Chapter -XI

SUMMARY

The present study deals with the Ethnobotanical studies of Tharus of Balrampur district of Uttar Pradesh. The area is situated between 26° 48" N to 27° 55" N latitude and 81° 34" E to 82° 49" E longitude and spreads in an area of about 7352 sq. Km., lying along the Indo- Nepal boundary.

The area is spread over 72 k.m. from east to west and 81 k.m. from north to south. A map showing the area investigated is given in the Plate I and also a map showing the distribution of Tharus in Plate II.

Informations regarding main geographical features, topography, soil, climate, drainage, food and transport of the area are given in the present thesis.
The extensive exploration during the two years (2000-2002) revealed that the area is inhabited by important scheduled tribe, the Tharus. A concise general account of the name, internal organisation, religion, food and drinks, occupation, social customs along with the area has been presented.

Several field trips were made at regular intervals in the important tribal pockets and settlements during different seasons of the year. Efforts have been made to collect the informations by the experienced tribal people and local inhabitants about the plants they use for their day to day requirements. The plants of ethnobotanical importance were collected and identified with the help of regional floras and monographs. The identity of specimens were confirmed by comparing and consulting the specimens at Botanical Survey of India, Allahabad; Forest Research Institute, Dehradun; Central National Herbarium, Calcutta and National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow. The herbarium specimens prepared during the course of study, deposited in the Department of Botany, M.L.K.(P.G.) College, Balrampur, U.P.

Bentham and Hooker’s system of classification has been followed and the families are arranged accordingly. However, at places recent suggestions have also been followed in splitting the families with view to incorporate latest trends. The nomenclature of each taxon has been brought up-to-date in accordance with International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. For easy identification
of families, genera and species, a dichotomous key has been provided which is mainly based on macroscopic characters.

A concise and diagnostic description of all the species followed by ecological notes, ethnobotanical uses, local names, flowering and fruiting periods, locality of occurrence and field number have been given.

A total number of 447 species belonging to 332 genera and 115 families of angiosperms which are being used for various purposes by the tribal community have been collected of these 399 species under 293 genera and 97 families belongs to dichotyledons and 48 species under 39 genera and 18 families to monocotyledons.

The ratio of families belongs to monocots and dicots are 1:5.38, of genera 1:7.51 and of species 1:8.31. A method of statistical approaches to a flora for a comparative study is to calculate the number of species per genus (Lemee, 1929-43). The ratio for India is 7, for gangetic plain 2.2, for Bihar and Orissa 1.7, for Gorakhpur 1.5 (Srivastava 1976), for Faizabad is 1.48 (Shukla 1991), for Gonda is 1:62 (Singh, 1991) and for present area it comes to 1:1.34 (Table 4).

There are 6 plates showing Tharus in their original vicinity along with their prepared articles and 36 plates showing important plants appended at the end of the thesis.