



REGIONAL MEDICAL RESEARCH CENTRE

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DATABASE ON ETHNOMEDICINAL PLANTS OF WESTERN GHATS

Traditional herbal medicine is a non-codified system, predominantly practiced in rural India especially in remote areas of the Western Ghats- one of the 25 global biodiversity hot-spots. The traditional systems of medicine play important role in managing health problems of the native population due to socio-economical and geographical factors. The scientific documentation of plants with medicinal values has proved beneficial in the multidirectional drug development research. Thus, in one such effort, a multicentric study involving 5 Centres was taken up by ICMR for documenting the medicinal plants used in the traditional systems medicine from the Western Ghats. This survey documented 500 species of medicinal plants. Based on this, a database is developed by RMRC, Belgaum to facilitate easier and proper retrieval of the collected data.

The database gives exhaustive information for 500 medicinal plants. The primary information such as synonyms, family, description, parts used, medicinal uses, habitat, distribution, location, source and occurrence are given for each plant. The photographs of plants in the field as well as herbarium specimen are also included. Further, information on chemical composition, pharmacological activities, clinical trials and toxicology, if available in literature, have been provided for each plant along with references. However, the detailed information on formulations has been masked, which will be made available on request.

Features of database:

- 500 medicinal plants
- More than 200 diseases
- More than 11000 vernacular names in 7 languages
- More than 800 photographs
- Reports from 22 districts of 5 states

The search options are based on botanical name, vernacular name, parts of medicinal value, diseases, utility, availability etc. are designed to facilitate easy retrieval of the data. Customized search option with more than two conditions at a time is an additional feature of the database. The database is designed in such a way that, it should be useful to common man, traditional healers, students, academicians and scientific community.