CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE
Ethnomedicinal investigations abroad in the countries have been undertaken in Ethnobotanically rich human societies. A few significant contributions regarding Ethnobotanical investigations on medicinal plants are as follows: the native medicine in the Sudan (Ahmed, 1970); Medicinal plants of Samoa (George, 1974); Medicinal plants of Colombia (Gonzalvez, 1980); 121 medicinal plant species which grow in the Akha tribes of Thailand and their uses have been documented (Anderson, 1985); Medicinal plants of Central Region of Nepal (Joshi & Edington 1990); Medicinal plants of the Central province of Papua New Guinea: Coastal villages to the West and east parts of the Moresbyo (Holdsworth, 1991); Medicinal plants of the Gazelle Peninsulla, New Britain Island, Papua New Guinea (Holdsworth, 1992); Medicinal plants of the Oro (Northern) Province of Papua New Guinea (Holdsworth, 1993); A brief account of herbal medicines prescribed for various ailments in Sudan documented by El Rayah, (1993); African medicinal plants with emphasis on conservation and primary health care (Cunningham, 1993). Indigenous knowledge on medicinal plant cultivation in local communities in Jinping country, Yunnan province, China (Huai Hu-Yin et al., 2002); Ethnobotanical information on 152 plants used by the people of Nicaragua's, Atlantic Coast, for the treatment of various diseases, is provided. The diversity and prevalence of medicinal plant uses for this region has been reported for the first time (Barrett, 1994); George et al. (1995) reported Ethnomedicine in the Tongan Island.

Besides these some of the important books by the foreign authors on various aspects of Ethnobotany contributing toward the knowledge of the medicinal plants are given in the following publications: Medicine quest; in search of natures healing secrets (Plotkin, 2000); African traditional medicine : a dictionary of plant use and applications (Neuwinger et al., 2000); Applied Ethnobotany : People, wild plant use and conservation (Cunningham, 2001); Toxic plants of North America (Burrows et al., 2001); South America medicinal plants : botany, remedial properties, and general use (Roth and Lindorf 2002); Medicinal and Magical plants of Southern Africa : An Annotated checklist (Arnold, 2002); Medical Botany : Plants affecting human health (Lewis et al., 2003); Medicinal plants of the world : an illustrated scientific guide to important medicinal plants and their uses (Wanwyk, 2004).
INDIA:

In India vast Ethnobotanical knowledge exists from the ancient time. The written records of the use of plants for curing human and animal diseases in India are presented in tabular form as follows (Table - 2):

Table 2: Ethno-botanical informations from India.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indian Treatise</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Number of medicinal plants included</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Vedic period</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Post Vedic Period</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Charaka Samhita</td>
<td>Charaka</td>
<td>1000 – 800 B.C.</td>
<td>400 – 450.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Sushruta Samhita</td>
<td>Sushruta</td>
<td>800 – 700 B.C.</td>
<td>573.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Ashtanga Haridaya</td>
<td>Vagbhatta</td>
<td>ca 700 A.D.</td>
<td>700 – 800.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Dhanawanti Nighanta</td>
<td>Mohendra</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>373.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Shodal Nighanta</td>
<td>Narhari</td>
<td>1200 A.D.</td>
<td>499.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Raj Nighanta</td>
<td>Narhari</td>
<td>1600 A.D.</td>
<td>750.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Modern Period</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Indian Medicinal Plants</td>
<td>Kirtikar &amp; Basu</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>1775.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Glossary of Indian Medicinal Plants</td>
<td>Chopra et al.</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Over 3500.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) The useful plants of India</td>
<td>S.P. Ambasta (editor)</td>
<td>1986 4th reprint 2000</td>
<td>5000sp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Medicinal plants of India - An Encyclopaedia</td>
<td>Sharma</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>380 genera 600 species.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Indian system of Herbal medicine and its plants based drugs caught the attention of the west during the colonial days since 1563 and few books on this have been published. Some important contributions are – Colloquies on the simples and drugs of India in 1563 by the personal physician of the Portuguese Governor in India; and this was published in 12 volumes of work on the Medicinal plants of Kerala (1678 – 1703); from Amsterdam; a catalogue of Indian medicinal plants and drugs (Fleming, 1810); Materia Medica of Hindoostan (Ainslie, 1813). Study on Ethno-botany was initiated by Dr. E.K. Janaki Ammal (1954) as an official programme in the Economic Botany section of B.S.I. Janaki Ammal (1956) had published a paper on subsistence economy of India. Dr. S.K. Jain started sporadic work among the tribal of Central India and published a good number of papers on Ethno-botany (Jain, 1963 a – e; 1964 a – d, and 1965 b). During the last few decades works have been recorded and information on medicinal plants from the different regions of the country (Jain & Mitra, 1997); Binu et al. (1992) have been compiled on the Ethnobotanical work carried out in India. Vedprakash et al. (1987) studied the Ethnobotanical flora of Khandala, Maharashtra state and study of common medicinal plants have been reported by Biswas et al. (1982).

In addition to these, a good number of investigations by different researchers have enriched the Indian Ethno-Medicobotany. Some notable among them are Boddings (1927); Moss (1952, 1976, 1978); Raganathan (1976); Janardhanan (1963); Jain et al. (1973); Malhotra & Moorthy (1973); Uniyal & Chauhan (1971); Kolammal (1979); Vartak (1981); Ramachandran & Nair (1981), Tribedi et al. (1982); Yoganarasimhan et al. (1982); Dar et al. (1983); Tarafder (1983 a – e, 1984 a – b); Shah and Gopal (1985); Nambiar et al. (1986); Anandan & Veluchamy (1986); Rawat & Pangtey (1987); Das & Misra (1987, 1988); Das & Kant (1988); Hemadri et al. (1987); Joshi (1988); Reddy et al. (1989); Singh & Dakrea (1989); Dagor (1989), Dagor & Dagor (1991 & 1996); Hemadri (1990, 1991); Pal & Jain (1989); Kapahi (1990); Vedavathy et al. (1991); Girach et al. (1994); Sivarajan and Balachandran (1994); Kapur (1996); Mohanty et al. (1996); Singh & Pandey (1996); Mandal & Basu (1996), Khanna et al. (1996); Girach (1997); Katewa & Arora (1997); Singh et al. (1996); Singh & Dharke (1989); Joshi et al. (1980); Singh & Maheshwari (1983, 1990); Bhandary et al. (2002); Bhongaoankar et al. (2002); Bhatt et al. (2002); Khanna (2002); Punjani (2002); Chaudhari et al. (2002); Sikarwar (2002); Arinathan et al. (2003); Chakraborty et al. (2003); Deshmukh et al. (2003); Nadanakunjidam et al. (2003).

Cross cultural Ethnobotanical studies have been carried out in different parts of India by a number of research workers: Srivastava (1979); Nath and Bordoloi...
(1991); Saklani and Jain (1992,1994); Jain and Lata (1996); Goel and Rajendra
(1999); Begum and Nath (2000).

North East India has a sizeable tribal and non-tribal population. The
investigation on Ethnomedicinal studies have been recorded and reports and
information on the medicinal plants employed by the people of this regions have
been provided by the different Ethnobotanists viz., Hajra (1997); Tiwari etal. (1978);
Joseph & Kharkongor (1981); Hajra & Chakraborty (1982); Bennet (1983); Sinha
(1987, 1996); Bhuyan (1989); Rao (1989); Elangbam etal. (1989); Gangwar &
Ramakrishnan (1990); Sinha (1990), Rao & Jamir (1989 a & b); Singh (1996); Tiwari
& Tiwari (1996); Lalramnghiglova etal. (1996, 1997); Lalnundanga etal. (1997);
Lalramnghiglova and Jha (1997); Rao & Shampou (1997); Jamir (1997); Sinha
(1996); Rawat & Chowdhury (1998); Jha and Lalnundanga (1998); Saptawna
(1990); Lalliantanga (1990); Lalnundanga and Jha (2000); Ashalata Devi (2005);
Dutta & Dutta (2005); Tag etal. (2005).

In Assam, some important contributions on Ethnomedico-botanical aspcts are:
Medicinal plants used by the Karbi people of Mikir Hills (Borthakur, 1976); Folklore
claims from the Brahmaputra valley (Boissya etal., 1980); Ethnomedicinal surveys
of Miris (Hajra & Baishya, 1981); Medicinal plants from Tezpur (Puri, 1987); Certain
plants in folklore and folk-life of karbi (Mikir) of Assam (Borthakur, 1981 a); Native of
phytotherapy for child and women diseases from Assam, North Eastern India
(Borthakur, 1992); Herbal remedies from Dimoria of Kamrup district (Borthakur,
1996); Ethno-botany of Miris and Mishings of Assam (Borthakur, 1996); Herbal
remedies of the Nepalese of Assam (Borthakur etal.,1996); and plants used to cure
Jaundice in Golaghat district (Pandey etal., 1996).

Report on the treatment of dysmenorrhoea by the tribes of Nalbari district,
has been reported by Das etal.(2005); Few plants and animals based folk medicines
from Dibrugarh have been reported Kalita etal.( 2005).

From South Assam, some works on the status of the plant diversity of Cachar
district (Sharma etal., 2002); Ethnomedico botanical aspects of Riang tribe of Assam
(Dutta Choudhury etal., 2002); Ethnobotanical studies of Barak Valley (Das etal.,
2002); Ethnomedicinal plant used by Barman and Manipuri community in Cachar
district (Das & Sharma, 2003); Ethnobotanical studies of some N.E. tribes settled in
Barak Valley (Dutta & Dutta, 2003), have also been reported in the recent times.