## DOCUMENTATION AND ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE OF MEDICINAL PLANTS FOUND IN SARGUJA DISTRICT

## D.K. Yadav, M.K. Jhariya\*, Anil Kumar and R. Sinha

Department of Farm Forestry, Sarguja University, Ambikapur-497001 (C.G.), INDIA Email: manu9589@gmail.com

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**Abstract:** Chhattisgarh known as the "Herbal state" in India is a rich center of biodiversity. Among the diversity of species, medicinal plants diversity is of great importance. Medicinal plants provide livelihood support as well as medicine to nearly 80% of forest dwelling communities in Chhattisgarh. Protection and conservation of rare, endangered and threatened medicinal plants is a serious concern. Despite accessibility to modern allopathic medicines for treatment of various diseases, tribals in Chhattisgarh still depend on medicinal plants and the village's 'Medicine Man' to treat themselves for various ailments. However, with younger generations opting for work outside, this 'Art' is facing a threat of extinction. Sarguja district of Chhattisgarh has rich resource of medicinal plants, which is dominated by the tribal people. Generally, the sources of income in this region besides the agriculture are forest products including the medicinal plants. Therefore, it is prime aspect of conservation of these biological resources for sustainable use.

Keyword: Medicinal plant, Ethnobotany, Biological resources, Sustainable use

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<sup>\*</sup>Corresponding Author