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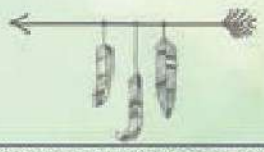
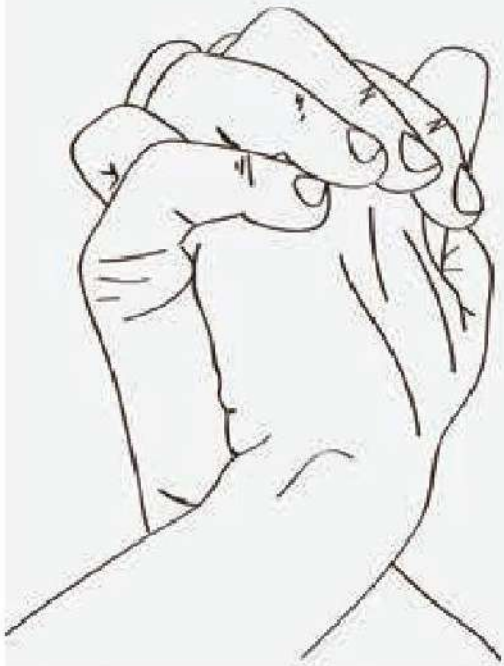


NATURENOMICS™ 8.0

A HANDBOOK ON

ETHNOBOTANY

ACROSS 7 ETHNIC COMMUNITIES OF ASSAM



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Dhrubo Jyoti Das (MASK), Umesh Koch (Adivasi Village), Sanjay Battorai (Nepali Village),
Eliza Bodo (Bodo Village), Bijen Bora (Assamese Village), Sushila Sangma (Garo Village),
Ziri Weyo (Nyishi Village), Kamison Mili (Mishing Village), Dhan Hazarika (Assamese Village)

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Eastern Himalayan region is inhabited by a large number of ethnic communities who share an interdependent relationship with the abundant biodiversity in the region.

The present study is not only an effort to document how ethnic communities interact with plants for their existential requirements, but also to study how much of this knowledge is confined across generations. Using baseline data from previously conducted research that has documented the various uses of plants by different communities, this study has tracked the changes of ethnobotanical knowledge over the past three living generations of seven ethnic communities belonging to the Sonitpur District of Assam, India.

This handbook is a compilation of the commonly used plants for traditional medicines, food and culture by some of the ethnic communities of the Eastern Himalayas- Adivasi, Assamese, Bodo, Garo, Mishing, Nepali and Nyishi.

ADIVASI

ASSAMESE

BODO

GARO

MISHING

NEPALI

NYISHI

Jatindra Sarma, IFS

Member Secretary
State Medicinal Plants Board, Assam

FOREWORD

The indigenous communities of the world depend upon nature for their survival and sustenance, and their cultures have co-evolved withthe ecosystems they have inhabited. The relationship between their cultures and plant resources has amassed in the form of traditional ecological knowledge, which has been handed down through generations. However, modernization and changes in socio-cultural structure, economic status, and religious/spiritual values are detachingthese people from their dependence on natural resources. Consequently, the ecological knowledge is fading away with the erosion of ethnic languages and/or extinction of dialects.

Ethno-botany as a discipline emphasizes on understanding the connection between biodiversity and cultural diversity, as well as the mutual influence of plants and humans. Ethno-botanical studies are imperative for scientists, governments, policy-makers and stake-holders in devising sustainable agriculture, developing new drugs, alternate sources of nutrition, pest-control, organic textiles, etc., thus empowering ethnic communities to manage biodiversity in the wake of climate change.

India is a vast country with a kaleidoscopic variety of land and nature, people and cultures.The state of Assam is nestled between two biodiversity hotspots of the world, *viz.* the Eastern Himalayas and the Indo-Burma, with over 15% of its population as ethnic groups living harmoniously with nature. In spite of a rich cultural heritage woven intricately around bio-resources, there is an inadequacy of such recorded data. Most ethno-botanical studies in Assam have thrown light upon specific targets only; be it a particular ethnic community, or a particular usage of plant resources by a community. The need of the hour is a comprehensive ethno-botanic documentation covering all major communities under one roof.

In this light, the handbook on the "Ethnobotany across 7 Ethnic Communities of Assam" is the result of the journey of Balipara Foundation in documenting knowledge on ethnobotany in the Eastern Himalayas. The study has vividly painted the human-plant relationship of theAdivasi, Assamese, Bodo, Garo, Mishing, Nyishi, and Nepali communities in the Balipara block of the Sonitpur district of Assam.The information that this handbook holds would provide baseline data which would help in the conservation of these ethnobotanical resources as well as the traditional knowledge that they carry.

I congratulate Balipara Foundation and the authors of this handbook for their endeavor and wish them luck.

Member Secretary
State Medicinal Plants Board, Assam
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PREFACE

Ethnobotany is the scientific study of the relationships that exist between people and plants. It is the study of how people of a particular culture and region make use of indigenous (native) plants. Since their earliest origins, humans have depended on plants for their primary needs and existence. Plants provide food, medicine, shelter, dyes, fibers, oils, resins, gums, soaps, waxes, latex, tannins, and even contribute to the air we breathe. Most indigenous communities also use plants in ceremonial and spiritual rituals.

The Northeastern States of India harbor more than 130 major tribal communities out of the total 427 tribes found in India, thus representing one of the greatest regions of ethno-botanical knowledge.

These ethnic communities, settled mostly on the fringes of forest regions, hold within their cultures a vast repertoire of plant based knowledge. For generations these communities have developed an intricate knowledge of the resources that plants provide for almost all of their existential requirements, viz., food, shelter and medicine, besides also contributing to their cultural and spiritual ethos.

Tribes that have developed an intimate knowledge of various plants and their medicinal uses have played an invaluable role in the development of Ayurvedic medicines. In a recent study, the All India Coordinated
Research Projects have credited these ethnic communities with the knowledge of nine thousand plant species—seven thousand five hundred of which are used for human healing and veterinary health care. Dental care products like datum roots and condiments like turmeric used in cooking and ointments are also tribal discoveries, as are many fruit trees and vines. Ayurvedic cures for arthritis and night blindness owe their origin to tribal knowledge.

Tribes that have developed an intimate knowledge of various plants and their medicinal uses have played an invaluable role in the development of Ayurvedic medicines. In a recent study, the All India Coordinated Research Projects have credited these ethnic communities with the knowledge of nine thousand plant species—seven thousand five hundred of which are used for human healing and veterinary health care. Dental care products like datum roots and condiments like turmeric used in cooking and ointments are also tribal discoveries, as are many fruit trees and vines. Ayurvedic cures for arthritis and night blindness owe their origin to tribal knowledge.

However, much of this traditional plant knowledge is being lost across the descendants of tribal communities. The modernization and homogenization of cultures, fast-tracked by the rapid access of affordable technology (satellite TV, mobile internet) and the replacing of traditional plant products with industrial products have ensured that the flow of knowledge from generation to generation is becoming more and more non-existent. It is not an unlikely scenario that within a few generations this unwritten knowledge will vanish completely.

CONTENTS

ETHNOBOTANY AND US

• Various Ethnobotanical studies have been conducted across tribal communities of the Northeastern Region of India. These studies have primarily focused on documenting the extent of plant uses, and most of this information have been derived from certain knowledgeable individuals and/or practitioners of herbal remedies

• Ethnobotanical studies were carried out among the different tribes located in the districts of Cachar, Sibsagar, Jorhat, Tinsukia, Lakhimpur, Golaghat and Sonitpur. These studies mainly explored the different ethnobotanical plants used by the different community members, mainly focusing on the aged or elderly people, village heads, and herbal practitioners of each community.

• The present study had not only focused on the knowledge of elderly people, but also aimed to determine the change in ethnobotanical knowledge within different age groups (age 16–30, 31– 60, and 61–80) of the community from the Sonitpur district of Assam. This study also helped to understand the present ethnobotanical knowledge gap between the younger generations in comparison with the elder generation within the same community.

• This will create an ethnobotanical perspective on understanding and allow for the documentation of the influence of modernization, on shifts in ethnobotanical knowledge across three generations within an ethnic community in a particular region.

STUDY AREA AND ITS INHABITANTS

STUDY SITE: Sonitpur District

COORDINATION: 92°16' East- 93°43' East & 26°30' North- 27°01' North, of North East India

AREA: 5324 sq. km on the northern banks of Brahmaputra, the second largest district of Assam

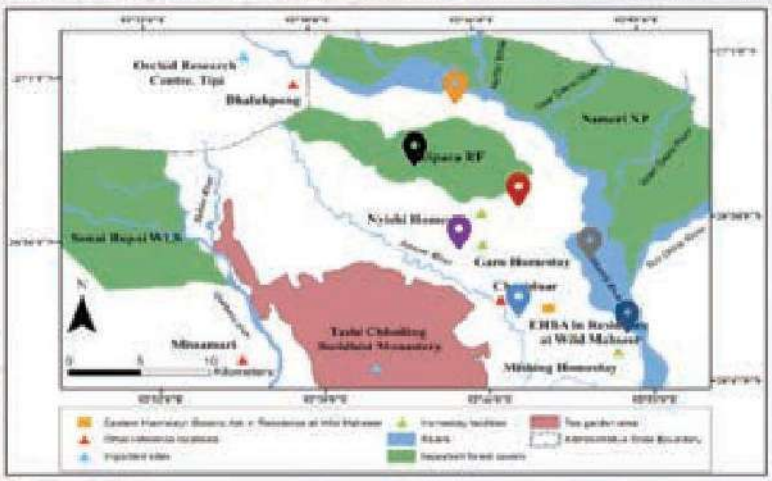
POPULATION: 19, 24,110 as per 2011 Census

DEMOGRAPHY: Not entirely homogenous as several linguistic, religious and ethnic communities and groups live in the Sonitpur district.

COMMUNITIES: Assamese, Bodo, Mishing, Adivasi, Nepali, Rabha, Rajbongshi, Garo, Nyishi. Out of these, seven major ethnic communities i.e. Assamese, Bodo, Mishing, Adivasi, Nepali , Nyishi and Garo have been selected for the present study.

ASSAMESE VILLAGE
NYISHI VILLAGE
GARO VILLAGE
NEPALI VILLAGE
BODO VILLAGE
MISHING VILLAGE
ADIVASI VILLAGE

MAP OF BALIPARA COUNTY SHOWING THE STUDY AREAS



ADIVASI COMMUNITY

The Adivasi Community, also known as the tea-tribe or tea-garden community of Assam, migrated mainly into the upper Brahmaputra belt from the tribal heart-land of central-eastern India and has played a significant role in the growth of tea plantations in Assam.Also known as the ***"protector of forests"***, they share an intricate bond with nature and love to worship nature.

Adivasi community is very fond of dress and ornaments. Men usually wear a skirt "Dhoti" along with a red-bordered scraf "Gamucha" wrapped over the waist. Women are adorned with ornaments like bangles, armlets, hairpins, bracelets, necklaces, rings, etc., usually made of silvers, aluminum and brass. Women wear knee-length white saree with red border. They carry a bamboo basket known as "Dhoko" in Adivasi, to keep the tea leaves after picking from the tea gardens.

The present study was conducted in the Ghuramari Bura Gaon, Sonitpur, Assam.

BEL

Local Name	Bel
English Name	Golden Apple/ Wood Apple
Scientific Name	*Aegle marmelos* L.
Family	Rutaceae

A deciduous tree upto 12 m tall, with slender drooping branches or rather shabby crown and yellowish woody berry type of fruits.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The tree is considered sacred by the Adivasis. Fruits are eaten fresh from the trees or prepared as juice.

WHITE FLOWER

THE WOODY FRUIT

COMPLETE TREE

MORISA

Local Name	Denga shak/Morisa
English Name	Amaranth
Scientific Name	*Amaranthus caudatus* L.
Family	Amaranthaceae

An annual herb which grows upto 2-3 feet tall, easily grown in moist, average, well drained soils, in full sun to part shade and with red inflorescence

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Most parts of the plants, including the leaves and seeds are edible and are frequently used as a source of food. It helps in the purification of blood and prevents weakness as reported by the Adivasi community.

THE PLANT

RED INFLORESCENCE

BOR MANIMUNI

Local Name	Bor manimuni
English Name	Asiatic pennywort
Scientific Name	*Centella asiatica* L.
Family	Apiaceae

A perennial herbaceous creeper, faintly aromatic flourishes extensively in shady, marshy, damp and wet places and with orbicular leaves.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – It is used as a culinary vegetable and as a medicinal herb. It helps in relieving stomach pain and also reported to be effective to digestion, gastritis and jaundice problems.

THE WHOLE PLANT

THE LEAF

JILIMILI

Local Name	Bhatua Shak/ Jilimili
English Name	Lambs's quarters
Scientific Name	*Chenopodium album* L.
Family	Amaranthaceae

A fast growing weedy annual herb, usually erect and variously branched

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The leaves and young shoots are eaten as leafy vegetables. Also used as a feed for chicken and other poultries.

THE WHOLE PLANT

LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

KOLA KOCHU

Local Name	Kola Kochu
English Name	Elephant Ear
Scientific Name	*Colocasia esculenta* (L). Schott
Family	Araceae

Herbaceous perennial plant with a large corm on or just below the ground surface and large sagittate shaped leaves like elephant ear

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Reported to be useful for blood purification and formation, also reported to be an effective ailment for jaundice.

LEAVES

KORON

Local Name	Koron/ Koroch
English Name	Pongam Tree
Scientific Name	*Derris indica* (Lam.) Benn.
Family	Fabaceae

A fast growing deciduous tree upto 20 metres tall. Small clusters of white, purple and pink flowers blossom on their branches throughout the year.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Reported to be used for the treatment of pneumonia and indigestion issues.

LEAVES & FLOWERS

SEEDS

DHEKIA

Local Name	Dhekia
English Name	Vegetable fern
Scientific Name	*Diplazium esculentum* (Retz.) Sw.
Family	Athyriaceae

A Large perennial terrestrial fern with ascending rhizome and curled fronds at the tip, growing in open marshy areas or stream banks.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The young fronds are stir fried and used in salads.

THE PLANT

YOUNG FRONDS

SHIT PAT

Local Name	Shit pat
English Name	Indian spurge tree
Scientific Name	*Euphorbia ligularia* Roxb. ex Buch. -Ham
Family	Euphorbiaceae

A large much branched xerophytic fleshy shrub, cactus-like, light-green, glabrous, often leafless.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Reported to be used to get relief from cough and cold and pain in the ear.

COMPLETE TREE

BORGOS

Local Name	Borgos
English Name	Indian Banyan
Scientific Name	*Ficus benghalensis* L.
Family	Moraceae

A large spreading evergreen tree with propagating roots which grow downwards as aerial roots. Once reached the ground, they grow into woody trunks

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Considered as a sacred tree by the community.

COMPLETE TREE

LEAVES WITH FIGS

KOLMOU

Local Name	Kolmou
English Name	Water spinach
Scientific Name	*Ipomoea aquatica* Forssk.
Family	Convolvulaceae

It is a semi-aquatic, tropical herbaceous plant with white trumphet flowers and forms dense floating mats of intertwined stems over water surfaces.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Used as a vegetable for its tender shoots and leaves.

TENDER SHOOTS AND LEAVES

THE FLOWER

DURUN

Local Name	Durun / Goma
English Name	Thumba
Scientific Name	*Leucas aspera* Willd.
Family	Lamiaceae

It is an annual herb or undershrub, commonly found everywhere as weed. White flowers held together in auxillary whorls or dense terminals.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Reported to be commonly used as an insecticide. It have the ability to reduce fever and also helps to cure appetite and digestion issues.

COMPLETE HERB

THE INFLORESCENCE

CHUNCHUNI

Local Name	Chunchuni
English Name	Water clover
Scientific Name	*Marsilea sp.* L.
Family	Marsileaceae

They are the species of aquatic ferns, but they are of unusual appearance and do not resemble common ferns. The long stalked leaves have four clover like lobes and are either held above water or submerged

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The sporocarp and leaves of the plant have been reported to be used as food and eaten as vegetable.

THE CLOVER LIKE LEAVES

SAJJINA

Local Name	Munga/ Sajjina
English Name	Drumsticks
Scientific Name	*Moringa oleifera* Lam.
Family	Moringaceae

A fast growing decidous tree having a whitish grey colored bark and hanging three sided brown capsular fruit.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Widely cultivated for young seed pods and leaves to be used as vegetables and for traditional herbal medicine. Used to gain strength in weakness and to cure diarrhoea.

COMPLETE TREE

LEAVES

THE FRUIT

TULSI

Local Name	Tulsi
English Name	Holy basil
Scientific Name	*Ocimum tenuiflorum* L.
Family	Lamiaceae

An aromatic perennial shrub, tall with hairy stems, green or purple petioled leaves.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Cultivated for religious and traditional medicinal purposes. It is a sacred plant of the community and used to get relief from cough and cold.

COMPLETE PLANT

LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

GENDA

Local Name	Genda
English Name	Marigold
Scientific Name	*Tagetes sp.*
Family	Asteraceae

An annual or perennial herbaceous plant with pinnate green leaves and blooms occurs in golden, yellow, orange and white colors.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The leaves of the plant has been reported to be used to get relief from cough and cold diseases.

THE COMPLETE PLANT

ASSAMESE COMMUNITY

The Assamese people are a subgroup of the people of Assam and are often associated with the Assamese language. The Assamese community traditionally includes Hindu groups like Ahoms, Assamese Brahmins, Moran and Motok, Kaibarta, Kalitas, Koch Rajbongshis, Sutiyas, etc. They celebrate Bihu as their major festival. Agrarian in nature, rice is their staple diet and they are renowned for their craftmanship in bamboo and cane art.

Another important aspect of the cultural life of the Assamese people, particularly women, is weaving of fine silk and cotton cloths of various floral and other decorative designs. Traditional dress of the Assamese community includes skirt "Dhoti" the lower garment and floral scarf "Gamucha" tied around the waist and over the head for men. The women-folk wears "Mekhela sadar" a set of lower and upper garment made of fine silk, "Muga". They wear bangles made of brass or silver known as "Gamkharu", neckpieces known as "Dholbiri" and "Junbiri".

The present study was conducted in Gomani Forest Village, Sonitpur, Assam

SOTIONA

Local Name	Sotiona
English Name	Devil Tree
Scientific Name	*Alstonia scholaris* L.
Family	Apocynaceae

A tall evergreen glabrous tree, with glossy leaves and fragrant flowers.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The bark is reported to be used for the treatment of jaundice.

FLOWERS

LEAVES

MATIKADURI

Local Name	Matikaduri
English Name	Sessile joyweed
Scientific Name	*Alternanthera sessiles* (L.) R.Br. ex DC.
Family	Amranthaceae

A perennial herb with prostate stems and flowering and fruiting throughout the year

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The plant grows wild, but is also cultivated for food, herbal medicines and as poultry feed. As a herbal medicine, the plant is used for the treatment of diarrhoea and headache.

THE PLANT

FLOWERS AT NODES

AGARU

Local Name	Agaru
English Name	Agar wood
Scientific Name	*Aquilaria malaccensis* Lam.
Family	Thymelaeaceae

A large evergreen tree with glabrous shoots, oblong leaves and thick and woody fruits

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – It is the major source of agarwood, used for perfume and incense. It has been reported to be used for animal pest removal.

TREE WITH BARK

WOODY FRUIT

PURNANOBHA

Local Name	Purnanobha
English Name	Red spiderling
Scientific Name	*Boerhavia diffusa* L.
Family	Nyctaginaceae

A diffuse spreading herb with long trailing branches and reddish stem

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The plant is said to be a good cure for hypertension.

PLANT

FLOWER

BET

Local Name	Bet
English Name	Rattan palm
Scientific Name	*Calamus rotang* L.
Family	Arecaceae

Monocot clustering canes, dioecious, and flowers are clustered in attractive inflorescences, enclosed by spiny spathes. The edible fruits are top shaped, covered in shiny, reddish-brown imbricate scales.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The canes have been used from generations in making furnitures, baskets, and other such household items.

THE SEEDS

THE PLANT

NEFAFU

Local Name	Nefafu
English Name	East Indian Glory Bower
Scientific Name	*Clerodendrum colebrookianum* Walp.
Family	Lamiaceae

A flowering shrub or small tree, characterized by a foetid smell, shinning light grey bark, large ovate, long petioled shiny leaves and white flowers.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Tenders leaves are eaten as vegetable and highly recommended for curing high blood pressure.

LARGE LEAVES WITH FLOWERS

JAMLAKHUTI

Local Name	Jamlakhuti
English Name	Crepe- ginger
Scientific Name	*Costus speciosus* (J. Koenig) Sm
Family	Costaceae

A monocot fleshy herb having tuberous rhizome, highly branched, leaves spirally arranged on the stems, and big white flowers.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The rhizome has been reported to be used to cure, high fever, jaundice and intestinal worms.

LEAVES WITH FLOWERS

OUTENGA

Local Name	Outenga
English Name	Elephant Apple
Scientific Name	*Dillenia indica* L.
Family	Dilleniaceae

An evergreen tree with toothed shiny leaves, white flower and large fleshy fruit.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The fruit is eaten raw or cooked and also used medicinally for diarhoea and for good hair growth.

THE FLESHY FRUIT

WHITE FLOWERS

KATH ALU

Local Name	Kath alu
English Name	Yam
Scientific Name	*Dioscorea alata* L.
Family	Dioscoreaceae

A polymorphic monocot climber having one or several hairy tubers with small rootlets and small flowers, often cultivated but also found in wild.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Stem tubers and root tubers are eaten cooked as vegetable.

THE TUBER

THE LEAVES

BOR THEKERA

Local Name	Bor Thekera
English Name	Garcinia
Scientific Name	*Garcinia pedunculata* Roxb. ex Buch.-Ham
Family	Clusiaceae

A tall deciduous tree, with fluted truck, lanceolate leaves with prominent midribs, light green flowers and fleshy, berry globose fruits.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The ripe fruit is eaten cooked or raw. The sliced fruits are dried in sun for consumption in curries or pickles. It also helps to cure stomach problems.

THE LEAVES

THE FRUITS

MASUNDHARI

Local Name	Masundhari
English Name	Fish Mint
Scientific Name	*Houttuynia cordata* Thunb.
Family	Saururaceae

A herbaceous perennial plant with creeping root stock, heart shaped broad leaves which gives out very unpleasant smell and greenish yellow flowers.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The plant has been reported to be used to cure stomach problems and indigestion.

THE PLANT

JETUKA

Local Name	Jetuka
English Name	Henna
Scientific Name	*Lawsonia inermis* L.
Family	Lythraceae

A deciduous shrub, glabrous and multi-branched with spine tipped branchlets, simple elliptical leaves, fragrant flowers and capsular globose fruits.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The leaves have been reported to be used to dye skin, hair and fingernails.

THE LEAVES

THE SEEDS

NARASINGHA

Local Name	Narasingha
English Name	Curry Leaf Plant
Scientific Name	*Murraya koenigii* (L.) Spreng.
Family	Rutaceae

A decidous aromatic shrub with strong smell, pinnate leaves, small white flowers which produce, small shiny black berries containing a single large viable seed.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Leaves are used for flavouring curries and also reported to be used for stomach problems.

BERRY TYPE FRUITS

LEAVES

BHEDAILOTA

Local Name	Bhedailota
English Name	Skunk Vine
Scientific Name	*Paedaria foetida* L.
Family	Rubiaceae

A fast growing, slender, perennial climbing plant producing stems that twine into other plants for support. It has got an unpleasant smell.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – It is considered as medicinal for stomach problems, relief from pains and weakness.

THE PLANT

BONDHONIA

Local Name	Bondhonia
English Name	Sweet Broomweed
Scientific Name	*Scoparia dulcis* L.
Family	Plantaginaceae

An erect, annual or perennial herb with minute axillary flowers and globose capsules, green when unripe and red when ripe.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – It has been reported to be used for various problems like stomach and liver problems, hypertension and diabetes.

THE PLANT

POSOTIA

Local Name	Posotia
English Name	Chinese chaste tree
Scientific Name	*Vitex negudo* L.
Family	Lamiaceae

A large, aromatic shrub with digitate leaves covered with hairs in the bottom surface, lavender to blue flowers arranged in panicles and small drupe fruits

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The plant has been reported to be used for relieving from pains and also used in households as insect repellant.

THE PLANT

BODO COMMUNITY

The Bodos are one of the largest ethnic communities of Assam and nature worshippers. They are among the first inhabitants of the Brahmaputra valley. Bodos have historically practiced Bathouism, and a form of forefather worship called "Obonglaoree". The sijwu plant (Euphorbia milii var. splendens), is taken as the symbol of Bathou and worshipped. They use Bodo language to communicate among themselves. Bodo houses are built of bamboo and cane, they follow a plant-based diet and their main occupation is rice cultivation.

Dresses and ornaments of the Bodos are the symbol of their traditional art and culture. They weave different kind of clothes like " Dokhna" (Women's dress for covering the whole body), "Jwmgra" (Chadar or orna or scarf of woman), "Gamsha" (Cloth for covering the lower part of the body by men and sometimes used while bathing), "Phali" or "Rumal" (Handkerchief), "Hishima" (Big and wide cloth used as rugs during the winter season) etc. out of the threads of Eri and Muga. Rice wine is produced from fermented rice mainly during festivals.

The present study was conducted in Sengelimar Bodo Village, Sonitpur, Assam

KOCHU

Local Name	Kochu
English Name	Elephant Ear plant
Scientific Name	*Alocasia acuminata* Schott
Family	Araceae

A perennial,terrestrial tuberous herb, without aerial stem, roots adventitious. Leaves peltate, ovate, acuminate, long petioled, base sheathing, pale green.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Young shoots, tender leaves and tubers are eaten cooked mostly with acidic fruit.

COMPLETE TREE

LEAF

TORA

Local Name	Tora/Tharai
English Name	Bamboo-leaved Galangal
Scientific Name	*Alpinia nigra* (Gaertn.) Burtt
Family	Zingiberaceae

A perennial herb most commonly occur in the swamp areas, gregarious in nature. Some times attains about 10-12 ft. in height.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Young shoots and rhizomes are eaten either raw or cooked. Leaves have distinctive aromatic smell, used as wrappers in roasting or boiling of various food item.

LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

INFLORESCENCE

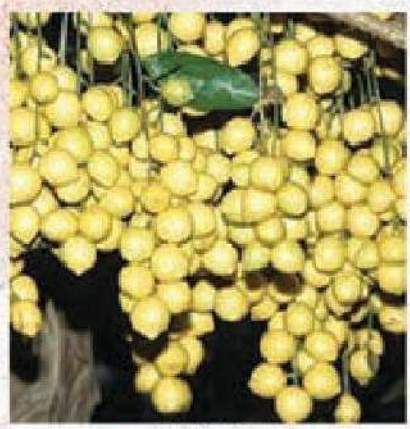
COMPLETE PLANT

LETEKU

Local Name	Leteku, Latok tenga
English Name	Burmese grape
Scientific Name	*Baccaurea sapida* (Roxb.) Müll. Arg.
Family	Phyllanthaceae

The tree is decidious, evergreen, shade loving plant. The fruit is oval to round in shape and turns yellow or yellowish brown in ripen condition.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Pulp edible and delicious. Bark is used as medicine for constipation by some tribes in NE India.



FRUIT

COMPLETE PLANT

BAH

Local Name	Mewai/Bah
English Name	Bamboo
Scientific Name	*Bambusa sp.*
Family	Poaceae

A tall, woody, perennial, evergreen plant belonging to the grass family. The internodal stems of the region are usually hollow as in grasses.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The young shoots are eaten as vegetable and are kind of favorite for the Bodos, to cook with pork and chicken.

BAMBOO TREE

YOUNG SHOOT

SIMOLU

Local Name	Simolu
English Name	Silk cotton
Scientific Name	*Bombax ceiba* L.
Family	Malvaceae

Plant grows to an average of 20 meters, with old trees up to 60 meters in wet tropical regions. Main branches radiates horizontally from the trunk. Leaves compound with 5-7 radiating leaflets. The fruit is a woody capsule enclosing seeds covered in silky fibre.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – It is used for extraction of silk cotton, The leaves and fruits are also used by girls for hair care.

FLOWER

COMPLETE PLANT

SORU-MEDELUA

Local Name	Soru-medelua/Adi diga
English Name	Pot Cassia
Scientific Name	*Cassia tora* L.
Family	Caesalpiniaceae

It is an herbaceous annual foetid herb. The plant can grow 30–90 centimetres (12–35in) tall and consists of alternative pinnate leaves with leaflets mostly with three opposite pairs that are obovate in shape with a rounded tip.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Young leaves are used as vegetables by Bodos, favourable with pork / fish or as mixed vegetable. The leaves, seeds and roots are considered to having medicinal properties for skin diseases.

COMPLETE PLANT

LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

MORA-PAT

Local Name	Mora-pat
English Name	White jute plant
Scientific Name	*Corchorus capsularis* L.
Family	Malvaceae

It is an erect, annual herb, with acute leaves, yellow five-petaled flowers and growing to two or more metres in height.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The plant is also used in herbal medicine. An infusion of the leaves has been used to reduce fever, and the roots and leaves have been used against dysentery.

COMPLETE PLANT

LEAVES

RONGALAU

Local Name	Rongalau
English Name	Pumpkin
Scientific Name	*Cucurbita moschata* Duchesne ex. Poir
Family	Cucurbitaceae

It is a monoecious, creeping, vine-like annual that trails along the ground or climbs by tendrils.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – It is eaten fresh or roasted for the relief of abdominal cramps and distension due to intestinal worms.

COMPLETE PLANT

FRUIT

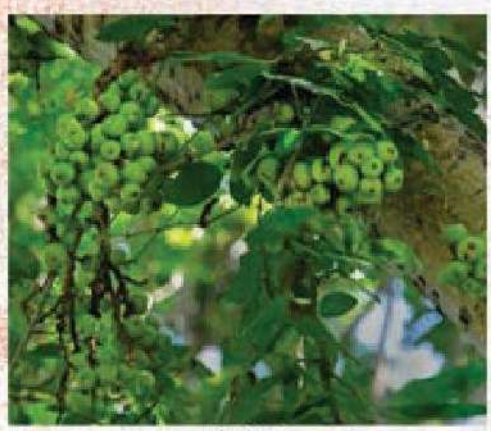
LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

JAGYA-DIMORU

Local Name	Mou-dimoru/Jagya-dimoru
English Name	Cluster Fig/Country Fig
Scientific Name	*Ficus glomerata* Roxb.
Family	Moraceae

Tree about 20 m tall rarely with aerial roots.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The roots are commonly used in medicinal preparations. Young leaves are eaten as vegetables.



FRUIT

COMPLETE PLANT

TENGAMORA

Local Name	Tengamora/Mwitha bangal
English Name	Roselle
Scientific Name	*Hibiscus sabdariffa* L.
Family	Malvaceae

It is an annual or perennial herb or woody-based sub shrub, growing to 2-2.5 m (7–8 ft) tall. The leaves are deeply three to five lobed, 8–15 cm (3–6 in) long, arranged alternately on the stems.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Leaves and fruits are eaten cooked. It is good with fish and pork. Jelly is prepared with ripe fruits.

COMPLETE PLANT

FLOWER

CHENGMORA

Local Name	Chengmora, Seng-mora/Chibru
Scientific Name	*Lasia spinosa* (L.) Thwaites
Family	Araceae

Lasia spinosa is an evergreen, herbaceous perennial plant growing 1-2 metres tall, spreading by means of a long, creeping, stoloniferous stem.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The rhizomes are used medicinally for treating lymphotuberculosis, lymphonoditis, stomach aches, snake and insect bites, injuries and rheumatism. The roots are used in the treatment of throat ailments. The leaves and roots are used as a remedy for piles.

COMPLETE PLANT

FRUIT

PHUTKOLA

Local Name	Phutkola/Thung khu
English Name	Malabar melastome
Scientific Name	*Melastoma malabathricum* L.
Family	Melastomataceae

It is an erect, free-flowering shrub that grows to a height of about 3 meters. The plant is branched, and has reddish stems that are covered with bristly scales and minute hairs.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Roots and leaves are used to stop bleeding from cut wounds.

LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

COMPLETE PLANT

BHATGHILA

Local Name	Bhatghila/Kharoi-Khandai
English Name	Indian Trumpet Flower
Scientific Name	*Oroxylum indicum* (L.) Kurz
Family	Bignoniaceae

A small tree with few branches and open crown. The tree is a night-bloomer and flowers are adapted to natural pollination by bats.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Seeds are used in traditional medicine. Flowers are eaten as vegetable.

INFLORESCENCE

PLANT WITH FRUIT

SWONI

Local Name	Swoni
Scientific Name	*Spilanthes paniculata* Wall. ex DC.
Family	Asteraceae

An erect annual herb, perennial, growth up to 40cm. It has soft branching stems, yellow flowers.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Young shoots and leaves are eaten cooked as vegetable, also used as medicine in sore mouth, tooth ache and in wounds etc.

COMPLETE PLANT

LEAVES WITH INFLORECENCE

MEZENGA

Local Name	Bajruli/ Mezenga
English Name	Prickly ash
Scientific Name	*Zanthoxylum oxyphyllum* Edgn.
Family	Rutaceae

A slender scrambling shrub which is highly aromatic. Prickles are usually hooked. Leaves long, prickles beneath, seeds black, sub-globose.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Tender shoots are eaten as vegetable, suitable with pork. Fruits are also used as condiment.

LEAVES

GARO COMMUNITY

Garos are the second largest tribe of Meghalaya state of India. They were brought to Assam by the British rulers. They are settled mostly in the foothills of Arunachal Pradesh. The Garo language belongs to the Bodo–Garo branch of the Tibeto-Burman language family. The Garos are one of the few remaining matrilineal societies in the world. The individuals take their clan titles from their mothers.

Both men and women enjoy adorning themselves with varieties of ornaments like Nadongbi, Natapsi, Ripok etc. Garos are very liberal in their food habits. They rear goats, pigs, fowls, ducks etc. and relish their meat. The biggest among Garo festivals is the Wangala, celebrated in the honor of their deity, 'Saljong', who is believed to provide them with nature's bounties as well as ensure their prosperity. This festival is usually celebrated as a thanks-giving after harvest in October or November.

The present study was conducted in Sengelimari Garo Gaon, Sonitpur, Assam.

TANTARI

Local Name	Tantari
English Name	White Siris tree
Scientific Name	*Albizia procera* (Roxb.) Benth.
Family	Fabaceae

A deciduous tree with greenish-yellow surfaced bark, bipinnate leaves having opposite leaflets, yellowish white flowers and a pod fruit.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The leaves of the plant have been reported to be cooked as vegetable.

THE LEAVES

THE FLOWERS

ALOE-VERA

Local Name	Aloe-vera
English Name	Aloe-vera
Scientific Name	*Aloe vera* (L.) Burm.f.
Family	Asphodelaceae

A stemless or very short stemmed plant, spreading by offsets, thick and fleshy serrated leaves.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – It is used in traditional medicine as a skin treatment. Also used for the cure of high fever.

ALOE-VERA

BIKHOILOKORNI

Local Name	Bikhoilokorni
English Name	Red sessile joyweed
Scientific Name	*Alternanthera sessilis* 'Red'
Family	Amaranthaceae

A creeping herbaceous plant with attractive red leaves and white inconspicuous flowers in head like clusters.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – It has been reported to be used to stop bleeding when wounded and helps in its healing.

THE PLANT

LEAVES WITH FLOWERS

NANGALBHANDHA

Local Name	Nangalbandha
English Name	Beauty berry
Scientific Name	*Callicarpa serrata* Moench
Family	Lamiaceae

A deciduous shrub with pale pink and lavender flowers and soft hairy leaves and twigs.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The plant has been reported to be used for the treatment of pneumonia.

THE PLANT

LEAVES WITH BERRIES

HARJURA

Local Name	Harjura
English Name	Bone-setter
Scientific Name	*Cissus quadrangularis* L.
Family	Vitaceae

An evergreen climber having quadrangular sectioned branches with a leathery edge at each angle and toothed trilobed leaves at each nodes.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Reported to be used traditionally for healing broken bones and injured ligaments and tendons.

THE PLANT

JORATENGA

Local Name	JoraTenga
English Name	Citron
Scientific Name	*Citrus medica* L.
Family	Rutaceae

A slow growing shrub or small tree having long spines at the leaf axils. The fruit is a large fragrant citrus with a thick rind, ovate or oblong shaped and narrowing towards a stylar end.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The root has been reported to be used for the treatment of bone fractures and dislocation.

THE FRUIT

BILONGONI

Local Name	Bilongoni
English Name	Fern
Scientific Name	*Cyclosorus extensa* Naud.
Family	Thelypteridaceae

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The leaf is used in the treatment of pneumonia and headache.

THE PLANT

LEAVES WITH SPORES

GERMANI BON

Local Name	Germani Bon
English Name	Bitter Bush
Scientific Name	*Eupatorium odoratum* L.
Family	Asteraceae

A woody herbaceous perennial climbing shrub, oppositely arranged leaves, vegetative structures covered with articulate hairs throughout, white or purple florets and achene fruits.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The leaves have been reported to be used to stop bleeding from any cut wounds.

THE PLANT

THE FLOWER

BAKNALA

Local Name	Laham/Baknala
English Name	Wild Tobacco
Scientific Name	*Lobelia nicotianifolia* L.
Family	Campanulaceae

A tall erect, much branched, somewhat hairy herb, leaves narrowly obovate-lanceolate, flowers large and white.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The plant has been reported to be used for treating bronchitis and asthma.

THE FLOWER

THE PLANT

TENGESI

Local Name	Tengesi
English Name	Creeping woodsorrel
Scientific Name	*Oxalis corniculata* L.
Family	Oxalidaceae

Prostate herbs with creeping stem, rooting nodes at lower nodes., trifoliate leaves subdivided into three rounded leaflets and resembles clover in shape, flowers yellow, fruits capsular.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The leaves are edible and used to prepare chutney.

THE PLANT

THE FLOWER

TITAFUL

Local Name	Titaful
English Name	Nongmangka
Scientific Name	*Phlogacanthus thyrsiflorus* Nees.
Family	Acanthaceae

An evergreen shrub having quadrangular branch, leaves dark green, pale beneath, flowers orange–red in long inflorescence, fruits capsular.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The plant has been reported to be used in the treatment of liver problems and coughs.

THE PLANT

THE FLOWER

AHOM BOGORI

Local Name	Bisfol Khande/Ahom Bogori
English Name	Common plum
Scientific Name	*Prunus domestica* L.
Family	Rosaceae

A small deciduous tree with rounded crown, somewhat thorny, leaves lanceolate, flowers white, drupe fruit and hairy above, red or dark purple in color.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The plant has been reported to be used for stomach ailments and headache.

THE FRUIT

THE FLOWER

UDAL

Local Name	Udal
English Name	Elephant rope tree
Scientific Name	*Sterculia villosa* Roxb.
Family	Malvaceae

A moderate sized deciduous tree with large lobed trees crowded at the end of the branchlets. Flowers yellow, fruit an aggregate of 2-7 reddish brown follicles.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The seeds and flowers are eaten roasted or baked.

YELLOW FLOWERS

REDDISH BROWN FRUITS

TETELI

Local Name	Teteli
English Name	Tamarind
Scientific Name	*Tamarindus indica* L.
Family	Leguminaceae

A long lived medium growth tree with leaves alternately arranged and pinnately lobed, red and yellow elongated flowers and indehiscent legume or pod as a fruit with a hard brown shell. The fruit has a fleshy, juicy, acidulous pulp.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The fruit is eaten raw or dried. Jams and jellies are also prepared along with pickles or eaten as chutneys or curries.

THE FRUIT

FLOWERS AND LEAVES

ADA

Local Name	Itchung/Ada
English Name	Ginger
Scientific Name	*Zingiber officinale* Roscoe
Family	Zingiberaceae

A herbaceous perennial plant which grows annual psuedostems about a meter tall bearing narrow leaf blades. The inflorescences bear pale yellow with purple flowers arising directly from the rhizome on separate shoot.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The rhizome of the plant has been reported to used for the treatment of asthma, headache and cough.

RHIZOME

FLOWERS WITH LEAVES

MISHING COMMUNITY

Mishing is a tribal community belonging to Mongoloid group – a multitude of people that followed Austro-Asiatic races to India. Mishing tribe inhabiting in the districts of Dhemaji, North Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat of Assam, Northeast India are known to use a good number of wild plants as traditional food and they are also known to be highly passionate for cooking traditionally unique food items.

Bright colors (usually black and red) are prevalent in the rich traditional dresses and ornaments of the Mishing community. The traditional craft of weaving is a very bright aspect of Mishing culture. The men usually wear woven cotton jackets "Mibo galuk", light cotton towels and "Gaabo" a piece of cloth to wrap around the waist. The women wear "Agey" the lower garment, "Ribi-gasor", wrapped to cover the lower garment and blouse or "Agey-gasor", set of upper and lower garment. Women wear ornaments made of colorful threads.

KATA KHUTURA

Local Name	Gaeng/Kata Khutura
English Name	Thorny Amaranth
Scientific Name	*Amaranthus spinosus* L.
Family	Amaranthaceae

An erect glabrous herb, much branched with sharp axillary spines, oblong lanceolate leaves, greenish-white flowers in axillary clusters.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The plant has been reported to be used for jaundice and helps in the purification of blood.

THE PLANT

FLOWERS IN CLUSTERS

KOTHAL

Local Name	Bilangaai/Kothal
English Name	Jackfruit
Scientific Name	*Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam.
Family	Moraceae

An evergreen tree with glabrous branches, simple alternate leaves, unisexual creamy white flowers in spikes, enclosed by spathe like bracts and fleshy fruits.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The unripe fruit is eaten as vegetable and ripe fruit is eaten raw.

THE FLESHY FRUIT

CREAMY FLOWER

AMITA

Local Name	Amita
English Name	Papaya
Scientific Name	*Carica papaya* L.
Family	Caricaceae

A small sparsely branched tree with spirally arranged large, deeply palmately leaves confined to the top of the trunk. All parts of plants contains latex in articulated laticifers. White, fleshy, waxy and fragrant flowers and large berry fruit.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The latex from the plant has been reported to be used for the traditional treatment of toothache.

TREE WITH FRUITS

WHITE FLOWERS

HALDI

Local Name	Haldi
English Name	Turmeric
Scientific Name	*Cucurma longa* L.
Family	Zingiberaceae

A herbaceous, perennial plant with highly branched, yellow to orange, cylindrical, aromatic rhizomes, alternately arranged in two rows, yellow-white flowers and small ovoid brown seeds.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The rhizome has been reported to be used for the treatment of gastric, asthma and cough.

WHOLE PLANT

FLOWER

TAKKUK

Local Name	Takkuk
English Name	Drooping Fig
Scientific Name	*Ficus semicordata* Buch. –Ham. ex Sm.
Family	Moraceae

A small to medium-sized tree with hairy young shoots, large leaves of glossy green colour on top, figs globose to pear-shaped, pink or dull reddish brown with white spots, hairy on leafless branches.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Figs are edible, leaves are used as fodder. Young leaves and shoots are eaten cooked as vegetable.

THE TREE

THE FIG

GOMARI

Local Name	Gomari
English Name	Beechwood
Scientific Name	*Gmelina arborea* Roxb.
Family	Lamiaceae

A fast growing deciduous tree, dark brown trunk with pale brown blotches due to fallen flakes, leaves opposite with long stalk, round and narrow tip, coated with soft hair, yellow with orange-pink shade flowers in clusters, yellowish, fleshy and smelly fruits.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Young leaves and flowers are eaten cooked, Leaves are also used in making local rice wine.

FLESHY FRUITS

YELLOW FLOWERS

AAM

Local Name	Aam
English Name	Mango
Scientific Name	*Magnifera indica* L.
Family	Anacardiaceae

A large evergreen tree with rough thick dry-grey fibrous bark. Leaves crowded at the ends of branches. Flowers yellow, large mostly fleshy or drupe fruits, yellow when ripe.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The bark of the tree have been reported to be used for the traditional treatment of jaundice and stomach pain.

THE TREE

FLESHY UNRIPE FRUIT

KOLIALOTA

Local Name	Kolialota/Indian lota
English Name	Bitter vine
Scientific Name	*Mikania micrantha* Kunth.
Family	Asteraceae

A vigorously growing perennial creeper, having ribbed stems, heart-shaped long leaves and white flowers growing in clusters.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The leaves of the vine have been used to stop bleeding from any cut wounds.

THE VINE

HEART SHAPED LEAVES

BHAT-KERELA

Local Name	Supi-sungi/Bhat Kerela
English Name	Spine gourd
Scientific Name	*Momordica dioca* Roxb. Ex Willd
Family	Cucurbitaceae

A climbing herb with tuberous roots, small broadly ovate leaves, small yellow flowers, small, dark green, round or oval fruits.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The fruit is edible and eaten cooked as vegetable. The fruit is also reported to be used for the traditional treatment of jaundice.

YELLOW FLOWERS WITH LEAVES

FRUIT

SHEWALI

Local Name	Shewali
English Name	Night Jasmine
Scientific Name	*Nyctanthes arbor-tristis* L.
Family	Oleaceae

A deciduous shrub or small tree with flaky grey bark, opposite leaves, white fragrant flowers with an orange-red centre, compressed orbicular capsular fruit.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Flowers are eaten as vegetables either as fresh or as dried. Leaves are used to treat jaundice and indigestion problems.

WHITE FLOWERS

THE PLANT

MADHURIAM

Local Name	Madhuriam
English Name	Guava
Scientific Name	*Psidium guajava* L.
Family	Myrtaceae

An evergreen or sub-deciduous small tree with smooth pinkish brown bark exfoliating in thin flakes, elliptic oblong leaves, white flowers and large fleshy, globose fruits.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The leaves have been reported to be used for the traditional treatment of dysentary and relief from stomach pain.

WHITE FLOWER

LARGE FLESHY FRUIT

MESAKI

Local Name	Mesaki/Notke
English Name	Duggal fibre tree
Scientific Name	*Sarcochlamys pulcherrima* Gaud.
Family	Urticaceae

An evergreen shrub or small tree with alternate leaves, shining and rough above, white beneath, reticulation visible from outside, flowers in axillary spikes, fruit achene.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Young shoots and leaves are eaten as vegetables with meat. Also reported to be traditionally used for the treatment of diarrhoea, dysentary, stomach problems and calcium deficiency.

THE PLANT

LEAVES

TITA-BHEKURI

Local Name	Bangko/Tita-Bhekuri
English Name	Indian nightshade
Scientific Name	*Solanum indicum* L.
Family	Solanaceae

A shrub with stems and branches having curved prickles, branches are covered with minute stellate brown hairs, leaves ovate, sparsely prickly on both sides, bluish purple flowers, fruit berry and globose.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Fruits are eaten as vegetables. Also considered medicinal for worm infection and skin diseases.

BERRY, GLOBOSE FRUIT

PURPLE FLOWERS

HILIKHA

Local Name	Hilikha
English Name	Myrobalan
Scientific Name	*Terminalia chebula* Retz.
Family	Combretaceae

A medium to large deciduous tree, greyish brown bark with irregular flakes, leaves alternate or sub-opposite, young leaves covered with soft white hair, greenish white flowers, hard drupe like fruits, yellowish brown with ribs.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – It is highly regarded as the 'King of medicines'. Both ripe and unripe fruits are eaten raw or used as medicines. A piece of fruit is kept in the mouth to cure cough and stomach pain.

DRUPE LIKE FRUITS

FLOWERS

AMARLATA

Local Name	Amarlata
English Name	Heart leaved moonseed
Scientific Name	*Tinospora cordifolia* (Willd.) Miers
Family	Menispermaceae

A large, wood, extensively spreading succulent climbing shrub with several elongated twinning branches, leaves simple, alternate, broadly ovate, apex acuminate, flowers greenish yellow, fruits drupe, ovoid or globose, scarlet or orange coloured.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Leaves are used to treat dysentary, liver, eye diseases, cancer, diabetes and cardiac ailments.

LEAVES

GLOBOSE FRUITS

NEPALI COMMUNITY

Indian Nepali are Nepalese who have total or partial Indian heritage and are the citizens of India as per the Gazette notification of the Government of India. The Nepali community is composed of Bahun, Chettri, Newar, Tamang, Limbu and other Nepali ethnic castes. They are considered to have immigrated into the district starting from early 1850s as soldiers, cultivators, etc. Across the generations they have developed a vast knowledge of medicinal uses of plants.

The traditional costume of Nepali is called the "Daura Suruwal" or "Labeda-Suruwal", and consists of a shirt that ends at the knee and fastens at the side with ties, pants, and a kind of shoes called "docha". It is worn only by men and can include a coat. The present study was conducted in Sonaipam Nepali Village, Assam, India

APAMARGA

Local Name	Apamarga
English Name	Prickly chaff flower
Scientific Name	*Achyranthes aspera* L.
Family	Amaranthaceae

It is an erect or spreading long-lived perennial herb which can grow up to 2 m tall, leaves opposite, flowers greenish, sharp, spiny bracteoles and pungent tips of the perianth.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The slender roots serve as a tooth stick to clean the teeth. Fresh leaves together with other spinach greens are cooked and eaten.

LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

WHOLE PLANT

BISH

Local Name	Bish
English Name	Indian Aconite
Scientific Name	*Aconitum ferox* Wall.
Family	Ranunculaceae

Perennial erect herb growing up to 2 m in height; leaves alternate, simple, rounded or oval, flowers borne on branched racemes, floral parts arranged spirally on an elongated receptacle.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Extremely poisonous; used in leprosy, fever, cholera, nasal catarrah, tonsillitis, sore throat, gastric disorders, debility, etc., also used as a sedative and diaphoretic; applied in the form of paste in cases of neuralgia and rheumatism.

LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

COMPLETE FLOWER

GENDALI BON

Local Name	Gendalibon
English Name	Goat weed
Scientific Name	*Ageratum conyzoides* L.
Family	Asteraceae

Goat weed is a common tropical annual herbaceous weed. It is an erect softly hairy annual plant which grows up to a height of 2.5 feet. Oppositely arranged leaves are ovate to lance-like, coarsely rounded, and have toothed margin.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The plant is used against wounds.

WHOLE PLANT

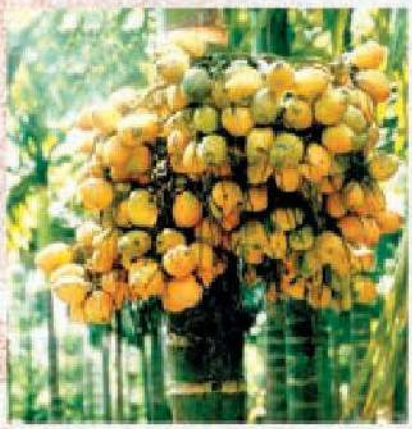
INFLORESCENCE

TAMUL

Local Name	Tamul
English Name	Betel Nut
Scientific Name	*Areca catechu* L.
Family	Arecaceae

It is a medium-sized palm tree, growing straight to 20 m tall, with a trunk 10–15 cm in diameter. The leaves are 1.5–2 m long, pinnate, with numerous, crowded leaflets.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Seed (nut) is aromatic and astringent, and can be addictive.



FRUIT

WHOLE PLANT

NEEM

Local Name	Neem
English Name	Margosa tree
Scientific Name	*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss.
Family	Meliaceae

A well known middle sized tree. The flowers are white and scented, fruit is drupe become greenish yellow when ripe.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The plant is used as a medicine for stomach pain, worm infection, and skin diseases. It is highly valued an air purifier.

WHOLE PLANT

FRUIT

LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

NAYANTORA

Local Name	Nayantora
English Name	Madagascar Periwinkle
Scientific Name	*Catharanthus roseus* (L.) G. Don
Family	Apocynaceae

It is a profusely branched, erect or decumbent perennial plant which grows from 30 –100 cm tall.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Extracts prepared from the leaves have been applied externally as antiseptic agents for the healing of wounds; to relieve the effects of wasp stings; against haemorrhage, skin rash and as a mouthwash to treat toothache.

LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

WHOLE PLANT

NEMU

Local Name	Nemu
English Name	Lemon
Scientific Name	*Citrus sp.*
Family	Rutaceae

Citrus is a genus of flowering trees and shrubs in the rue family, Rutaceae. Plants in the genus produce citrus fruits, including oranges, lemons, grapefruits, pomelos, and limes.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Citrus fruit intake is associated with a reduced risk of stomach cancer. Also, citrus fruit juices, such as orange, lime, and lemon, may be useful for lowering the risk of specific types of kidney stones.

FRUIT

WHOLE PLANT OF A CITRUS SP.

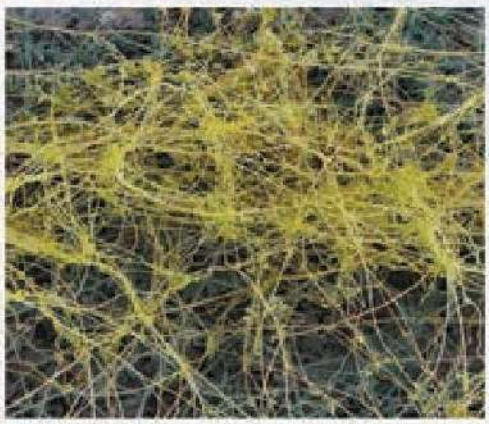
AKASHILOTA

Local Name	Akashilota
English Name	Giant Dodder
Scientific Name	*Cuscuta reflexa* Roxb.
Family	Convolvulaceae

This parasitic plant species is a leafless twined sprawling thin vine that grows over a host plant. Flowers are small, bell shaped and white in colour with yellow filaments.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – This species is used in producing traditional medicines for the treatment of headache, labour pain, bone fracture, fever, rheumatism etc.

WHITE FLOWERS



WHOLE PLANT ON HOST PLANT

LAIJABORI

Local Name	Laijabori/Thunthuni/Abhiijaalo
English Name	Tropical Chickweed
Scientific Name	*Drymaria cordata* (L.) Willd.ex Roem. & Schult
Family	Caryophyllaceae

A diffused herb with climbing tendency, generally form a dense ground cover, usually on moist and shady places.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – It is used as a medicine for sinus problem, and in treatment of cuts and wounds of domesticated animal.

LEAF WITH FLOWER

COMPLETE PLANT

BHRINGRAJ

Local Name	Bhringraj
English Name	False Daisy
Scientific Name	*Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L.
Family	Asteraceae

This plant has cylindrical, grayish roots. The solitary flower heads are 6–8 mm in diameter, with white florets.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – It is considered highly medicinal for liver problem. Tender leaves are used as vegetable. The young leaves are crushed and applied on cuts and wounds for quick healing.

LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

WHOLE PLANT

GAHAT

Local Name	Gahat/Kurtikolai
English Name	Horse gram
Scientific Name	*Macrotyloma uniflorum* (Lam.) Verdc.
Family	Fabaceae

It is a limbing herb with slam up to 60 cm tall with a perennial fibrous rhizome stem annual densely covered with whitish hair.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – It can be medicinally beneficial as an anti-oxidant, in diabetes and its related disorders.

LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

WHOLE PLANT

NUNI

Local Name	Kimo/Nuni
English Name	Mulberry
Scientific Name	*Morus spp.* L.
Family	Moraceae

The common mulberry is a deciduous tree, 10-25 m tall, spreading head of branches usually wider than the height of the tree, springing from a short, rough trunk.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Mulberries have many health benefits, they strengthen the immune system and are good for eyesight.

FRUIT

WHOLE PLANT

AMLA

Local Name	Amla
English Name	Gooseberry
Scientific Name	*Phyllanthus emblica* L.
Family	Phyllanthaceae

It is a small to medium size deciduous tree with a crooked trunk and spreading branches. Leaves are pinnate with small leaflets. The flowers are monoecious and greenish yellow.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The fruit (Amla/Aonla) is highly medicinal and is edible, fresh, pickled or cooked. The fruit is rich in vitamin C and immuno-modulators. Popularly known as Amla it is also used in shampoos and hair oils.

LEAVES WITH FRUIT

WHOLE PLANT

PIPLI

Local Name	Pipoli, Pipli
English Name	Indian Long pepper
Scientific Name	*Piper longum* L.
Family	Piperaceae

It is a climber, aromatic herb, trailing either on ground or climbing on trees; leaves dark green, oblong. Male and female flowers are distinct, fruiting spike long fleshy.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – It is used as a condiment in various dishes. Also considered highly important in various ethnomedicines. It is one of the best herbs for enhancing digestion, assimilation and metabolism of the food we eat.

FRUIT

COMPLETE PLANT

KOHUA BON

Local Name	Kohua Bon
English Name	Kans Grass
Scientific Name	*Saccharum spontaneum* L.
Family	Poaceae

It is a perennial grass, growing up to 3 meters in height, with spreading rhizomatous roots.

Ethnobotanical Importance – The plant been reported as good fodder for goats and camels and suitable for the production of silage.

WHOLE PLANT

INFLORESCENCE

NYISHI COMMUNITY

The Nyishi tribe is one of the principal inhabitants of Arunachal Pradesh in North-Eastern India. A small population is settled in the foothills of Arunachal Pradesh along the border of Sonitpur district. Nyokom is the festival celebrated by the Nyishi people which commemorates their ancestors. They live in traditionally designed houses known as "chang-ghar".

Their passion for jewellery is legendary. They wear heavy ornaments made of silver, brass and aluminium. Neckpieces are known as "Rinyo", "Wofi" and "Dole" and bangles are known as "Koji". Men wear headgears known as "Padam", made from beak of the hornbill.

The present study was conducted in the Phuloguri Nyishi Village, Sonitpur.

BOS ALOO

Local Name	Bos aloo
English Name	Sweet flag
Scientific Name	*Acorus calamus* L.
Family	Acoraceae

It is a perennial herb 1-4 ft tall, consisting of tufts of basal leaves that emerge directly from a spreading root stock.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The leaves, stems, and roots are most widely and frequently used herbal medicines commonly used for cough and cold.

INFLORESCENE

WHOLE PLANT

TAGO

Local Name	Tago
Scientific Name	*Brassaiopsis glomerulata* (Blume) Regel
Family	Araliaceae

Trees, up to 20 m tall; branches prickly. Leaves compund, flowers white, fruits globose.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Flowers are reported to be eaten as vegetables.

LEAVES WITH INFLORESENCE

WHOLE PLANT

DHUNA

Local Name	Dhuna
English Name	Canarium Tree
Scientific Name	*Canarium bengalense* Roxb.
Family	Burseraceae

It is an evergreen tree that can grow up to 25 metres tall. The plant is harvested in the wild for the resin that is obtained from its trunk.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The leaves and bark are used externally for trheumatic swelling. Bark also cures hysteria, snake-bites, besides it is anti-septic.

FRUIT

WHOLE PLANT

PATO

Local Name	Pato
English Name	Hill Glory Flower
Scientific Name	*Clerodendrum infortunatum* L.
Family	Lamiaceae

The plant is a gregarious shrub, 1-2 m high. The quadrangular branches are covered with silky yellowish hair.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The plant is used as medicine for rheumatism, fever, diarrhoea and skin complaints. It also has good antibacterial activity.

LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

WHOLE PLANT

BON-TULSI

Local Name	Bon-tulsi
English Name	American Mint
Scientific Name	*Hyptis suaveolens* (L.) Poit.
Family	Lamiaceae

It is a coarse erect annual or often a perennial plant upto 2.5 metres high but generally much lower.

Ethnobotanical Importance – It is used in the treatment of a wide range of conditions including flatulence and other stomach problems, fevers associated with colds. It is also considered for liver & skin diseases.

LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

WHOLE PLANT

HARUA

Local Name	Harua (tita shak)
English Name	Little Gooseberry
Scientific Name	*Physalis minima* L.
Family	Solanaceae

The plant is bushy herbaceous annual, having soft glabrous leaves.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Ripe fruits are edible which is sweet scented and delicious.

FRUIT

WHOLE PLANT

PAN

Local Name	Pan
English Name	Betel leaf
Scientific Name	*Piper betle* L.
Family	Piperaceae

It is an evergreen climbing shrub of 5 -20 metres long having woody stems.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Betel leaf is used as a wrapper for the chewing of areca nut or tobacco where it is mainly used to add flavour.

LEAVES WITH FRUIT

WHOLE PLANT

OYEK

Local Name	Oyek
Scientific Name	*Pouzolzia viminea* Wedd.
Family	Urticaceae

It is a perennial shrub characterized by woody, densely branched stem, simple, alternate leaf, verticillaster inflorescence with condensed, green flowers.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Young leaves are eaten as vegetable.

PLANT WITH INFLORESCENCE

LEAVES

BAHKA

Local Name	Bahka
English Name	Turkey Berry
Scientific Name	*Solanum torvum* Sw.
Family	Solanaceae

The plant is broad leaved, evergreen, shrub or small tree, growing up to 16 ft tall. The stems are armed with stout, straight or lightly curved prickles.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Fruit is eaten as vegetable.

FRUIT

INFLORESCENCE

WHOLE PLANT

TAGO

Local Name	Tago/Wild papaya
Scientific Name	*Sterculia alata*
Family	Malvaceae

The plant is erect up to 30 m (100 ft), having buttressed stem.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – Seeds eaten and plant are used medicinally.

WHOLE PLANT

JABRANG

Local Name	Honyur/Jabrang
English Name	Winged Prickly Ash
Scientific Name	*Zanthoxylum armatum* DC.
Family	Rutaceae

It varies in habit from a prickly, deciduous to evergreen shrub, woody climber or small tree growing up to 5 metres tall.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – The plant is used as a condiment and medicine.

FRUIT

WHOLE PLANT

BOGORI

Local Name	Bogori
English Name	Indian jujube
Scientific Name	*Ziziphus mauritania*
Family	Rhamnaceae

It is a shrub or small thorny tree that can grow to a height of 3-15 m, leaves with 3 ribs at the base, margin with soft fine teeth, tiny star shaped flowers.

ETHNOBOTANICAL IMPORTANCE – It is mainly grown for its fruits. Also used medicinally for dysentary and cough.

FRUIT

LEAVES WITH INFLORESCENCE

WHOLE TREE

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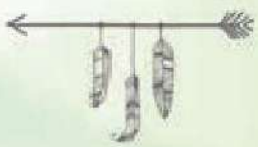

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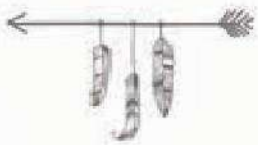

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