METHODOLOGY

The data presented here is based on personal interviews and observations of informants. The indigenous knowledge of local people regarding plants was gathered by intensive ethnobotanical explorations. The area visited annually for 19 times during the 2008 to 2011 for covering different villages of Nizamabad district and each visit lasted about 10-15 days.

The informants interviewed were of following categories: the medicine men, local healers, village heads and old experienced and knowledgeable men and women. During the field survey, for plant collection and documentation of data, the informant accompanied the author. Sometimes more then one informants were included in the team.

Each medicinal and edible use of the plant has been confirmed and verified during different visits to different localities in the area and even with the same informants on different occasions. The uses were considered valid if at least 2 informants had similar comments about the uses of the plant. For getting close to the local people and to win their confidence the author participated in their marriages, festivals, social events, etc. which was of great use in observing their using of various things.

During the field work 2-3 voucher specimens of each ethnobotanically important plant and plant part used in medicine were collected and numbered. The voucher specimens were made mostly at flowering or fruiting stage according the standard methods (Jain & Rao, 1977). Their description, ethnobotanical uses and other details were recorded in the field book and in ethnobotany data sheets, which is based on Jain (1995). Collected plant specimens were identified with the help of keys to families, genera and species provided in standard floras like Pullaiah & Rao (1995), Cooke (1958), Sharma et al. (1996), Singh et al. (2000 & 2001), etc.
Altogether 407 plants used by natives for different purposes have been enumerated and arranged in families according to Bentham and Hooker’s (1868-1883) system of classification with slight adjustment according to their present delimitation.

The genera under each family and species under each genus are arranged alphabetically for the sake of convenience. The citation includes the correct botanical name followed by author citation, and if applicable basionyme have been provided. A brief description of the species is given after citation and local name.

The phonological data of the plant has been furnished, then reference to the illustration of the plant in literature has been provided thereafter. Then the distribution of the plant has been given, which is followed by locality and field collection number/s. for species. If available, the information regarding some religious and sacred plants has been indicated under the heading, folklore.

The detailed preparation of formulation, dosage, mode of use, etc. has been given under uses. For most of the medicinal uses of plants which were reported in literature, reference has been given under the heading, literature. After scrutiny of literature several uses are not found to be reported so far and hence, these uses are treated as uses less-known and therefore, marked by an asterisk (*).


A proforma was designed for recording information on medicinal, edible and other uses of plants, which is based on Jain (1995) & the same is given below:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INFORMATION ON PLANTS USED IN MEDICINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local Name</strong>……………………………………………………………………Date……………………</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Botanical name &amp; family</strong>……………………………………………………………</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Habit:**  Herb……, Shrub……, Tree……(…………………………………………………)
| **Habitat:**  Annual……, Biannual……, Perennial……(………………………………………)
| **Locality:**  Mandal……………… Village……………… Street………………
| Place……………………………………………………………………………….|
| **Notes:**  Special characters of plant…………………………………………………………|
| Stem ……………………………………………………………………………….
| Leaf ……………………………………………………………………………….
| Flower ……………………………………………………………………………….
| Distribution………… Fragrance………… Flowering season………………
| **Use:**  Disease………………………………………………………………………………
| Disease symptoms…………………………………………………………………………
| Plant part………………………………………………………………………………
| Preparation……………………………………………………………………………
| Doses…………………………………………………………………………………
| Mode of Application…………………………………………………………………
| **Other uses**…………………………………………………………………………
| **Informer’s Name and Address**……………………………………………………..
| ………………………………………………………………………………...........................