous communities of WNP and allied villages are the real owner of flora of that area, so their interviews were conducted using semi-structured and structured format in the form of questionnaires. WNP is an area which is declared as national park by the government and it is located in Tehsil Barnala of District Bhimber AJK, Pakistan. The area under study comprised of WNP area and allied ten villages and out of these “Chandni chowk” and “Danga” villages have high altitude 472 and 465 m.a.s.l., respectively. There is low literacy rate in these remote areas as compared to main stream city of Barnala and Bhimber District. The low education is due to remote areas and low income resources with less approach to good educational institutes (Mehmood et al., 2012). It is also compatible with work past ethnobotanists that modern generations and people living in urban areas have almost no knowledge about medicinal properties of plants (Alcorn, 1984; Altieri et al., 1987). This emphasis that the work conducted on EMs and EB of WNP and allied areas is of paramount significance to conserve the traditional ethnomedicinal knowledge on the plants of the area before it is diminished completely from this area.

In the EB investigation data on medicinal and folklore uses of plants of the Watala National Park (WNP) and allied villages was surveyed and 92 plant species were recorded in ethnomedicinal (EMs) and ethnobotanical (EB) perspectives. The analysis showed that people of age group “56-65 years” had the highest level of EB and EMs knowledge about the local flora of the area (*Fig. 2*). This is in coincidence with previous report of Ishtiaq et al. (2013a) that mostly old people have more EMs knowledge and traditional rituals are preferably followed by them. It was concluded that people of the study area primarily depend on the local vegetation to cope many of their daily needs. Generally inhabitants of the area cut trees/and other plants not only to make shelters and other household items but also sell them as timber and fuel wood for domestic and commercial purposes to earn livelihood and source of revenue; similar findings have been reported in past researchers that rural people of many other countries are also dependent on indigenous plant resources for their needs of life (Mcdichen and Mehl (1990).

Ethnobotany is an important and recent approach to study natural resource management by local people involvement. The EB study gives provision for the protection of traditional and cultural knowledge and rights of native people as intellectual property rights. This research on EB analysis of any area cascades significance on how plants and indigenous people of an area are mutually interconnected and dependent on each other in terms of ecosystem sustainability format. In the past some sporadic work has been conducted on other parts of AJK (Ajaib et al., 2014a) and very little is known on District Bhimber flora, particularly no research project is conducted on EB analysis of WNP and allied villages.

Very little work has been undertaken by legal professionals, environmentalists, NGOs or even human rights groups to secure Intellectual Property Rights for native people, as expressed by Martin (1995) and here WNP and allied villages are very

neonate and nothing is found in printed or online literature. The present study area WNP and allied villages is an ecologically important area of District Bhimber, AJK but no attention previously had been given for the documentation and conservation of indigenous knowledge of the area.

Most of the native plants now exist only in graveyards and local people had a lot more information about these plants than the introduced plants. Similar results were also recorded by Meza and Vilagram (1991) in Chile on the level of knowledge of native flora, which was always greater for native flora than introduced species. The local inhabitants, having a little knowledge about the species and proper time of collections, from the poorest link in the trade of medicinal plants as reported by Ajaib et al. (2016) during ethnobotanical studies of wild plants of Tehsil Jatlan Azad Jammu and Kashmir. In WNP and allied areas the highest number of plants recorded for EMs and EB studies belonged to families Poaceae, Amaranthaceae and Malvaceae (Table 2) and the cause of this might be that taxa of these families have short life span and can be grown out soon after monsoon rainfall and secondly the tree line is becoming scarce due to cutting and fire burnings (Ishtiaq et al., 2013a). Other taxa of families were also present in the form of herbs (55%), shrubs (10%), climbers and trees (20%) with variable population occurrence in different villages but their community structures have not well established (Figs. 3 and 4), which might be underneath cause of sandy stone soil with few rainfall and deep water table in the area (Ishtiaq et al., 2016).

The present study revealed that the local people used some plant species for more than one purpose as tribal totally depended on the vegetation of the area for a variety of their needs. Some of the important multiple-usage plants included *Senegalia modesta* (Wall.) P. J. Hurter, *Albizia lebbek* (L.) Benth, *Carissa opaca* Stapf ex Haines, *Capparis sepriaria* L, *Dalbergia sissoo* DC, *Dodonaea viscosa* (L.) Jacq, *Flacourtia indica* (Burm. f.) Merr, *Ficus palmata* Forssk, *Ficus religiosa* L, *Heteropogon contortus* (L.) P. Beauv. Ex Roem. & Schult, *Maytenus royleana* (Wall. ex M. A. Lawson.) Cufd., *Oxalis corniculata* L, *Grewia optiva* J. R. Drumm. Ex Burret, *Saccharum spontaneum* L, *Urena lobata* L, *Vachellia nilotica* (L.) P. J. Hurter & Mabb, *Ziziphus jujuba* Mill. Multiple-usage species provided fruits, vegetables, fuel wood, medicines and other requirements to the local population. This is being described in Table 4 that many plants are being utilized in admixture to cure one or more disease (s) and fidelity level (FL) also proves it (Ishtiaq et al., 2007b). The plant *Senegalia modesta* (Wall.) P. J. Hurter, has the highest FL (100%), followed by *Justicia adhatoda* L. with 93% FL value. *Flacourtia indica* (Burm. f.) Merr. had an FL value of 62%. It is also believed by indigenous rural communities of the area that plants originated drugs “green drugs” are pure and with least or without toxic effects and this coincides with the doctrine of previous researchers (Ishtiaq et al., 2006b, 2007a). The VAA procedure described that ICF analysis of the data culminated that as people of the area living in rural areas and with hard working life style, so they suffer from the least cardiovascular disorders (ICF: 0.50) while common problems in the area were only minor seasonal diseases like fever, flu, headache, bronchitis, cough having the highest ICF (100%), followed by jaundice, spleen and liver disorders (0.93 5) as shown in Table 5. Open life pattern and mosquito and high temperature with heat stroke waves may be the cause of this. Other cause of the liver and spleen disorders may be the use of open spring waters or ponds without proper hygienic measures (Erasto et al., 2005; Ishtiaq et al., 2006a, 2007a, 2010b).

One could assess the pressure on the flora of the area by the process of direct matrix ranking (DMR) and the results depicted that many plants have been used in multifarious

forms to cope the needs of life. In this study it was found that *Senegalia modesta* and *Ficus palmata* were being used for different purposes of life by indigenous people and hence in DMR analysis these were at first two positions, respectively (Table 6). This describes how the biotic pressure is present on flora of the area and same type of investigations had been recorded that multiple-propose uses creates conservation threats for trees and other plants (Medicken and Mehl, 1990). This all give potential picture of anthropogenic pressure on the local plants of the area and it thrills towards the loss of plants gradually and may be categorized as threatened, endangered or rare taxa, as it was also demonstrated by Ishtiaq et al. (2006b, 2007b) in their previous articles on other areas of AJK.

The research work on WNP and allied areas depicted that as local communities are dwelling in rural area, mostly illiterate with low income resources, so they have to solely depend on wild resources (plants and animals) utilization for livelihood. The priority ranking (PR) statistics is being used as to measure the highly threatening factors for the indigenous plants. The local people use plants for fuel wood, construction, food, fodder, shelter making for livestock, agricultural land preparation by clearing the wild flora of the area. It was found that using plants as fuel is the first threat followed by the fire burning at second (Table 7). The hedging and fencing is the least pressure generating factor being at number 7th in analyzed factors. All these factors are keystone threats for the local plants of the area and similar information on threats for plant biodiversity of different areas of AJK and other countries as well (Ahmed and Siraj; 1996; Ishtiaq et al., 2007b). In the analysis it was found that the most threatened species was *Butea monosperma* with highest threatening frequency (29.5%) being used in many needs by local people. Other commonly under threat plants are *Dalbergia sissoo* (19.5%), *Senegalia modesta* (11.25%), *Grewia optiva* (10.25%), *Ziziphus jujuba* (9.25%) as data shown in Table 8. These MPs and other taxa are being ruthlessly and unsustainably used by the local communities of the WNP and allied areas for domestic and commercial means that is the main cause of debilitation of plant biodiversity occurrence in the area, ultimately leading towards threatening zone (Mehmood et al., 2012; Ahmed and Siraj, 1996). This all proves that the current scenario should not be ignored and planned biodiversity conservation activities may be introduced and implemented in collaboration with NGOs and Department of Forest with direct participation of the indigenous communities. Main plinth of the problem is unawareness cutting, timber mafia and ignition of fires and it should be tackled by application of incessant methodologies in cooperation with public and private joint venture programs.

Table 8. Frequency (%) of threatened species in Watala National Park and Allied areas of District Bhimber AJK

Species name	Frequency (%)
<i>Butea monosperma</i>	29.5
<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i>	19.5
<i>Senegalia modesta</i>	11.25
<i>Grewia optiva</i>	10.25
<i>Ziziphus jujuba</i>	9.25
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	8.5
<i>Calotropis procera</i>	7.75
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	2.25
<i>Datura inoxia</i>	1.75

Conclusion and future recommendations

The research work of WNP is of paramount significance as this area is first time explored for ethnomedicinal (EMs) and ethnobotanical (EB) analysis and it has provided the detailed list of all plants of the area in checklist form. It also describes how local people of the area fulfil their daily life needs from indigenous plants and their traditional culture was also recorded in document form. Rural people of the area depend on tree species for shelter, fuel, households, fodder, shadow and food purposes. *Butea monosperma*, *Grewia optiva*, *Carica opaca*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Bauhenia variegata*, *Senegalia modesta*, *Acacia nilotica* and *Mangifera indica* are key species being used in multiple uses. *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Butea monosperma* and *Mangifera indica* are under severe threat due to microbial attack and anthropogenic activities. There is dare need to protect and devise *ex-situ* and *in-situ* conservation methods in order to keep the ecosystem of WNP in a sustainable form to cope with the primary needs of village communities, whose whole life depends on the biodiversity of the area. Many plants of the area have good medicinal potential and further ethnopharmacological research should be carried out for novel drug discovery and subsequent drug development and “green drugs” are better than allopathic medicines. It is inevitable to mention that participation and cooperation of indigenous communities is very paramount devoid of that all efforts will be futile and fruitless.

Acknowledgements. This research work is part of the first author’s doctoral thesis work who (Ms Mehwish Maqbool) is highly obliged to Chairperson and Lab staff of the Department of Botany, Mirpur University of Science and Technology (MUST) Bhimber Campus Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Pakistan for their kind assistance in the Ph.D. research work conducted in field and lab. The first author is highly indebted to her supervisor Dr Muhammad Ajaib for his all-time coaching and gracious guidance in the completion of this part of her doctoral thesis.

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