D. SUMMARY - CONCLUSION

(1) Importance of traditional and folklore medicines in the treatment of human ailments has been thoroughly discussed and a critical review of literature has been made so as to assess the present state of knowledge on the study of Ethnobotany in general and Medico-ethnobotanical aspects in particular not only for North East Region of India but the country as a whole.

(2) A detailed account of Subansiri district has been provided with its location and physiography, the river system, the geology and soil, the climate which have a great impact on floristic composition.

(3) The people inhabating the district and their problems have been highlighted and provided authentic information on customs and culture of the 'Nishi' the most populous tribe and its neighbouring tribe the 'Apatani' who claim themselves as aboriginals of Subansiri district.

(4) Intensive field work has been carried out since January 1989 and extended up to November 1994 so as to obtain a detail information on each and every plant species found useful in herbal Ethno-medicine following the approaches and methodologies suggested for an ethnobotanical work by Jones (1941), Schultes (1960, 1962), Jain (1964 a, 1967 a, 1986, 1987, 1989) and Ford (1978). A number of local informers and medicine men mostly elderly people above the age of 50 of each tribe have been contacted, some of them acted as Local guide-cum-informer in the study area and made repeated queries for authenticity of information. Usefulness of the plant (s) either individual plant species or conjunction of plant species in herbal medicine with their process of preparation of products and doses for the treatment of ailments have been provided on the basis of personal observation.
(5) Plants which have been found useful in the treatment of ailments chronologically numbered and recorded necessary field data including vernacular names on the spot of collection. Voucher specimens made following Herbarium methods and techniques as suggested by Jain & Rao (1977). One set of voucher specimens of individual species has been deposited in Gauhati University Herbarium for future studies along with kept preserved both dried and bottled specimens for documentation.

(6) Photographs of Vegetation; rare, threatened and interesting plant species have been taken and some of them presented here for illustration.

(7) Critical morphological studies have been made for the collected specimens and identified with the help of available literature and confirmed the identity by matching the Herbarium sheets found preserved in Gauhati University Herbarium and finally in Kanjilal Herbarium, Shillong, Meghalaya (ASSAM).

(8) Arrangement of the species of plants enumerated has been made alphabetically and provided correct nomenclature with citation of references of original publication. Also indicated invariably the volume and pagination of Flora of British India and Flora of Assam for showing their occurrence in India and Assam (s, l) respectively but when not found, references of neighbouring Floras, published papers and Monographs have been cited. This is followed by family name in parenthesis and provided vernacular names used by the tribes along with the popular names found in Hindi and Sanskrit literature.

(9) A brief description of the collected species has been provided for easy identification followed by phenological data, date (s) of collection (s), ecological adaptation and nature of distribution. But for a few species of plants which escaped attention of the present Investigator and reported elsewhere
under various titles have also been recorded with their application in Ethnomedicine only, referred here with authority. (10) Usage in Ethnomedicine has been dealt separately showing plant(s), part(s) of plant used and process of preparation and doses for the treatment of ailments. Alongwith established reports of utilisation in Medicine have been provided from a number of accounts published by Bodding (1927); Nadkarni (1954); Kirtikar & Basu (1935); Dastur (1935); Chopra et. al (1956, 1969,) Wealth of India series (1948-1976); Nayar et al (1989) & Asolkar et al (1992), and recorded also other informations including taxonomical, New or additional new usage at the end in a ‘NOTE’. (11) Altogether 154 species of plants have been found in use in Ethnomedicine belong to Fungi(1), Pteridophytes(7) Gymnosperm (1) and 145 species of Angiosperms which are included in 144 genera distributed in 66 families. Out of these 154 species, 35 species of plants have been recorded as New claims of which *Hedychium dekianum* Rao & Verma & *Indofevillea khasi-ana* Chatterjee are the Neo-endemic species of North East Region. Besides these, 60 species of plants have been recorded here with additional new uses in Ethnomedicine. (12) The uses of the enumerated plant species have been categorised on the basis of main ailments, diseases and disorders. It is revealed from statistical analysis that maximum 45% of the species are used in Digestive or Gastro-intestinal disorders. (13) Investigation of Medico-ethnobotanical survey has revealed interesting findings as regards to the distribution of plants concerned. *Mahonia napaulensis* DC. was reported from Sikkim, Meghalaya by Sharma et al. (1993) and *Hedychium dekianum* Rao & Verma as Neo-endemic from K.
& J., hills of Meghalaya (1972)—these two species are now recorded here as New record of distribution of plants in Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh.

(14) Profuse utilisation, destruction of habitat, reckless felling of trees, practice of shifting cultivation (Jhuming) and commercial exploitation have made some species threatened in their survival. The species are *Acorus calamus* L., *Angiopteris evecta* (Forst.) Hoffm., *Artemisia indica* Willd., *Berberis wallichiana* DC., *Coptis teeta* Wall., *Costus speciosus* (Koen.) Sm., *Dioscorea belophylla* Voigt ex. Haines, *Gynocardia odorata* R.Br., *Indofevillea khasiana* Chatterjee, *Melothria heterophylla* (Lour.) Cogn., *Michelia oblonga* Wall. ex. Hook.f. & Th. and *Zanthoxylum armatum* DC., Some of the species marked 'asterisks' have already been prohibited for export according to Gazette notification of Director General of Foreign Trade made on 30th March 1994. Measures of protection of habitat, preservation and ex-situ conservation have been highlighted.

(15) The study of literature also reveals that some 22 species are found in use of several Ayurvedic Formulations (Annonymous 1978) conform aboriginals claim as Ethnomedicine. Besides these, the species viz. *Abroma augusta* (L.) L. f. (Ulatkambal), *Centella asiatica* (L.) Urban (Mandukparni), *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L. (Bhringaraja), *Paedaria foetida* L. (Parasarni), *Rubia cordifolia* L. (Manjistha), *Solanum nigrum* L. (Makoy), *Terminalia belerica* (Gaertn.) Roxb. (Bahira), *T. chebula* Retz. (Haritaki) are found in abundance having scope for commercial exploitation for the upliftment of the economy of the aboriginals.

(16) References of different works cited in the text have been provided for an easy access of literature for future workers.