



**International Journal of Allied Practice, Research and Review**

**Website: [www.ijaprr.com](http://www.ijaprr.com) (ISSN 2350-1294)**

# **Use of Medicinal Plants for Livestock by Tribal Population in Poonch District Jammu and Kashmir**

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**Abstract** - Poonch district is one of the smallest districts of Jammu and Kashmir (UT). The area is mountainous with very little agriculture land, majority of people particularly Gujjar and Backerwal rely on cattle, sheep and goats rearing and move to upper higher altitude pastures and forests in summer. Having being cut off from modern medical facilities, for generations. They rely on wild plants to cure their animals. An attempt is made through field survey to document their knowledge of tradition medicinal plants and their uses for treatment of their domestic animals. The present study deals with 24 angiosperm plants used for medicinal uses. Because of deforestation and exploitation of these plants many of these plants are under threat of local extinction.

**Key words** - Pir Panjal, Gujjar and Backerwal.

## **I. Introduction**

The Jammu and Kashmir is known as crown of India due to its natural beauty which would be incomplete without its diverse vegetation and animal diversity. The human interaction with medicinal plants for the treatment of livestock is as old as domestication of animals. Poonch district comprises 117 villages and 6 Tehsils and is one of the hilly districts of the state surrounded by Kashmir valley in the north east, district Rajouri in the south and Pakistan occupied Kashmir in the west. The district lies between 33° 35' – 34° 10' north latitude and 73° 30'- 74° 35' east longitude with a total area of 1674 sq km. (Khan and Paul 2017). The altitude of Poonch district varies from 1000 to 4700 m and above from Ghani Banloi of Tehsil Mankot to Tatakuti of Tehsil Surankote.

Already some work has been carried out by ethno botanists in India as well as in Jammu and Kashmir but Poonch district of J & K is very less explored except for few references. Jain (1991) Documented Indian Folk medicinal plants, Aswal (1996) worked on studies on ethno medicinal plants of Garhwal Himalaya whereas Jain (2000) similarly studied ethno veterinary medicinal plants of India. Tiwari and Pandey (2006) worked on indigenous veterinary practices of Dharma Valley of Pithorgarh district, of Uttranchal, Rashid (2010) Documented ethno botanical studies of district Rajouri of Jammu and Kashmir whereas Renu (2010) studied on ethnoveterinary medicinal plants of Kathua District. Similarly worked on Taxonomical studies of some plants of ethnoveterinary importance in curing milk yielding animals of Kathua district (J & K). Khan (2013) worked on Folk Medicinal Uses of Some Medicinal Plants among the Tribal people of Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir. There is lot of varieties among various hilly tribes of north India, same plant is used for treatment of different ailments of domestic animals and sometime multiple plants are used to treat one ailment. Apart from wild plants back tea (*Camellia sinensis*) and Henna (*Lawsonia inermis*). Commercially available plants are also used to treat animals. Leaves of berberry (*Berberis lycium*) are used as antiseptic to treat open wounds. Various types of grasses are fed to animals to increase milk yield and fat contents of milk. Source herbs are used to treat animals and human beings for similar symptoms.

## II. Material and Methods

The study was carried out in different villages, Mohalas, Tehsil, Blocks and Upper reaches of the Pirpanjal range of district Poonch from March 2015 to February 2017 for a duration of four to five days and in some areas the stay during the field survey exceeded 15 days particularly in upper Pirpanjal range.

During the field survey photographs of the plants have been taken and details regarding botanical characters and uses were recorded on the field note book. Data regarding place of collection, altitude, date of collection, flower colour, fragrance have also been noted. The photographed plants have been identified with the help of standard floras of Hooker (1872- 1897), Duthe (1903- 1929) and Gour (1999) in view their botanical characters noted on field note book.

## III. Results

On the basis of field survey from 2015 to 2017, 24 medicinal plants used for the treatment of livestock have been collected. The mode of administration is mostly oral followed by external application. During the field survey it has also been noticed that some of the medicinal plants such as *Saussurea costus*, *Aconitum heterophyllum*, *Arnebia Betnhami* are declining at an alarming rate due to its ruthless extraction by the tribal people. Immediate attention for the conservation of these medicinal plants is necessary for future generation. The tribal population use whole plant, leaves, fruits and rhizomes of plants for ethnoveterinary treatment of animals. The pharmacological effect these plants require detailed investigation. The medicinal plants under study have been presented with botanical name, family, place of collection, local name and uses. The ethnoveterinary medicinal plants have been with their

botanical name, family place of collection, local name if any is followed by their uses in the table given below Table.

S.NO	BOTANICAL NAME	FAMILY	PLACE OF COLLECTION	LOCAL NAME	USES
1	<i>Acorus calamus</i> Linn	Araceae	Mendhar	BACH	Rhizome paste is given orally.
2	<i>Angelica glauca</i> Edgew	Apiacea	Essahwali	chora	Root paste is used orally for pneumonia treatment.
3	<i>Aresaema jacquemontii</i> Blume	Araceae	Dana Shastar	Sap ni mak	Seeds are used orally for pneumonia treatment.
4	<i>Arnebia benthami</i> Wall ex. g. Don	Boraginaceae	Ghass	ghaozban	Root decoction is given orally on urinary tract infection.
5	<i>Saussurea costus</i> L	Asteraceae	Essha wali	Kuth	Root is used for intestinal worms' treatment.
6	<i>Vitex negunda</i> L	Verbenaceae	kalaban	Bana	Paste of leaves is used on intestinal worms.
7	<i>Aconitum heterophyllum</i> L	Ranunculaceae	Ghass dhoK	Zehar ki Jaddi	Root paste is used as blood purifier.
8	<i>Actea spicata</i> L	Ranunculaceae	Upper reaches of Surankote temperate areas	No particular name.	Rhizome is used on cough.
9	<i>Achillea milifolium</i> L	Asteraceae	Kalai	Chau	Whole plant is given as paste on urinary tract infection and kidney stones.
10	<i>Curcuma longa</i> L	Zingiberaceae	Cultivated	Haldi	Paste of rhizome is given on urinary tract infection & for wound treatment.
11	<i>Plectranthus rugosus</i>	Lamiaceae	Kalaban	Pyumar	Used on cough and other infection as antibiotic.

S.NO	BOTANICAL NAME	FAMILY	PLACE OF COLLECTION	LOCAL NAME	USES
12	<i>Prunus domestica L</i>	Rosaceae	Cultivated	Hari	Pastes of leaves are used on intestinal worms & wound worms.
13	<i>Quercus leucotrichophora sm</i>	Fagaceae	Chandimarh	Rein	Acorns are grinded and paste is given orally along with milk as tonic.
14	<i>Thymus lineasis</i>	Lamiaceae	Mughal Road	Chhicke n	Whole plant decoction is used for cattle prolapsed treatment
15	<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	Dioscoreaceae	City Forest	Kala ganda	Tuber is used as antihelmintic & for wound inflammation treatment
16	<i>Gernanium wallichianum</i>	Geraniaceae	Dana shahstar	Ratan jyot	Root decoction is used for treatment of intestinal infections & bacterial & fungal infections of skin.
17	<i>Rheum australe</i>	Polygoraceae	Pir ki gali	Raimand	Root paste is applied on broken bones & also applied on wounds
18	<i>Skimia auguantiia</i>	Reilaceae	Sankh Doda	Niara	Dried leaves powder decoction is used for pneumonia and diarrhe
19	<i>Jurinea macrocephala</i>	Asteraceae	Pir ki Gali	google	Used for deep injury as well as to cure general weakness

S. N O	BOTANICAL NAME	FAMILY	PLACE OF COLLECTION	LOCAL NAME	USES
20	Toona sureni	Maliaceae	Khanater	Darroye	Bark extract is used to treat bacterial diarrhoea & fever.
21	Lawsonia inermis	Lythracea	Khanater Market	Mehndi	Leaf powder paste is used in foot & mouth disease.
22	Berginia ciliata	Sexifragaceae	Kala Ban	Ban Maya	Stem powder is used to treat open wounds, boils etc as antiseptic.
23	Euphorbia wallichii	Euphorbiaceae	Sari Manghiana	Hirbi	Leaves decoction is used for skin infections & scabies in goats.
24	Aconitum violaceum	Ranunculaceae	Sri Manghiana	Mohri & Dhungi	Root decoction is given on fascioliasis to sheep & goats. It is poisonous for human beings.

#### IV. Discussion

The present research work shows that Gujjar and Backerwal over the generation have vast knowledge of medicinal plants and their use for the treatment of their livestock. The status of some of the medicinal plants is threatened and their occurrence is fragmented and is on decline. The implementation of conservation measures is necessary to conserve any future loss to medicinal plants. Most of the plants used for the treatment are collected from wild. The documentation of these plants is a difficult task as the layman exaggerates their knowledge and the present generation of these tribal populations is lacking experience and knowledge of these plants. The protection and conservation measure for these plants is negligible and most of these plants are at the verge of local extinction.

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