Indigenous animal health care practices in Indian Central Himalaya: Empirical evidences

Prasanna K Samal *, Anubha Shah. Sushil Tiwari, Bhupender Mehra & Devendra K Agrawal

Email: prasannasamal @rediffmail.com

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Abstract

The Indian Central Himalaya supports about four million livestock population which play a vital role in the livelihood of the natives. In this remote ecosystem, where modern veterinary infrastructure is very poor both quantitatively and qualitatively the locals have evolved indigenous health care practices to maintain their livestock population. The practices based on locally available biocresources, are effective in healing diseases, do not have financial cost and are easily administrable. Through a survey covering eight settlements located within altitude ranging from 900 m to 1800 m in the region, an effort was made to document the indigenous animal health care practices interviewing 350 knowledgeable respondents drawn from both the sexes.

Keywords: Indigenous animal health care, Livestock, Traditional knowledge

Traditional Veterinary Medicine Among the Tribes of Kashmir Himalaya

Showkat Yousuf Beigh¹, Irshad A. Nawchoo¹ and Muhammad Iqbal²*

¹Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, Srinagar-190006, India.
²Department of Botany, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi-110062, India.
E-mail: iqbalg5@yahoo.com.in

Abstract

The Kashmir Himalayan Mountains are endowed with a diverse plant wealth. In this region, the Bakerwals and other migratory herders and shepherds utilize herbal therapies for treatment of their livestock. Information on these plants used for veterinary practices was obtained through interviews of herders, shepherds, and others that work with farm animals during the period of 1997 through 2001. A total of 25 plants within 19 families was identified for treatment of a variety of animal afflictions.

Keywords: Ailments, cattle, ethno-medicine, herders, Kashmir tribes, livestock, medicinal plants
Traditional veterinary practices in south-eastern part of Chamoli district, Uttaranchal

Lalit Tiwari* and P C Pande
Department of Botany, Kumaon University, S S J Campus, Almora 263 601, Uttaranchal
E-mail: ltherbal@rediffmail.com
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Abstract
Most of the people of south-eastern part of the Chamoli district, Uttaranchal live in remote areas and usually depend on the traditional medicines. The present investigation has brought to light some popular and frequently used prescription for domestic animals. In all, 72 plants important in ethnoveterinary, their mode of preparations and applications to the diseases and disorders are given.

Keywords: Ethnoveterinary medicine, Chamoli, Garhwal, Uttaranchal.


Indigenous animal health care practices of Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh

Promila Kanwar* and Dinesh Yadav
Department of Home Science Extension Education, College of Home Science, C S K Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur 176062, Himachal Pradesh
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Abstract
Indigenous technical knowledge in animal healthcare practices was documented in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh by using participatory rural appraisal technique (PRA). Among the documented indigenous practices, foot and mouth disease, diarrhoea, tympany, cold, fever, skin diseases, conjunctivitis, wound and eaten placenta were primarily treated with medicinal plants along with other materials available with the farmers. In the opinion of the experts, these practices could be recommended as they have some scientific rationale. However, practices applied for hemorrhagic septicemia, indigestion, tail necrosis, dislocation of joints and horn fracture, were doubtful for recommendations.

Keywords: Indigenous Technical Knowledge, Animal Healthcare, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, Indigenous Healthcare, Ethnomedicine.
Indigenous veterinary practices of Darma valley of Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand

Lalit Tiwari* & P C Pande

Pharmacognosy & Ethnopharmacology Division, NBRI, Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow 226 001, Uttar Pradesh; 1Department of Botany, Kumaon University, SSJ Campus, Almora, Uttarakhand
E-mail: lherbal@rediffmail.com

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Abstract

The people residing in Darma valley known as Darmi or Darmi Bhotiyas have great wisdom of traditional knowledge about the animal husbandry and veterinary practices. They cure their animals with the help of surrounding natural resources such as plants, animals, minerals, etc. They produce traditionally hybrids of yak and local cow. However, these practices are in danger of extinction because of the rapid modernization. The paper documents the traditional veterinary practices and animal husbandry of Darmies of Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.

Keywords: Animal husbandry, Darma valley, Darmi, Darmi Bhotiyas, Ethnoveterinary practices, Veterinary medicines, Uttarakhand,

Traditional goat health management practices in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh

Ram Singh* & Bimal Misri

Central Avian Research Institute, IVRI Campus, Izatnagar 243122, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh; Regional Research Centre, Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, CSKHPKV Campus, Palampur 176062, Himachal Pradesh

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Abstract

Animals are reared under two systems, viz. the sedentary and the migratory/transhumant in Chamba district. The fodder needs of the animals are met through traditional feed resources, but the migratory system of animal rearing is totally dependent on grazing in natural grasslands. The grasslands have been infested with numerous poisonous plants, causing poisoning to animals due to heavy grazing. Some of these poisonous plants are quite fatal and are major causes of livestock mortality and morbidity as veterinary services are not adequately available to provide health cover to all the animals. The farmers have to travel long distances to get their animals treated in the veterinary dispensaries. The farmers have devised their own traditional methods of treating the animals. They possess some knowledge based ethnoveterinary practices and able to distinguish the poisonous and medicinal plants to cure diseases. The communication aims at presenting the traditional animal health management practices used by the farmers with special reference to goat health in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh.

Keywords: Ethnoveterinary practices, Folk medicine, Gaddis tribes, Goat health management, Herbal remedies, Himachal Pradesh, Livestock, Medicinal plants
Ethnoveterinary plants of Uttaranchal — A review

PC Pande\textsuperscript{1}*, Lalit Tiwari\textsuperscript{1} & HC Pande\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{1}Department of Botany, Kumaon University, SSJ Campus, Almora 263 601, Uttaranchal
\textsuperscript{2}Botanical Survey of India (NC), Dehradun, Uttaranchal
E-mail: ltherbal@rediffmail.com
Received 21 December 2004; revised 7 February 2007

Abstract

The study reveals that the people of the Uttaranchal state use 364 plants species in ethnoveterinary practices. Bhotiyas, Boxas, Tharus, Jaunsaris and Rhajis are the tribal groups inhabiting in Uttaranchal. Analysis of data indicates that information on 163 plants is significant as it provides some new information of the ethnoveterinary uses. The study is expected to provide basic data for further studies aimed at conservation of traditional medicine and economic welfare of rural people at the study area.

Keywords: Ethnoveterinary practices, Medicinal plants, Uttaranchal, Review

Traditional veterinary herbal medicines of western part of Almora district, Uttarakhand Himalaya

Rohita Shah\textsuperscript{1}, PC Pande\textsuperscript{1} & Lalit Tiwari\textsuperscript{2}*

SSJ Campus, Kumaon University, Almora, \textsuperscript{2} Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Kamla Neharu Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
E-mail: ltherbal@rediffmail.com
Received 12 December 2005, revised 14 February 2007

Abstract

A preliminary survey of an age-old veterinary practice of the western part of Almora district, which is inhabited by hill communities, was made. The main emphasis was given to 24 most common livestock diseases and disorders. For the treatment of these veterinary diseases and disorders, locals use about 57 plants. The biomedicines are composed of single drug or combination of drugs. These medicines are presented disease wise. This type of traditional knowledge is a wealth for the human being and has great value in the context of today's Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) scenario.

Keywords: Ethnoveterinary medicine, Almora, Uttaranchal
Veterinary Ethnomedicinal Plants in Uttarakhand Himalayan Region, India

Priti Kumari\textsuperscript{1,3}, Bibhesh K. Singh\textsuperscript{2}, Girish C. Joshi\textsuperscript{3,*}, Lalit M. Tewari\textsuperscript{1}

\textsuperscript{1}Department of Botany, DSB Campus, Kumaun University, Nainital 263002 (Uttarakhand) India
\textsuperscript{2}Department of Chemistry, Govt. Postgraduate College, Ranikhet 263645 (Uttarakhand) India
\textsuperscript{3}Regional Research Institute (Ayurveda), Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Siddha, Tarikhet, Ranikhet (Uttarakhand) 263663 (India)

*Email: pritiksingh78@yahoo.com

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Abstract

Drug research has enriched human life in many ways. The health care and resulting social and economic benefits of new drugs to society are most remarkable, are quite well recognized. Drug research has been the driving force for many basic scientific developments, such as that of many new synthetic methods, of the understanding of the physiology and pharmacology of biological systems and has contributed much too molecular recognition. The Uttarakhand Himalayas have a great wealth of medicinal plants and traditional medicinal knowledge. The medicinal plant that has been widely used as veterinary ethnomedicine in Uttarakhand region has been studied. These do not either occur elsewhere or have not so far been exploited commercially. Attempts have been made to explore the new possible species having medicinal importance especially for veterinary and to grow them in suitable areas so as to meet national industrial demands. The present paper deals with the traditional uses of 100 plant species employed in ethnomedicine and ethnoveterinary practice in Uttarakhand.

Key Words: EthnoMedicinal Plants, Traditional knowledge, Uttarakhand Himalaya, Veterinary.
Indigenous knowledge of yak breeding and management by Brokpa community in eastern Himalaya, Arunachal Pradesh

Ranjay K Singh1* & Brokpa community2
1College of Horticulture & Forestry, Central Agricultural University, Pasighat, 791 102, Arunachal Pradesh; 2Brokpa community of Dirang (West Kameng) and Tamang districts E-mail: ranjaysingh_jbp@rediffmail.com
Received 24July 2007; revised 4 October 2008

Abstract
Indigenous ways of conserving the animals through adoption of traditional breeding methods, classifying the breeds, diagnosing the diseases, and preventing the disorders and diseases by using locally available ethnoveterinary practices is still found to be rational and predominant in the remote places in India plays a pivotal role in conserving the animals’ diversity. This research address the facets of traditional yak breeding systems and healthcare management using indigenous knowledge systems such as local forest, rangeland resources and ethnoveterinary practices. The research was conducted among Brokpa community of Monpa tribe in randomly selected villages of West Kameng and Tawang districts of Arunachal Pradesh. Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) and personal interview methods were employed to record the data. Result indicates that Brokpa community has developed local ways of conserving the yak breed. They select male and female breed in their traditional breeding programme by following certain definite criteria based on the phenotypic characters and productivity of animals. Informal rural social institutions play decisive role while exchanging the traditional yak breeds to be used in breeding. The healthcare of yak is maintained by selecting and feeding a range of indigenous grasses, trees and shrubs apart from the predominant system of accessing the rangeland ecosystems. Various diseases and disorders are combated by applying the ethnoveterinary practices based on locally available plants and practices. The economy and livelihood of Brokpa community are significantly affected by the stocks of indigenous yak breeds and their level of productivity. The role of indigenous knowledge of Brokpa in conservation and management of traditional breeds of yak can be used in participatory animals’ biodiversity conservation.

Keywords: Brokpa, Monpa, Yak conservation, Ethnoveterinary practices, Indigenous knowledge, Traditional yak breeding
Some ethnoveterinary plant records for Sikkim Himalaya

Kumar Avinash Bharati* & BL Sharma
Department of Botany, NREC College, Khurja 203 131, Uttar Pradesh
E-mail: Kumaravinashbharati@Rediffmail.Com
Received 3 October 2007; revised 28 January 2009

Abstract
A field survey was done to study and document the indigenous knowledge of various ethnic groups of Sikkim regarding animal healthcare. The hills of Sikkim Himalaya are inhabited by number of ethnic groups. They use medicinal plants not only for human being but also for their domestic animals. Large number of plants has been collected and the information on their ethnoveterinary uses was gathered from local inhabitants. The information about folk medicinal use, vernacular names of plants and the parts of the plants used are documented. During the investigation, a well developed ethnoveterinary system among tribal people was observed. Twenty of plant species used by local people to cure various disease and disorders were recorded.

Keywords: Ethnoveterinary practices, Lepcha tribe, Bhutia tribe, Limbus tribe, Nepalese tribe, Indigenous knowledge, Medicinal plants, Khurja, Uttar Pradesh

Ethnoveterinary medicines in Indian perspective: Reference to Uttarakhand, Himalaya

Lalit Tiwari1* & PC Pande2
1Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Kamla Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh;
2SSJ Campus, Kumaon University, Almora, Uttarakhand
E-mail: ltherbal@rediffmail.com
Received 5 May 2008; revised 20 May 2009

Abstract
Ethnoveterinary medicine is the holistic interdisciplinary study of the local knowledge and the socio-cultural structures and environment associated with animal healthcare and husbandry. The investigation is aimed at clearing some facts and Indian concepts of ethnoveterinary science. The paper deals with 23 household plants and plant products which are used in the treatment of animal diseases by local people and tribes of Uttarakhand.

Keywords: Ethnoveterinary medicine, Animal husbandry Uttarakhand
Plants used as Ethnoveterinary Medicines in Sikkim Himalayas

Kumar Avinash Bharati1 & B.L. Sharma2

1Raw Materials Herbarium and Museum Delhi (RHMD), CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources, Dr. K.S. Krishnan Marg, New Delhi-110012, INDIA.
Email: kumaravinashbharati@rediffmail.com
2Department of Botany, N.R.E.C. College, Khurja-203131, INDIA.

Abstract

Field work was conducted to document the ethnoveterinary medicine used by members of the indigenous community in Sikkim Himalayas, India, in order to treat ailments of their livestock. This research detailed the use of 37 medicinal plants to treat ailments in animals such as diarrhea, dysentery, digestive disorders, injury, wound, fever, maternity complications, skin disease, urinary problems, cough and cold, skeleto-muscular disorders, inflammation, scorpion sting, snake and insect bite, weakness, parasite, ulcer and bleeding. 12 medicinal plants being used in Sikkim Himalayas have not been documented in ethnoveterinary medicine elsewhere in the world. 15 plant species were found to contain previously unreported medicinal properties.

Plants used in traditional healthcare of livestock by Gujjar community of Sub-Himalayan tracts, Uttarakhand, India

R D Gaur*, Jyotsana Sharma and R M Painuli

Department of Botany, HNB Garhwal University, Srinagar-246 174, Uttarakhand, India

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Abstract

The present paper highlights the indigenous knowledge on the ethnoveterinary medicinal plants used by the Gujjar community of Sub-Himalayan tracts in Garhwal Himalaya. This tribe is a nomadic one, lives with their livestock’s in the forests, roaming from one place to other in different habitats. Their herds of livestock constituted a substantive role, as their economy is totally dependent on selling milk and other dairy products. They are dependent on the surrounding vegetational wealth for the treatment of various ailments of their livestock, following traditionally based knowledge system. They also have distinct folk concepts regarding the diagnosis of cattle ailments. The following study includes 54 plant species belonging to 32 families, commonly employed in ethnoveterinary practices by the community.

Keywords: Ethnoveterinary, Gujjars, Medicinal plants, Sub-Himalayan zone, Traditional livestock healthcare, Uttarakhand.
Ethnoveterinary remedies of diseases among milk yielding animals in Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir, India

Renu Sharmaa, R.K. Manhasb & Rani Magotraa

a Department of Botany, University of Jammu, Jammu 180006, Jammu and Kashmir, India
b Department of Botany, Govt. Degree College, Kathua 184104, Jammu and Kashmir, India

Abstract

The triangle of relationship between human beings, animals and plants has existed for ages, and has given rise to intense-relationships and consequently rich traditions of ethnoveterinary knowledge throughout the world. The predominantly rural population and the strong agricultural base have provided unique situation for rich ethnoveterinary practices in the study area.

Aim of the study: The present study was conducted in the Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir between 2007 and 2009 to provide list of the important plants of the region for further phytochemical and pharmacological studies, and to prepare inventory of the ethnoveterinary practices for the future generations.

Material and methods: Direct interview of 78 informants was conducted and the information gathered was analyzed for two quantitative methods viz. informant consensus factor (ICF) and use-value (UV). The characteristics of ethnoveterinary plants and practices were also documented.

Results: A total of 72 plants were used to cure 33 common ailments of milk yielding animals of Kathua district. Fabaceae (7 species) was the most represented family, along with Poaceae (6 species). Leaves (27.2%) were the most frequently used plant parts, herbs (48.6%) the most frequently used life-form and wild flora (58.3%) the most used source for the ethnoveterinary practices. The highest ICF was reported for urological disorders (0.95) and lowest for nutritional diseases (0.80). The values of ICF were generally on the higher side which shows that the informants share the knowledge about the ailment among themselves. The important ethnoveterinary plant species on the basis of use-values were: Brassica campestris, Saccharum officinarum, Emblica officinalis, Trachyspermum ammi, Asparagus adscendens, Musa paradisica, Oryza sativa, Curcuma longa, Azadirachta indica, Tinospora cordifolia and Tamarindus indica.

Conclusion: High diversity of ethnoveterinary plants were found to cure the common milk yielding animals of Kathua district. Further phytochemical and pharmacological studies are required to ascertain their chemical nature for the betterment of the locals and farmers, and commercial utilization of this knowledge.

Keywords: Conservation, Informant consensus factor, Traditional healers, Use-value, Women participation
Ethno-veterinary practices for ephemeral fever of Yak: A participatory assessment by the Monpa tribe of Arunachal Pradesh

Sanjit Maiti1*, P Chakravarty1, Sanchita Garai2, S Bandyopadhyay1 & VS Chouhan1

1National Research Centre on Yak, Dirang, West Kameng District-790101, Arunachal Pradesh
2National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal – 132001, Haryana
E-mail: sanjit.ndri@gmail.com

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Abstract

High altitude habitat of yak (Poephagus grunniens L.) remains covered with snow for 5-6 months in a year, and it is considered that yak’s natural environment is almost quarantine in disease free zone. But due to the change of socio-economic scenario of pastoral community, yaks are being reared with cattle in semi pastoral system. As a result incidence of almost all the common ailments and diseases of cattle has been reported in the yak tracks of India. For some diseases and ailments they adopted vaccination practices and for some they still depended on their traditional knowledge. Ephemeral fever is one of them for which they depend on different ethnoveterinary practices. In this paper, an attempt has been made how Monpa tribe of Arunachal Pradesh used different ethnoveterinary practices applicable against the ephemeral fever. Sociometry and Quantification of Indigenous Knowledge (QuIk) is applied for documentation and validation of ethnoveterinary practices. It is found that The Monpas are using seven ethnoveterinary practices against ephemeral fever. Out of these seven Thalictrum foliosum is found most significant practices.

Keywords: Yak, Ethno-veterinary, Epheremal fever, Monpa tribe

Indigenous Animal Health Care Practices from Garhwal Himalaya

Pooja Juyal *, J.C.Ghildiyal
Department of Botany, Utrakhand Open University Haldwani- 263139, (Nainital)
E-mail: pjiyal@uou.ac.in, ghildiyaljc@gmail.com

Abstract

This communication carries valuable information on 31 species of ethnoveterinary plants, commonly used for the treatment of domestic animals by local people of Bhabar region

Keywords: Ethno-Veterinary, Indigenous uses, Common Ailments, Bhabar Tract.
Ethnoveterinary plants used by the *Chiru* tribes of Manipur, Northeast India

Ranjana Rajkumari, RK Nirmala\(^1\), PK Singh\(^2\), Ajit Kumar Das, BK Dutta & A Pinokiyo*  

Department of Environment and Ecology, Assam University, Silchar-788011, Assam;  
\(^1\)ICAR, Lamphelpat-795004, Imphal, Manipur;  
\(^2\)Department of Life Sciences, Manipur University, Canchipur-795003, Manipur; * PG Department of Botany, DM College of Science, Imphal-795001, Manipur  
E-mail: pnkiathiokpam@gmail.com

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Abstract

Cattle farming is one the most income generating occupation of the tribals of Manipur, Northeast India. Chiru tribe of Manipur has been depending on cattle farming for livelihood since long time back. This tribe of Manipur is repository of rich ethnoveterinary knowledge of plants. The study aims at exploring the ethnoveterinary plants associated with this particular tribe. As a result of this study, 36 plant species and genera belonging to 29 families used for treating as many as 17 ailments of domestic animals (cows, dogs, buffaloes, pigs, etc.) have been documented based on ethnoveterinary surveys (PRA and interview-questionnaire methods). The most commonly and effectively used ethnoveterinary plants are *Areca catechu* L. for treating endoparasite, *Bambusa tulda* Roxb. and *Saccharum officinarum* L. for treating retension of placenta, *Cannabis sativa* L. for treating diarrhoea and dysentery, *Achyranthes aspera* L. as galactogogue, *Elsholtzia communis* (Collett & Hemsl.) Diels for treating foot and mouth disease, *Millettia pachycarpa* Benth. for removal of insects, *Paederia foetida* L. for treating diarrhoea and dysentery, *Trigonella foenum-graecum* L. for treating haematuria. The ethnoveterinary uses of 5 plant species, viz. *Cissus adnata* Roxb. for treating bone fracture, *Drymaria cordata* (L.) Willd. ex Schult. for treating constipation, *Millettia pachycarpa* Benth. for removal of insects, *Persicaria chinensis* (L.) H. Gross for treating maggot and *Syzygium cuminii* (L.) Skeels for treating haematuria are recorded for the first time. Due to changing life style, this unexplored and undocumented knowledge is at risk.

Keywords: Senapati district, Ethnoflora, Chiru tribe
Ethnoveterinary plants for the treatment of camels in Shiwalik regions of Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir, India

R. Sharma a, R.K.Manhas b*

a Department of Botany, University of Jammu, Jammu 180006, Jammu and Kashmir, India
b Department of Botany, Govt. Degree College, Kathua 184104, Jammu and Kashmir, India

Abstract

Ethnopharmacological relevance: Camel is an important mode of transportation in the hot and hilly tracts of Shiwaliks of Kathua districts. The camel owners of the region lack the modern veterinary facilities and therefore depend heavily upon local treatments for the animal. This ethnoveterinary knowledge of plants is acquired by them from their forefathers and generally moves from one generation to another orally. The oral mode of transferring this valuable knowledge is vulnerable to erosion with the passage of time and generations.

Material and methods: Ethnoveterinary information was collected by interviewing 38 camel keepers and traditional healers as per the questionnaire. The data collected was analysed quantitatively using three indices viz. use-value (UV), informant consensus factor (ICF), and fidelity level (Fl %).

Results: A total of 41 plants were found to be of ethnoveterinary importance in the present study. Herbs and trees (41.5% each) were the most used lifeforms. The most used plant part was fruit (27.9%). Rhizome, root and whole plant parts collectively contributed to 18.6%. Most of the ethnoveterinary practices (65.9%) used oral mode of medication. The values of UV and Fl(%) shows that the most important species for curing the ailing camels were Curcuma longa, Trachyspermum ammi, Brassica campestris, Tamarindus indica, Phyllanthus emblica, Cassia fistula, Eruca sativa, Plumbago zeylanica etc. The high values of ICF (0.91–0.99) show that the informants share the knowledge for the treatment of camels amongst themselves on regular basis.

Conclusion: A good number of plants are utilised by the informants to cure camels. Most of the preparations used fruits and leaves. Only 18.6% of the practices required destructive collection and such species need sustainable use and conservation. Some of the species like Tamarindus indica, Cassia fistula, Eruca sativa, Albizia lebbeck and Citrus medica require further phytochemical and pharmacological studies.

Keywords: Camel, Ethnoveterinary, Fidelity level, Informant consensus factor, Shiwaliks, Use-value
Ethno-veterinary practices used for the treatment of animal diseases in Doda district, Jammu & Kashmir

Adil Masood Khateeb, Shafkat Ahmad Khandi*, Pranav Kumar, MS Bhadwal & Rizwan Jeelani

Division of Veterinary & Animal Husbandry Extension Education, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, SKUAST- J, RS Pura, Jammu-181102
E-mails: shafkatext@gmail.com; rizwanjeelani@gmail.com

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Abstract

The study was conducted in the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir state (India) to create a database of the indigenous technical knowledge practices used by the pastoralists for the treatment of animal diseases. The data was collected with the help of a structured interview schedule through personal interview technique. Sixty indigenous technical knowledge practices were identified and documented. A total of 38 species of plants and ingredients used for treatment of 24 different ailments were documented. Of the total 60 documented remedies, 7 were for the treatment of diarrhoea, 6 for bloat, 5 for indigestion, 4 for wound healing, 3 each for fever, stomach ache, jaundice, liver problems, haematuria, internal injury and cough, 2 each for yoke gall, pneumonia, colic, anaemia and one each for dysentery, abscess, stomatitis, oliguria, pleuritis, vomiting, urolithiasis, constipation and abscess maturation.

Keywords: Pastoralists, Indigenous technical knowledge, Animal treatment, Traditional healers
Mapping of indigenous technical knowledge (ITK) on animal healthcare and validation of ITKs used for treatment of pneumonia in dairy animals

Adhiti Bhanotra¹ & Jancy Gupta² *

¹ SKUAST- Jammu, ² Dairy Extension Division, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana, India
E-mail: jancygupta@gmail.com

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Abstract

This paper outlines the indigenous technical knowledge (ITK) possessed by farmers of Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir, India, which is largely dependent on the traditional/indigenous animal husbandry practices for treatment of animals. The study was aimed to document various ITKs related to healthcare management of dairy animals and to validate the ITKs practiced for pneumonia treatment. Data were collected through personal interviews and focus group discussions with selected group of the Dogra, Gujjars and Bakarwals community members. Altogether 25 plants were recorded which are used by the local people in formulation of different traditional medicines for curing 20 types of livestock diseases and ailments. Validation of ITKs was done through Quantification of Indigenous Knowledge (QuIK) method developed by Anne K de Villiers (1996). The Indigenous practices for pneumonia treatment were perceived better than Modern Veterinary Drug (MVD) due to ease in availability, less side effects and low cost. The potential of herbal plants validated in this study can be taken up for experimental validation and concerted efforts are called for conservation of such plants.

Keywords: Indigenous Technical Knowledge, Modern Veterinary drug, Documentation, Validation, Dogra, Gujjars, Bakarwals tribes