# Ethnobotanical Survey of Medicinal Plants Used by the Rural People of Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu

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Abstract: Ethnomedicinal plants are exploited for the treatment of several diseases and disorders such as jaundice, arthritis, ophthalmic diseases, skin diseases, dysentery, hypertension, gout, boils, bronchitis, asthma, diarrhoea, tooth, stomach and head aches, hemorrhoids, piles, snake and insect bites, leprosy etc. The present study was initiated with an aim to identify and document the indigenous knowledge of Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu. Field studies were carried out for a period of seven months, August 2017 to February 2018. A total of 100 plants species distributed in about 86 diverse genera and 47different families were identified. The vernacular name, botanical name, family, part(s) used, phytochemical constituents and their medicinal uses were recorded. Among them 88 plant species belonged to dicot families and 12 plant specimens belonged to monocot families. As a result, a wide array of medicinal plants are available at Dharmapuri District that needs to be explored for phytochemical and pharmacological activities. At the same time suitable measures should be taken for the conservation of these valuable plants.

Keywords: Ethnobotanical survey, Use of medicinal plant, Traditional knowledge

### 1. Introduction

Since many years, human populations across the world are utilizing elements of their environment, particularly plants for treating themselves. Though spectacular progress has been achieved to date in the arena of science, an estimate of 75-87% of the global population mainly from the developing countries depends directly on plants for medicines.<sup>[1,22]</sup> The significance and research in the orbit of traditional knowledge have increased since the past years. Ethnobotany is defined as an anthropocentric approach to botany and is specifically concerned with the gathering of information on plants and recording their uses.<sup>[2]</sup> Ethnomedicinal survey is a trustworthy source for natural and synthetic drug discoveries.<sup>[3]</sup> The consequences of the loss of biodiversity have stirred both interest and controversy. Plants are the important sources of medicines which are used in treating innumerable human diseases. Since ancient times most of the medicinal preparations were ascertained from plants and these medicines were prepared in simple or complex forms. Currently a significant number of drugs have been established from plants that are used to treat innumerable diseases.<sup>[4]</sup> The higher plants are designated as the sleeping titans of drugs and they are being selected for their potent phytochemicals. The curative attributes of medicinal plants has reached worldwide and has drawn attention from several disciplines owing to its immense contribution to Phytomedicine.<sup>1</sup>

The documentation of ethnic names, systematic names and indigenous uses of plants not purely conserves indigenous knowledge but also accelerates forthcoming research on safety and effectiveness of medicinal plants in healing of diverse ailments. It agreement to this background the usage of medicinal plants as a basis of primary health care by communities in Dharmapuri District is recognized. This will confirm that traditional knowledge about the use of plants is conserved. In addition conservation of medicinal plants will add value to the recreational environment as well as health improvement through sustained ecosystems. This study was aimed at collecting and documenting plant species used to cure diverse health conditions by communities in Dharmapuri District.

#### 2. Materials and Methods

#### Study area

Dharmapuri is a district in western part of Tamil Nadu in South India. It is the first district created in Tamil Nadu after the independence of India by splitting it from then-Salem district on 10 October, 1965. The other major towns in the district are Harur, Palacode, Karimangalam, Pennagaram and Pappireddipatti. Dharmapuri District is one of the major producers of mango in the state, fine quality granite is found in the district. It is also one of the main sericulture belts in the state. Around 30 percent of the district's area is under forest cover. Cauvery river enters Tamil Nadu through this district. The district is located between latitudes N 11 47' and 12 33' and longitudes E 77 02' and 78 40'. Occupies an area of 4,497.77 km2 (1,736.60 sq mi) (i.e. 3.46% of Tamil Nadu). It is bounded on the north by Krishnagiri District, on the east by Tiruvannamalai Districtand Viluppuram District, on the south by Salem District, and on the west by Karnataka's Chamarajanagar District. The whole district is surrounded by hills and forests, and the terrain is of rolling plains type. Dharmapuri is located in the geographically important area in south India. The whole district is predominantly covered with forests. Spider Valley located near Hogenakkal is home to many wild animals. The district falls in the migratory path of elephants. Conflicts between man and elephant are most common in these parts. Many tribal communities depend on these forests. Vathalmalai, a mountain hamlet on top of Shervarayan hill chain has suitable conditions to cultivate coffee and jackfruit. Wild boars and spotted deer are commonly seen in Morappur and Harur forest region. Thoppur ghat has one of the area's scenic highways surrounded by mountains and forests.

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### 3. Methodology

The study area was investigated to get information from ethnic practitioners and also to cross check the data provided by the other practitioners during the earlier visits. In order to document the utilization of medicinal plants, regular field surveys were conducted from August 2017 to February 2018 in Dharmapuri District. Several resource persons or informants or traditional healers were identified to get the ethnomedicinal information through direct interviews/oral discussions. The interviews were conducted in the local language, Tamil and precise question based proforma were designed and information were documented in the ethnobotanical field notebook. Ethnobotanical information comprised the vernacular name of the specific plant, parts utilized, medicinal uses and procedures of preparation and administration. All the species cited as medicinal plants were collected from the field at reproductive stage, with the help of informants in duplicate. A field sheet was recorded with collectors name, vernacular name, local name and ecological parameters. Information was gathered from all categories of village people such as the local healers, village head man, elderly persons and the person having a thorough knowledge of medicinal practices.<sup>[10]</sup> The information's collected regarding the medicinal uses of plants were analyzed properly and documented. The plants were identified taxonomically using the Flora of the Presidency of Madras, Flora of Tamil Nadu and Flora of Tamil Nadu Carnatic.<sup>[13,14,15, 22]</sup>

#### Data analysis

The majority of data collected in the questionnaire were descriptive in nature. The information about ethnomedicinal uses of plants and information's included in questionnaires such as botanical name, local name, family name, parts used, life forms, use value, phytochemicals and voucher number were tabulated for all reported plant species.

# 4. Results and Discussion

#### Documentation of ethnobotanical knowledge

Ethnobotanical data were collected from field surveys and oral interviews with the indigenous people who had a good knowledge about the plants and their medicinal uses. The study revealed the existence of 100 plant species belonging to 86 diverse genera and 47 assorted families which were used by Dharmapuri District peoples for treating several ailments (Table 1). The collected specimens were deposited in the Botany Department Herbarium of the College for future studies. The vernacular name, botanical name, family, part(s) used, phytochemical constituents and their medicinal uses were recorded (Table 1). Among them, 88 plant species belonged to dicot families and 12 plant specimens belonged to monocot families. Innumerable and valuable phytochemicals were reported to be present in the recorded plant species viz., alkaloids, terpenoids, sterols, phenolics, essential oils, saponins, tannins, flavonoids, vitamins, proteins, carbohydrates, lipids etc. (Table 1).

The rural areas expended diverse medicinal plants to heal variety of diseases and disorders like skin diseases, diarrhea, diabetes, asthma, fever, jaundice, wounds, cuts, stomach pain, cough, cold, hypertension, malaria, poisonous bites, body heat, body pain, dysentery, earache, respiratory disorders, eye troubles, hair growth, intestinal worms, jaundice, leprosy, menstrual troubles, piles, cardiac problems, pimples, ulcer, tooth-ache, urinary troubles, mouth wash, kidney stones, tuberculosis, ulcers, obesity, inflammation etc. The rural area peoples also used diverse parts of the medicinal plants based on their ability to cure disease (Table 1).

<b>Table 1.</b> List of ethiomedicinal plants and used by futal people						
Botanical Name	Family	Life Form	Part (s) Used	Phytochemicals	Medicinal uses	
Acalypha indica	Euphorbiaceae		Whole plant	acalyphin, acalyphamide, findersin,	Skin disease, respiratory problems,	
		Herb	1	alkaloid, tannins, pyranoquinolinons	constipation, Jaundice, Muscular pain	
Achyranthus			whole plant	phenolic <i>compound</i> , saponin,	Haemorrhoids, piles, heavy	
aspera	Amaranthaceae	Herb	-	flavonoid, proteins & amino acids,	menstrual, cardiac disorders, pruritus,	
-				glycoside, saponins, triterpenoids	rabies	
Aerva lanata	Amaranthaceae	Herb	whole plant	phenolic compounds, phytosterols, apigeninquercetin-3-O-rutinoside, myrcetin, alpha amyrin, sitosterols	Urinary tract, jaundice, throat infection, digestive, diabetes, skin infections, obesity, Diarrhea	
Albizia lebbeck	Fabaceae	Tree	whole plant	Albigenin, triterpene, albizinin, lebbekanin, friedelin, alkaloids, amino acids, protein	Asthma, urticaria, ascites, bronchitis, urinary infection, edema, tumors	
Aloe vera	Liliaceae	Succulent	Whole plant	saponins, alkaloids, flavonoids, cardiac glycosides, tannins	Constipation, ulcer, skin problems, Aloe gel is used for treating osteo- arthritis, bowel diseases	
Annona	Annonaceae	Tree	root, seeds,	Terpineol, borneol, polyphenol,	rheumatism, boils, diarrhea, heart	
squamosa			leaves	isokuinolin, annonin.	tumorus, liver, heart, blood diseases	
Arachis	Fabaceae	Herb	seed	alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, tannins,	Aperient, demulcent, emollient,	
hypogaea				lipids anthraquinone and phenolic	pectoral, diarrhea, heart disease,	
				compounds, oils, carbohydrates, α-	hypertension, rheumatism,	
				diphenyl-β- picrylhydrazyl	cardiac diseases	
Artocarpus	Moraceae	Tree	fruit, leaf	Phytosterols, anthraquinone,	Leaves to treat ulcer, diarrhoea,	
heterophyllus			bark, latex	terpenoids, phenols, glycosides,	stomach-ache, skin disease, asthma,	
				flavonoids, diterpenes, isoleucine	cold	
Artocarpus	Moraceae	Tree	Seed,	Alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins,	Fruit is edible, skin diseases,	
Hirsutus			fruit	terpenoids	Diarrhea	

**Table 1:** List of ethnomedicinal plants and used by rural people

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Bondbaue         Proacea         Tree         Jeaves         Harsonid, tamin, scruids and scruids and scruids.         stomach disorders, septinders           Aroudbaues         Cassiphinacea         Problem of the barsonic, flate, protein, calcius, struids, s	indica	Meliaceae	Tree	_	resins, tannins	pain, Lubricant, toothpaste, protectant, balms
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Babilitia Reconsist Merchanika M	Arundinacea		Tree	stem, buds	phenolpentosans, fiber, protein, calcium, fats	stimulating, kills worms
Bourhanvin difficur         Nyctaginacees         Tree Problem         Whole plant Fursion         Alkaloids, flavonoids, steroids, entromaguinones, puramavino- C, unthones, puramavino- C, unthones, puramavino- trepenvisk, tamins, cardia gytosides         cancer, kidoney, liver diseases, debility, and constraints           Browsissis Baberlijfer         Areeaceae         Shrub         Fursis, Baberlijfer         Treepenvisk, tamins, cardia gytosides         Interact, stimulat, anakab bite, uninger, and genorrhoon, cardia gytosides           Browsississis         Shrub         Flower         Flower         Interact, stimulat, and alkaloids, sugars, cardia gytosides         Treet haemorhoids, plas, cardia gytosides           Camua indiza         Camaccae         Whole plant         Papain, carpinine, carotenoids, play and asthinu, dytosing, gittanta, cardia carcinogenic         Interact, fugastive strength, congh and asthinu, dytosing, distanta, cardia carcinogenic         Interactive, uning, distanta, cardia carcinogenic         Interactive, uning, distanta, cardia carcinogenic           Cassia fishult         Fabaceae         Tree         whole plant         Alkaloids, favonoids, favonoids, favonoids, plycoids, anthraginione, summins, distanta, glycoids, anthraginione, summins, disorders, fever         Interactive, uning, disorders, fever           Cassia fishult         Fabaceae         Tree         furits, rod, bitsy, rod, sisteroid, carbityrates, cardia glycoids, carbityrates, cardia glycoids, carbityrates, cardia glycoids, carbityrates, cardia glycoids, arbityrates, cardia glycoids, carbotyrates, card	Bauhinia Racemosa	Caesalpiniaceae	Herb	flower, fruit	scopoletin, Beta-amyrin, tannins, kaempferol & quercetin	diarrhea, rectal prolasetumors inflammation, hemorrhids
diffica         empenoids, tamins, cardiac plycosides, anthraquinones anios aci, beravisnon- C, xanhones, puanavine         carminuity, anemia, hepatitis, and constipation           Borassus flabeliffer         Arceaceae         Fruits, glabra         Terpenoids, tamins, flavonids, tamins, subs, flavonids, tamins, and kaloids, susas, glabra         Carminuity, any pinitol, betacyanie, flavonids, tamins, and kaloids, susas, glabra         Respiratory flavonids, tamins, made bita, urinarytroubles           Calorropis glabra         Shrub         Flower         Shrub         Flower           Calorropis glabra         Asclepiadaceae         Shrub         whole plant         calortopic sand f-amyrinacids, cardiac glycosides         Respiratory flowers, digestive strengt, constipation, manoritolic plit, carninative effect, digestive strengt, plant           Carana indica         Cansaceae         Tree         Plant         plant         acid, ante-ancingenis. constipation, annorthoca           Carsia auriculata         Caesalpiniaceae         Tree         Whole plant         Ablacids, glycosides, tamins, seeds         Not plant         Hord pressure, dyspepia, constipation, liver disess, untray orostipation, liver disess, untray orostinder diserver           C	Boerhaavia	Nyctaginaceae	Tree	whole plant	Alkaloids, flavonoids, steroids,	cancer, kidney, liver diseases, debility,
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Canna indica         Cannaceae         Whole Tree         anthocyanin, oleonolic, betutinic, acid, anti-carcinogenic         Jaxative, urine, drug, anti oxidant, hepatitis           Carica papaya         Caricaceae         Shrub         whole plant         papain, carpinne, carotenoids, Polyphenols         Blood pressure, dyspepsia, costipation, amenorrhoea           Cassia         Caesalpiniaceae         Tree         whole plant         Alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, cardinac         Stomach ache, conjunctiviti diabets, constipation, liver disease, urinary disorders           Cassia fistula         Fahaceae         Tree         fruits, root, leaves, beek         Anthraquinone, flavonoids, flavon- 3-ol leaves, derivatives, alkaloid, glycosides, tannin, glycosides, flavonoids, phytosteris, saponins tamins         Inflammatory swellings, ulcers, disorders           Casuarinaceae         Herb         twigs, root, plant         Alkaloids, carbohydrates, cardiac glycosides, flavonoids, phytosteris, saponins tamins         Diametic, marking, agressive, nervoas. ache, asthma, agressive, nervoas. ache, asthma, agressive, nervoas. ache, asthma, agressive, nervoas. sayonins, sagnitaria, funaria add           Chloris virgata         Poaceae         Grass         Leaf, root         Hildindramariline, cryptopine, stylopine, stosterol, carbhydrates, cardia glycosides, plavonoids, beloons, stosterol, carbhydrates, favonoids, solenols, stosterol, carbhydrates, flavonoids, solenols, stosterol, carbohydrates, flavonoids, plotenols, flavonoids, and lataloids         Secoste addi, flavacid, flavoroids, phonols, stomach ache, cherin	gigantean				triterpene.	cough and asthma, cholera, skin
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Carica papaya         Caricaceae         Shrub         whole plant         papain,carpinine, carotenoids, Polyphenols         Blood pressure, dyspepsia, constipation, amenorhoea Arthritis           Cassia auriculata         Caesalpiniaceae         Tree         whole plant         Alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, cardiac glycosides, anthraquinone, flavonoids, flavon-3-ol leaves, equisetifolia         Astringent and tomic, refrigerant, stomach ache, conjunctiviti diabetes, constipation, liver disees, urinary of disorders           Casuarina         Fabaceae         Tree         fruits, root, seeds.         Anthraquinone, flavonoids, flavon-3-ol leaves, equisetifolia         Inflammatory swellings, ulcers, disorders, fever           Casuarina         Casuarinaceae         Herb         twigs, root, plant         Alkaloids, carbohydrates, cardiac glycosides, flavonoids, phytosterols, saponins tamins         Dysentery, diarthoea, and stomach- ache, asthma, aggressive, nervous.           Catharanthus         Apocynaceae         Whole         Phenolic compounds, aspartia caid, terpenoids, alstonines, volatile oil, voysanguinarine, divadrangularis         The leaves used to treat lung & ovarian cancer, malaria, divadrangularis           Chioris virgata         Vitaceae         Greeper         whole plant         Amyrin, quercetin, Kaernpferol, β- sitosterol, carbhydrates, cardia glycosides, shonoids, staroterol, carotenoids, contanis, planta         Seeded is demulcent, diaretic, urinary infections, inflammation, root used to glycosides, shalta actiny acids, carotenoids, comarins and citric acid         S	Canna marca	Culliaceae	Tree	plant	acid, anti-carcinogenic	oxidant, hepatitis
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Cassia auriculata         Cassia financeae auriculata         Tree auriculata         whole plant auriculata         Alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, cardiac glycosides, anthraquinones, tannins.         Asttingent aut tonic, refrigerant, stomach ache, conjunctivitis diabetes, constipation, liver diseeses, uninary disorders           Cassia fistula         Fabaceae         Tree         fruits, root, leaves, seeds         Anthraquinone, flavonoids, flavon-3-ol derivatives, alkaloid, glycosides, tannin, back, asthma, aggressive, nervous.         Inflammatory swellings, ulcers, wounds, laxative, cold, skin           Casuarinaceae equisetifolia         Herb         Meho         Phenolic compounds, aspartic acid, more plant         Dysentery, diarrbeea, and stomach- ache, asthma, aggressive, nervous.           Catharanthus         Apocynaceae         Grass         Leaf, root         Herb viscore         Diretic, purify blood, fractures strong sitosterol, carbhydrates, cardia glycosides, shomoids, stosterol, proteins         Diretic, purify blood, fractures strong sitosterol, carbhydrates, cardia glycosides, bones, reduced, respiratory, dentalcare, rheumatism           Citrus limon         Rutaceae         Tree         Fruit erepens, polyphenol, tannins, vitamin C, eaves, sectial oi, carotenoids, cardio acid, glycosids, phenols, tannins, terregenoids and volatile oil geaves         Protection of liver, flatuge, genoreas agestial oil, carotenoids, cardio active glycosids, suponins, tergenoids and volatile oil stomach-ache           Citrus limon         Rutaceae         Tree         fruit, seed, leaves, serial oil, carotenoids, nan					Polyphenols	constipation, amenorrhoea Arthritis
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Catharanthus Roseus         Apocynaceae         Whole plant         Phenolic compounds, aspartic acid, terpenoids, alstonines, volatile oil, ovarian cancer, malaria, oxysanguinarine, soxocoptisine, sanguinarine, oxysanguinarine, futuarguilaris         The leaves used to treat lung & ovarian cancer, malaria, ovarian cancer, malaria, ovarian cancer, malaria, inflammation pain, stomach ache, rheumatism           Chloris virgata         Poaceae         Grass         Leaf, root         dihydrofumariline, cryptopine, soxysanguinarine, moxysanguinarine, futuarguilaris         The leaves used to treat lung & ovarian cancer, malaria, inflammation pain, stomach ache, rheumatism           Clissus         Vitaceae         Creeper         whole plant         Amyrin, quercetin, Kaempferol, β- sitosterol, carbhydrates, cartic igycosides phosphoric acid, fatty acids, carotenes         Diuretic, purify blood, fractures strong elevated blood weight           Citruallus         Cucurbitaceae         Tree         Fruit         terpenes, polyphenol, tannins, Vitamin C, essential oil, carotenoids, coumarins and ocitic acid         Protection of liver, kidney, pancreas digestion, neurological & skin digeases, anticeptic           Citrus medica         Rutaceae         Tree         fruit, seed, leaves         carbohydrates, flavonoids, phenols, glucosinolates, anthocyanins and alkaloids anevirapine         Disentery, earche, rheumatism, piles, colic, dyspepsia, ulcer, flatulence, malarial fever           Cleome viscosa         Capparidaceae         Herb         leaves, fruits         Flowers, flavonoids, glucosinolates, anthocyaniis and	equisetifolia			bark	glycosides, flavonoids, phytosterols,	ache, asthma, aggressive, nervous.
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Commelina     Commelinaceae     Herb     Herb     Phlobatannins, carbohydrates, tannins, glycosides, volatile oils, resins, balsams, flavonoids and saponins, while terpenes, sterois, Anthraquinones     Plant is astringent, demulcent, laxative and mucilaginous, poultice, leprosy flavonoids and saponins, while terpenes, sterois, Anthraquinones       Hyptis     Lamiaceae     Herb     leaves, flowers, flow	Cocos nucifora	Arecaceae	Tree	leaves	flavonoids	disorders hyperacidity physical
Commelina benghalensis       Commelinaceae       Herb       Whole plant       Phlobatannins, carbohydrates, tannins, glycosides, volatile oils, resins, balsams, flavonoids and saponins, while terpenes, sterols, Anthraquinones       Plant is astringent, demulcent, laxative and mucilaginous, poultice, leprosy         Hyptis       Lamiaceae       Herb       leaves, flowers.       Alkaloids, flavonoids, proteins       antidiarrhea, anthelmintic, diabetic, carminative febrifuge stomachic	cocos nucijeru	1 necaccae	1100	fruits	triterpenes, steroids, and alkaloids	strength
benghalensis       glycosides, volatile oils, resins, balsams, flavonoids and saponins, while terpenes, sterols, Anthraquinones       and mucilaginous, poultice, leprosy         Hyptis       Lamiaceae       Herb       leaves, flavonoids, flavonoids, flavonoids, proteins       antidiarrhea, anthelmintic, diabetic, carminative febrifuge stomachic	Commelina	Commelinaceae	Herb	whole plant	Phlobatannins, carbohydrates, tannins,	Plant is astringent, demulcent, laxative
Hyptis     Lamiaceae     Herb     leaves, flowers     Alkaloids, flavonoids, proteins     antidiarrhea, anthelmintic, diabetic, carminative febrifuge stomachic	benghalensis				glycosides, volatile oils, resins, balsams,	and mucilaginous, poultice, leprosy
Hyptis         Lamiaceae         Herb         leaves,         Alkaloids, flavonoids, proteins         antidiarrhea, anthelmintic, diabetic,           suaveolens         flowers         carminative febrifuge stomachic					flavonoids and saponins, while terpenes,	
<i>Hyptis</i> Lamiaceae Herb leaves, Alkaloids, flavonoids, proteins antidiarrhea, anthelmintic, diabetic, carminative febrifuge stomachic					sterols, Anthraquinones	
	Hyptis suaveolens	Lamiaceae	Herb	leaves, flowers	Alkaloids, flavonoids, proteins	antidiarrhea, anthelmintic, diabetic, carminative, febrifuge, stomachic

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### International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR) ISSN: 2319-7064 Index Copernicus Value (2016): 79.57 | Impact Factor (2017): 7.296

			seeds		snake bites, skin infections, wounds
			Root,	cardiac glycosides anthocyanins, rutin	dysentery, scabies, skin diseases
Ixora coccinea	Rubiaceae	Shrub	leaves,	proanthocyandin, ursolic acid, kaempferol	
			flowers		
Jasminum	Oleaceae	Climber	leaf, root,	Phenolic compounds, saponins,	Ulcers, skin disease, mouth ulcer, skin,
officinale			flowers	flavonoids	eye, ear problems, urine stimulating,
<i>T</i> .	01	C1 1	1.1	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	wound Healings
Jasminum	Oleaceae	Snrub	whole	resin, salicylic acid, alkaloid, terpines,	Ophthalmic problem, ulcer, liver pain,
Iatropha	Funhorbiaceae	Shrub	whole plant	Eatty acide sugare alkaloide amino	Digestive scabies skin disease gum
eossynifolia	Euphorbiaeeae	Shrub	whole plane	acids, coumarins, steroids, flavonoids,	disease, maturant, latex to treat
8°**)/ 9°***				lignans, protein, saponins, tannins,	wounds healings, purgative
				terpenoids	
Lantana	Lamiaceae	Shrub	leaf,	Alkaloids, phenolics, flavonoids, tannin,	Cancer, skin itches, leprosy, rabies,
camara			flowers	saponins, terpenes, phlobatannins and	chicken pox, measles,
	T .1	T	1 1 1 .	coumarins.	and ulcers, asthma, cold
Lawsonia	Lythraceae	Tree	whole plant	terpenoids, phenolic compounds, protein	antibacterial anti-fungal dye for hair,
inermis				and quinones.	anti-inflammatory
Leucas aspera	Lamiaceae	Herb	whole plant	triterpenoids, oleanolic acid, ursolic acid	Skin disease, insect bites, jaundice.
Leweus uspera	Lumavvav		whore praire	and beta-sitosterol, nicotine, sterols,	sinusitis, scorpion
				glucoside, diterpenes, phenolic	sting, rheumatism, snake bite
				compounds	
Luffa cylindrica	Cucurbitaceae	Climber	fruit, leaf,	bioflavonoids, riboflavin lucosides, alpha-	Snake bites, convulsions, cramps,
			seeds	spina sterol, alpha-spinisteryl glucosides	tetanus, emetic, cathartic, dropsy,
				and saponins	nephritis,
Manaifara	Anacardiaceae	Tree	Whole plant	Lignin alkaloids glycosides	Constinution bleeding
indica	Allacalulaceae	nee	whole plant	Lightin, arkatolus, grycosides	Consupation, bleeding
intercer			flowers, leaf	flavonoids, triterpens, proteins, alkaloids,	purgative, diuretic purpose.
Mirabilis jalapa	Nyctaginaceae	Shrub	, ,	alkaloids tannins and phenolic	fever, diarrhoea, wound healing
• •				compounds	
Mollugo	Molluginaceae	Herb	Whole	flavonoids, glucosides, vitexin,	blood impurity, hangover, burn,
cerviana			plant	orientins	gonorrhea, jaundice, pleurisy
Mollugo	Molluginaceae	Herb	whole plant	Glycosides, alkaloids, coumarins,	Antipyretic, antiseptic, appetizer,
nudicaulis				flavonoids, terpenoids, saponins and	emmenagogue, laxative and stomachic,
				tannins, npoprotein, npid	density
Mollugo	Molluginaceae	Herb	whole plant	terpenoids, flavonoids, tanins, saponins,	cardiovascular effects, diuretic.
pentaphylla			····· F-····	steroids, alkaloids	stomachic, antiseptic, rheumatism
Morinda	Rubiaceae	Tree	Fruit	alkaloids, selenium, scopaletin,	Hypertension, painkiller, skin
citrifolia				anthroquinones, flavonoids, tannins	care, anti-cancer, liver disease
Moringa	Moringaceae	Tree	whole plant	9-octadecenoic acids, phenolics,	cardiac diseases, liver, constipation,
oleifera				riboflavin, carbohydrates and proteins	heart disease, anaemia, inflammation,
Managara	Dutagaga	Trac	laavaa	Chuangida kannigin assantial ail tanning	SKIN Digestive segretion relives
koeniaji	Rutaceae	Tree	seeds barks	Giycoside-koenigin, essentiai oli, taninis	nausea indigestion and vomiting
KOenigii			secus, barks		troubles, dysentery
Musa	Musaceae	Tree	whole plant	Glycosides, tannins, phenols, steroids and	Leaves are used as a treatment of
acuminata			1	flavonoids, saponins, anthraquinones,	dysentery, diarrhoea and malignant
				carbohydrates	ulcers, respiratory diseases, anti-ulcer,
					apoptosis, stone problems, tuberculosis
Ocimum	Lamiaceae	Herb	leaves,	Glycosides, gums, mucilage, proteins,	healing, fever, eye problems,
basilicum			seeds	amino acids, tannins, phenolic compound,	headache, bowel disease, ulcers,
				and flavonoids	kidney stones
Ocimum canum	Lamiaceae	Herh	twig	Terpenoids, alkaloids, flavonoids	Diabetes, anorexia, brochitis
o cintant cantant	Lumaccae	nero	leaf, stem,	tannins, saponins, glycosides essential oil,	fever, insect bites, constipation,
			, ,	and ascorbic acid,	parasitic infestations, cold,
Ocimum	Lamiaceae	Herb	Leaf,	Alkaloids, terpenoids, cardiac glycosides,	Malaria, vomiting, cancer, ulcer, liver
tenuiflorum			root, stem	B-caryphyllene	problem, Inflammation
Opuntia	Cactacae	Shrub	Flower,		diabetes,
littoralis			truits,	Polyphenols, flavonoids,	nypertension, hyper Cholesterolemic,
			ieaves, pods	penduleun, ruun, kaempieroi, quercetin	diseases and asthma inflammation
					nausea. diuretic
				carbohydrates.	diarrhea, excess cholesterol.
				γ-oryzanol, tocochromanols, tocotrienols	hypertension, obesity, heart disease,
Oryza sativa	Poaceae	Grass	Seed	and tocopherols, proteins, vitamins-	cancer,

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				thyamine, minerals	cardiac diseases.
			root, fruit,	Phenolic compounds, saponins, alkaloids,	Demulcent, diuretic, gonorrhoea,
Pedalium murex	Pedaliaceae	Succulent	stem, leaves	xanthoprotein, triterpenoids, tannins and	dysuria, urethral
		herb		flavonoids	stones, stomach pain, urinary tract
					To treat liver problems, fainting,
				Flavonoid, tannins, alkaloid, glycosides-	diarrhoea, dysentery, colic,
Pergularia	Asclepiadaceae	Climber	whole plant	cardenolide, terpenoids, steroids and	rheumatism, painful joints and limbs,
daemia			-	carbohydrates	malaria, appendicitis, amenorrhoea,
					venereal diseases
					Carminative, diuretic, aphrodisiac,
					laxative, astringent, refrigerant,
Phyllanthus	Euphorbiaceae	Herb	whole plant	alkaloids, quercetin, phyllaemblic	anaemia, jaundice, dyspepsia,
amarus			-	compounds, gallic acid, tannins,	haemorrhage disorders, diabetes,
				flavonoids, sterols, triterpenes	asthma, bronchitis,
					useful as mouth wash
Phyllathus			whole plant	alkaloids, ascorbic acid, anti	Carminative, diuretic, diabetes, heart,
emblica	Euphorbiaceae	Tree	-	microbial, terpenoids, vitamin-C,	digestion, ulcer.
	-			Calcium.	_
Polyalthia	Annonaceae	Tree	leaf,	Leucocyanidin, proanthocyanidin,	skin diseases, diabetes, urinary
longifolia			stem,	sitosterols, campesterols, quercetin,	tract, reducing blood pressure,
Terminalia	Combretaceae	Tree	whole plant	Tannin-punicalagin, terflavins, graniinB,	Leave used in Hepatitis, liver, diabetic
catapa			-	Flavonoids - vitexin, rutin, Alkaloids,	diuretic, rheumatoid disease, health
				lignins, pentosans, saponins, sterols,	reproductive
				triterpenoids	system, leprosy purgative
Thespesia	Malvaceae	Tree	whole plant	protein, phenol, tannins, aminoacid,	typhoid, headache, chronic cancer,
populnea			_	phytosterols, flavonoids	Taenia infection,
					diabetes
Tribulus	Zygophyllaceae	Herb	whole plant	Glycosides, Saponins- glucopyranosyl,	abdominal diseses, anemia, kidney
terrestris				sitosterol, flavonoids-kaempferol,	disorders, pneumonia, dysentery,
				quercetin, tannins, fatty acids	asthma
Tridax	Asteraceae	Herb	flowers,	Luteolin, glucoluteolin, fatty acid, Beta-	The leaves are used as a hair
procumbens			leaves	sitosterol, dexamethasone	restorative haemorrhoids and to stop
					bleeding, bronchial
					catarrh, dysentery, diarrhoea
Vachellia	Fabaceae	Tree	whole	alkaloids, essential oil, phenolic	urinary, bleeding, minor eye,
nilotica			plant	glycosides, resins	hair and stomach problem
Vitex negundo	Verbenaceae	Shrub	leaves, oil,	Phenol, terpenoids, alkaloid- vitricine,	Leave to treat headache, skin
			root, fruit,	casticin, triterpenoids, coumarins,	affection,wound, pain, swelling, female
			and seeds	quinines, steroids.	sexual problem, fever
Zea mays	Poaceae	Grass	Leaves,	Phenolic compounds, flavonoids,	leaves and roots is used in the
			roots	quercetin diglycoside, thymol,	treatment of strangury, dysuria and
				saponin, thiamin, panthothenic acid	gravel kidney problem, edema, liver,
					ulcer, Purgative
Ziziphus jujuba	Rhamnaceae	Tree	fruit &	Ziziphus saponin, jujuboside, stepharine,	Diuretic, sedative, anodyne,
			seeds	vitamins	refrigerant, emollient,
					stomachic
Ziziphus	Rhamnaceae	Shrub	whole	Alkaloids, aminoacid, betulic acid,	Ascariasis, anemia, liver
oenoplia			plant	peptides, tannins	diseases, kidney stone troubles.

Of the various plants reported in the study, some were consumed internally whereas some of the plants were used externally while some of them were used both internally and externally.<sup>[20]</sup> These valuable medicinal plants are used in the form of squash, paste, powder, extract and decoction, cooked or raw forms. In majority of the cases, fresh preparations are administered to avoid complications due to storage. Infusion is done by suspending plant material in either cold or pre-warmed water and decoction is done by boiling or heating of plant material in water.<sup>[21]</sup> Powder is obtained by finely grinding the plant parts to be used, after drying them. Juices are usually extracted from succulent plants. Most preparations are made with water as solvent. Beside this the rural people used lemon, black pepper, sugar, salt, camphor, etc. as adjuvant with different solvents. The advantage of external application is safety because external application results in indirect effects on the area and allows for easier regulation of dosages

depending on the concentrations of beneficial or toxic compounds. Oral administration is mostly suggested by the healers due to the ease of administration without using complex accessories and this result agrees with previous reports. The people of Dharmapuri District prepared drugs with the help of traditionally designed mortar and pestle. Leaf juice was extracted by grinding or by crushing. In all preparations, standardized decoction with water was prepared. Drying of fresh plant in direct sun is avoided to maintain plant constituents. The traditional healers of the village usually collect the important medicinal plants from the field, dry and crush them, before storing the plant material in bottles. The medicinal preparations were made out of a single plant part or combination of several plant parts.

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Figure 1: Percentage of plant parts used for the preparation of medicine

Since ancient times people have made use of plants for their essential desires, nourishment, medicare and living. Some plants used by ethnic people are cultivated, while others grow in wild conditions. The tribals depend chiefly on plants for food, clothing, shelter, medicine, oil, agricultural implements, arts, crafts and a multitude of other requirements. They also have some superstitious beliefs on some plants which were found to be tied/ worn on the body parts to cure various ailments. It is well known that during the process of evolution, plants have synthesized compounds whose structured diversity is often beyond the dreams of even the most imaginative organic chemists. Plants are still the main source of medicines to majority of people. Dependence on traditional medicine is not only related with the traditional faith of its effectiveness but also on pleasant survival of spirit and matter. The effectiveness of herbal medicines is supposed to be boosted when they are prepared and processed by enchanting mantras and incantations. The major reserve of medicines arising from plants and their phytochemical constituents and medicinal properties of most of the medicinal plants were recorded in the last few decades by a number of workers. The survey and documentation of medicinal and aromatic plants in each and every place is mandatory for easy identification of local traditional healers, conservation and sustainable utilization. The most important utilization of these plants is through medicines. However, plants and their parts and the pattern of administration vary from person to person. Thus, there is enormous scope for tribal medicines based on plant products which are yet to be learned, analyzed and documented.<sup>[10]</sup>

There are plenty of possible applications of this work for use in the treatment of various diseases among the rural people. The indigenous people are using these plants for several thousands of years to treat many infectious and noninfectious diseases. Besides this, another important application of this study is to create awareness among the rural people on traditional medicinal plants. The present investigation is very important because the herbal drugs are free from toxicity and side effects. The herbal drugs are also used as house hold remedy for common diseases since time immemorial. The present study mainly focused on the documentation of medicinal plants used by the people at Dharmapuri district. The unprecedented interest and demand for plants with medicinal properties and potency for treatment of various ailments is causing over exploitation of such plant genetic resources. The depletion rate of plant resources generally is high, yet little is known about most of the world's plant species especially tropical floras. For the first time, information about traditional uses of the

medicinal plants in the Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu, South India has been obtained through this study. Our study revealed that medicinal plants are major source of medicine for the local people living in the rural area. Results obtained in this study represents a useful and long lasting information about the medicinal plants, which can contribute to preserve the indigenous knowledge on the use of medicinal plants in this region and also attract the future generations towards the traditional healing practices.

Through this study we found that a great variety of medicinal plants were used by rural peoples for the treatment of numerous diseases and ailments but some peoples alone have the appropriate knowledge on the plants and their medicinal properties. However this study provides baseline information for scientific studies leading to isolation of bioactive compounds that can serve as starting materials in the discovery of new plant based drugs or standardized extracts as improved traditional medicine and also create awareness among the rural peoples about the importance of medicinal plants and their conservation.

# 5. Conclusion

For the first time, information about the traditional uses of medicinal plants in Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu was obtained by the present study. A total of 100 plant species belonging to 47 families were identified and documented. The various life forms and parts used for medicine preparation were identified and recorded. The use value of individual plants were ascertained. This study revealed that medicinal plants are the major sources of medicines in the rural area. The plants have been used by the rural areas for numerous healing benefits. The demand for plants with medicinal properties and its efficacy on treating various diseases / disorders is causing over exploitation of such plant genetic resources. This study therefore concludes that suitable requirements are needed in order to protect the traditional knowledge in a particular area with reference to medicinal plant utilization. Thus conservation of plants was insisted among the rural areas which is the need of the hour in protecting these valuable treasures. Besides, the plants need to be evaluated through phytochemical investigation to discover potentiality as drugs.

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