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Research Article

Survey on folklore medicinal plants knowledge of inhabitants of Khammam District, Telangana, India.

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Abstract: The present folklore study was carried out to document and analyze traditional usage of medicinal plants by local communities reside in and around the forest patches of Khammam district of Telangana. The survey was conducted during 2014-2018 using questionnaire and face-to-face interviews and prescribed plants were collected, identified perusing standard literature and online e-floras. The survey reports that 78 plant taxa belonging to 73 genera and 42 families were prescribed as ethnobotanical drug formulations to treat various ailments. Among these, Fabaceae is the predominant family with 13 species of 11 genera, followed by Apocynaceae (8 spp.) and Acacanthaceae, Dioscoreaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Menispermaceae and Solanaceae are with 3 species each and 28 families are represented with single species. This report created scientific roots in the ethnomedicobotanical domain of the study area and recommends further pharmacological investigation which confers the potent phytochemical compounds.

Key words: Folklore study, local communities, Khammam

Introduction

The versatility of usage of some plant species has greater sway on the culture and health therapies of tribal groups of Telangana state in India. Previous studies by Upadhyay and Chauhan (2000), Reddy (2002), Reddy and Raju (2002), Raju and Reddy (2005), Manjula *et al.* (2013a,b; 2015), Manjula and Reddi (2015; 2017), Rao *et al.* (2016a,b,c) and Reddi *et al.*, (2011) have documented the ethnobotanical usage of plants to cure different ailments in Khammam district. Recently, Suthari *et al.* (2018) summarized the ethnobotanical explorations from Telangana State. But still lacuna exists exploring the collection of ethnomedicobotanical and folklore medication data in the Khammam district. As a need and to explore this diverse usage pattern among different communities, this study contributes to the current ethnomedicinal knowledge of commonly used medicinal plants by inhabitants of Khammam district of Telangana.

Study area

Khammam district is the eastern part of Telangana with different tribal communities (Koyas, Kondareddis, Guthikoyas and Lambadis) inhabiting in and around dense forest patches of Khammam. The forest cover in the district is 14.26% of the total geographical area of Telangana state which is predominantly dry deciduous followed by moist deciduous, riparian, scrub and grassland (Anonymous, 2011, 2017). The tribes of the study area are Koyas, Kondareddis, Guthikoyas and Lambadis. Among these four tribal community, Koya tribes are peculiar in attire, culture and the living habits. Their folklore knowledge regarding the health concerns are different. There is no ethnic survey in particular to a specific tribe.

The present study provides folklore medicinal plant knowledge used by the local communities to treat common ailments in inhabitants of Khammam district.

Materials and Methods

Folklore survey

The folklore information was collected by personal interviews and interaction with the local communities inhabiting in and around Khammam district during 2014-2018 (Figure 1 & 2). Folklore information was gathered and documented from 29 villages through personal interviews and interaction as suggested by Suthari *et al.* (2014). A total of 16 field visits with 34 men and women were selected based on the botanical and therapeutic knowledge of plants for which they use for different ailments.

Collection, Identification and Specimen Deposition

Plant specimens were collected and identified by perusing standard literature (Pullaiah, 2015; Reddy *et al*., 2016). The voucher specimens were housed in the Herbarium (KUW), Department of Botany, Kakatiya University, Warangal, Telangana, for further reference.

Figure 1. The study area: (A) India; (B) Telangana; and (C) Khammam district.

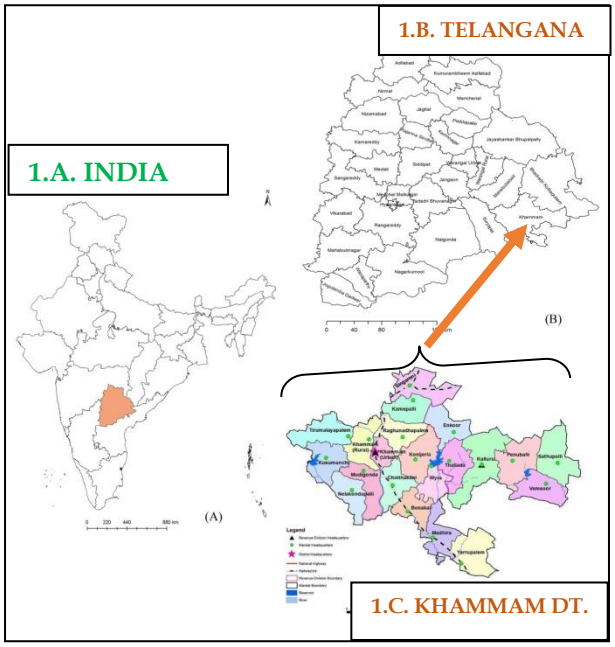

Figure 2: Author collecting information from inhabitants of Khammam, Telangana.

Results and Discussion

Perusal of literature on ethnobotanical studies in Telangana state (Sreeramulu *et al*., 2013; Suthari *et al*., 2014a, b; Saidulu *et al*., 2015; Omkar *et al*., 2015; Suthari and Raju, 2016; Suthari *et al*., 2016; Mohan *et al*., 2017a,b; Suthari *et al*., 2018; Suthari, 2019) was done for the comparison of data with the present report.

This folklore ethnobotanical investigation was carried out in and around Khammam district of Telangana that reports 78 plant species pertaining to 42 families and 73 genera of flowering plants (Table 1). These local practitioners prefer all the plant parts and sometimes the whole plant. There is neither spiritual, hippocratic mode of treatments against evil spirits, psychiatric problems nor any other diseases.

Most of folklore medicines prescribed and formulated were obtained from leaf (22; 28.2%), stem bark (18; 23.1%), root/tuber (17; 1.8%), whole plant (14; 18%) and flower/fruit (7; 8.9%) (Figure 3) in the form of crude drugs and some with admixtures. Medical administration includes oral administration of decoctions, poultice of plant parts as paste and in powder form. Topical application of sqeezed and crushed plant product were used for some of the skin diseases, wounds, burns, bites and stings of insects and animals. Most of these medicinal recipes formulated by crushing and squeezing the plant parts in different ratios and prepared with water, honey, goat and cow milk, with admixing of fruits, other plant parts, which are not completely revealed by the local physicians. Accurate information regarding component herbs, dosage and the intake form of the drug were kept in secret by some of the physicians and are superstitious. Household men and women revealed some of the facts in preparation of their drugs preparation (Table 1; Figure 3) comprise the commonly used species as folklore medicines. The reported plants were arranged according to their scientific name and family, vernacular (local) names as recorded during the field work and uses are presented in Table 1. Due to the poverty and less interactive, communicative and phobia they are unable to rely on the allopathy nor homeopathy medicine.

Figure 3: Part-wise use pattern of folklore medicinal plants from Khammam district, Telangana.

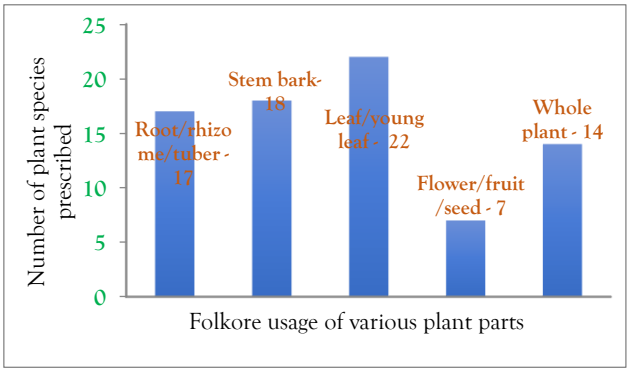

Figure 4: A –M: Ethnobotanical plants prescribed by local inhabitants of Khammam district of Telangana.

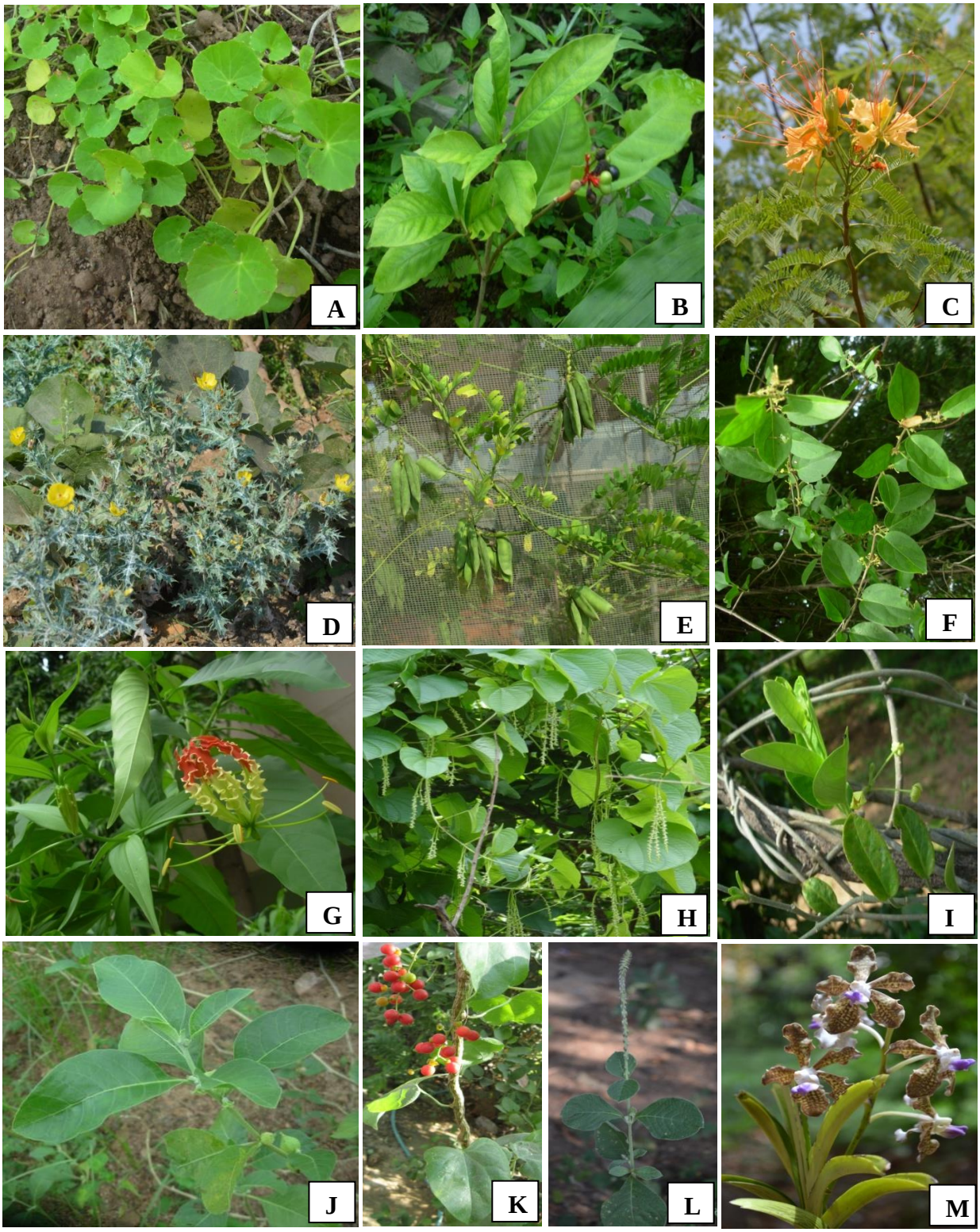

Figure 4: A: *Centella asiatica;* **B:** *Rauvolfia serpentina;* **C:** *Delonix elata ;* **D:** *Argemone mexicana ;* **E :** *Abrus precatorius ;* **F:** *Gymnema sylvestre ;* **G:** *Gloriosa superba ;* **H:** *Dioscorea bulbifera ;* **I:** *Tylophora indica ;* **J:** *Withania somnifera ;* **K:** *Tinospora cordifolia ;* **L:** *Ahyranthes aspera ;* **M:** *Vanda tesellata.*

Table 1: Catalogue of folklore medicinal plants prescribed by inhabitants of Khammam district, Telangana

S.No.	Scientific name	Vernacular name	Family	Part used	Utility pattern	Voucher specimen
1	*Abrus precatorius* L.	Gurija	Fabaceae	Leaf	Insect bite	KUW_ES 1912
2	*Abutilon indicum* (L.) Sweet	Thutturu benda	Malvaceae	Whole plant	Infertility	KUW_ES 1870
3	*Acacia leucophloea* (Roxb.) Willd.	Tella tumma	Fabaceae	Stem bark	Wounds	KUW_ES 1884
4	*Acalypha indica* L.	Muripinda, pippaku	Euphorbiaceae	Leaf	Scorpion bite, gas trouble	KUW_ES 1898
5	*Achyranthes aspera* L.	Uttareni	Amaranthaceae	Root	Scorpion sting, tooth-ache	KUW_ES 1905
6	*Adenanthera pavonina* L.	Bandi guriginja	Fabaceae	Leaf	Dysentery, hemorrhage	KUW_ES 1871
7	*Aegle marmelos* (L.) Corrêa	Maredu	Rutaceae	Fruit	Diarrhoea, skin disease, constipation	KUW_ES 1886
8	*Ailanthus excels*a Roxb.	Peddamanu	Simaroubaceae	Stem bark	Bone fracture	KUW_ES 1902
9	*Alangium salviifolium* (L.f.) Wangerin	Udugu	Alangiaceae	Stem bark	Bone fracture	KUW_ES 1880
10	*Albizia lebbeck* (L.) Benth.	Dirisena	Fabaceae	Stem bark	Insect bite, knee pain, skin disease	KUW_ES 1911
11	*Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.f.) Nees	Nelavemu	Acanthaceae	Leaf	Edema, viral fever, typhoid	KUW_ES 1922
12	*Annona squamosa* L.	Seethaphalam	Annonaceae	Seed	Insect bite, lice in hair, tooth-ache	KUW_ES 1868
13	*Anogeissus latifolia* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wall. ex Guillem. & Perr.	Tiruman	Combretaceae	Stem bark	Insect bite	KUW_ES 1899
14	*Argemone mexicana* L.	Pichi kusuma	Papaveraceae	Leaf	Itching, sexually transmitted diseases	KUW_ES 1885
15	*Aristolochia indica* L.	Nalleswari	Aristolochiaceae	Root	Snake bite, aphrodisiac	KUW_ES 1872
16	*Asclepias curassavica* L.	Jilledu mandara	Apocynaceae	Whole plant	Piles, gonorrhoea, tumors	KUW_ES 1910
17	*Asparagus gonoclados* Baker	Shatamuli	Asparagaceae	Tuber	Diarrhoea, aphrodisiac	KUW_ES 1921
18	*Azadirachta indica* L.	Vepa	Meliacae	Young leaf	Constipation, skin disease	KUW_ES 1901
19	*Barleria prionitis* L.	Mulla gorinta	Acanthaceae	Root	Fever, immuno restorative	KUW_ES 1869
20	*Boerhavia diffusa* L.	Atikamamidi	Nyctaginaceae	Whole plant	Anaemia, night blindness	KUW_ES 1893
21	*Bombax ceiba* L.	Buruga	Malvaceae	Stem bark	Dysentery	KUW_ES 1909
22	*Buchanania axillaris* (Desr.) Ramamoorthy	Pedda morli	Anacardiaceae	Flower	Wounds	KUW_ES 1867
23	*Buchanania cochinchinensis* (Lour.) M.R. Almeida	Chinna morli	Anacardiaceae	Fruit	Chest pain	KUW_ES 1920

24	*Butea monosperma* (Lam.) Taub.	Moduga	Fabaceae	Stem bark	Menstrual pain, high bleeding	KUW_ES 1940
25	*Calotropis gigantea* (L.) Dryand.	Jilledu	Apocynaceae	Stem bark	Knee pain	KUW_ES 1879
26	*Capparis zeylanica* L.	Adonda	Capparaceae	Fruit	Diabetes	KUW_ES 1908
27	*Cassytha filiformis* L.	Pashi teega	Lauraceae	Whole plant	Bone fracture	KUW_ES 1887
28	*Centella asiatica* (L.) Urb.	Saraswati aku	Apiaceae	Whole plant	Memory	KUW_ES 1877
29	*Cissampelos pareira* L.	Boddi kura	Menispermaceae	Root	Digestion	KUW_ES 1939
30	*Cleistanthus collinus* (Roxb.) Benth. ex Hook.f.	Kodisha	Euphorbiaceae	Stem bark	Wounds	KUW_ES 1894
31	*Cleome viscosa* L.	Kukka vaminta	Cleomaceae	Whole plant	Arthritis , Infantine convulsions	KUW_ES 1896
32	*Cocculus hirsutus* (L.) W.Theob.	Dusari teega	Menispermaceae	Root	Gonorrhoea, fertility	KUW_ES 1937
33	*Curcuma longa* L.	Pasupu	Zingiberaceae	Rhizo me	Antiseptic	KUW_ES 1917
34	*Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers.	Garika	Poaceae	Leaf	Kidney stone	KUW_ES 1866
35	*Datura metel* L.	Ummetta	Solanaceae	Leaf	Scorpion bite	KUW_ES 1907
36	*Delonix elata* (L.) Gamble	Chilukapari chettu	Fabaceae	Leaf	Bone fracture	KUW_ES 1923
37	*Dichrostachys cinerea* (L.) Wight & Arn.	Velturu chettu	Fabaceae	Root	Rheumatism, urinary diseases	KUW_ES 1895
38	*Dillenia pentagyna* Roxb.	Revadi	Dilleniaceae	Leaf	Constipation, stomach-ache	KUW_ES 1913
39	*Dioscorea alata* L.	Bellam gadda	Dioscoreaceae	Tuber	Aphrodisiac	KUW_ES 1878
40	*Dioscorea bulbifera* L.	Chenna gadda	Dioscoreaceae	Tuber	Dysentery	KUW_ES 1876
41	*Dioscorea pentaphylla* L.	Govinda gadda	Dioscoreaceae	Tuber	Rheumatism	KUW_ES 1892
42	*Dregea volubilis* (L.f.) Benth. ex Hook.f.	Bandi gurija	Apocynaceae	Leaf	Rheumatism	KUW_ES 1932
43	*Euphorbia tirucalli* L.	Kaadajemudu	Euphorbiaceae	Whole plant	cold, cough	KUW_ES 1924
44	*Gloriosa superba* L.	Potti dumpa	Colchicaceae	Tuber	Abortion	KUW_ES 1903
45	*Gymnema sylvestre* (Retz.) R.Br. ex Sm.	Podapatri	Apocynaceae	Leaf	Diabetes	KUW_ES 1933
46	*Hemidesmus indicus* (L.) R.Br. ex Schult.	Suganda pala	Apocynaceae	Leaf	Galactogogue	KUW_ES 1897
47	*Holoptelea integrifolia* Planch.	Pedda nemali	Ulmaceae	Stem bark	Leprosy, dyspepsia	KUW_ES 1929
48	*Hybanthus enneaspermus* (L.) F.Muell.	Nela kobbari	Violaceae	Whole plant	Urinary problem	KUW_ES 1906
49	*Justicia adhatoda* L.	Addasaram	Acanthaceae	Leaf	Asthma, cough	KUW_ES 1865
50	*Kigelia africana* (Lam.) Benth.	Enugu lavuda	Bignoniaceae	Stem bark	Leprosy, syphilis, rheumatism	KUW_ES 1891
51	*Lantana camara* L.	Pulikampa	Verbenaceae	Stem bark	Snake bite, eczema, fistula	KUW_ES 1934
52	*Lawsonia inermis* L.	Gorinta	Lythraceae	Leaf	Reduce body heat	KUW_ES 1919

53	*Leptadenia reticulata* (Retz.) Wight & Arn.	Mukku teega	Apocynaceae	Whole plant	Aphrodisiac	KUW_ES 1925
54	*Litsea glutinosa* (Lour.) C.B.Rob.	Narra mamidi	Lauraceae	Stem bark	Bone fracture	KUW_ES 1905
55	*Madhuca longifolia* var. *latifolia* (Roxb.) A.Chev.	Ippa	Sapotaceae	Flower	Galactogogue	KUW_ES 1931
56	*Mimosa pudica* L.	Attipatti	Fabaceae	Whole plant	Fistula, hydrocele	KUW_ES 1928
57	*Mucuna pruriens* (L.) DC.	Dulagondi	Fabaceae	Whole plant	Aphrodisiac, spermatorrhoea	KUW_ES 1889
58	*Nyctanthes arbor-tristis* L.	Parijatham	Nyctanthaceae	Stem bark	Back-ache, scurvy, baldness	KUW_ES 1914
59	*Ocimum basilicum* L.	Saidaku	Lamiaceae	Seed	Summer stroke (cooling agent)	KUW_ES 1875
60	*Operculina turpethum* (L.) Silva Manso	Tella tagada	Convolvulaceae	Whole plant	Obesity, tuberculosis	KUW_ES 1930
61	*Pergularia daemia* (Forssk.) Chiov.	Dustapu teega	Apocynaceae	Leaf	Wounds	KUW_ES 1904
62	*Pueraria tuberosa* (Willd.) DC.	Nela gummadi	Fabaceae	Root	Rheumatism	KUW_ES 1935
63	*Rauvolfia serpentina* (L.) Benth. ex Kurz	Sarpagandhi	Apocynaceae	Root	Snake bite	KUW_ES 1873
64	*Schleichera oleosa* (Lour.) Merr.	Pusuku	Sapindaceae	Stem bark	Chest pain	KUW_ES 1926
65	*Senna alata* (L.) Roxb.	Tamara chettu	Fabaceae	Leaf	Skin disease	KUW_ES 1938
66	*Senna auriculata* (L.) Roxb.	Tangedu	Fabaceae	Root	Blood purifier, urinary diseases	KUW_ES 1864
67	*Senna occidentalis* (L.) Link	Adavi chennangi	Fabaceae	Leaf	Rheumatism	KUW_ES 1882
68	*Smilax perfoliata* Lour.	Nageti dumpa	Smilacaceae	Tuber	Abortion	KUW_ES 1890
69	*Solanum surattense* Burm.f.	Vakudu	Solanaceae	Whole plant	Dandruff, infections	KUW_ES 1862
70	*Soymida febrifuga* (Roxb.) A.Juss.	Somidi	Meliacae	Stem bark	Stomach-ache	KUW_ES 1915
71	*Spathodea campanulata* P.Beauv.	Patida	Bignoniaceae	Stem bark	Urine passage inflammation, kidney problem	KUW_ES 1863
72	*Terminalia arjuna* (Roxb. ex DC.) Wight & Arn.	Tella maddi	Combretaceae	Stem bark	Wounds	KUW_ES 1881
73	*Tridax procumbens* (L.) L.	Nallalam	Asteraceae	Leaf	Wounds	KUW_ES 1936
74	*Tylophora indica* (Burm.f.) Merr.	Mekameyani aku	Menispermaceae	Leaf	Asthma	KUW_ES 1927
75	*Vanda tessellate* (Roxb.) Hook. ex G.Don	Kodikalla chettu	Orchidaceae	Whole plant	Ephemeral fever	KUW_ES 1883
76	*Vitex negundo* L.	Vavili	Lamiaceae	Leaf	Skin disease, body pains	KUW_ES 1888
77	*Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal	Domma dolu gadda	Solanaceae	Tuber	Paralysis	KUW_ES 1918
78	*Ziziphus oenopolia* (L.) Mill.	Pariki	Rhamnaceae	Leaf/ Fruits	Dysentery	KUW_ES 1874

Conclusion

In this survey, we have comprehensively reported the local community medicinal plant usage and we recommend the Government, NGO's, common man to the popularize of these folklore-medico-botanicals in Indian healthcare system for wider application with proper scientific testing, since these plants are abundant and are within the reach of forests of Khammam district.

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