Journal of Biosphere, 11: 30 - 33, 2022 ISSN 2278 – 3342

Ethno-veterinary Inventory of Traditional Medicinal Plants Used for Animal Healthcare in Samba District, Jammu and Kashmir: Implications for Documentation and Conservation

Rajesh Kumar and Suraya Partap Singh

Abstract: A Traditional ethnoveterinary practices based on the use of natural and local medicinal plants have been crucial in the healthcare of domestic animals for several millennia. This study presents an inventory of commonly used ethnomedicinal plants for the treatment of various ailments in domestic animals, collected from local farmers and Tribals (Gujjars and Bakerwals) in Samba District, Jammu and Kashmir. A total of 43 plant species belonging to 41 genera and 21 families were reported to be used for treating animal diseases. The non-accessibility of modern health facilities has led to the continued use of traditional medicines in the region. The study highlights the need for adopting appropriate measures to document and conserve the ethnoveterinary medicinal practices in the region. The findings of this study contribute to the knowledge of traditional medicine, and provide a basis for further research on the efficacy of these ethnomedicinal plants in animal healthcare.

Keywords: Ethnoveterinary, Ethnomedicine, Gujjars and Bakerwals, traditional medicine, animal healthcare.

1. Introduction

Plants have been used for medicinal purposes by humans for thousands of years, and this practice has extended to the healthcare of domestic animals. The use of traditional medicine in veterinary practices has been a common practice in developing countries, where modern healthcare facilities are not readily accessible (McGaw et al., 2007). Ethnoveterinary medicine, which refers to the use of traditional medicines to treat animal diseases, has gained attention due to its potential to provide alternative and cost-effective treatments for various animal ailments.

The use of ethnoveterinary medicine in animal healthcare has been gaining attention globally due to its effectiveness, low cost, and reduced adverse effects compared to modern medicine (Dhama et al., 2013). The use of plant-based remedies in ethnoveterinary medicine is well-documented across different regions of the world. For instance, in India a large number of rural people use local herbal medicines for treatment of their domestic animals and the role of ethnoveterinary medicine in livestock development is beyond dispute (Tiwari and Pande, 2009; Mallik et al., 2012; Adedeji et al., 2013; Galav et al., 2013). Studies have shown that ethnomedicinal plants have been used to treat various animal diseases, such as diarrhea, wounds, and respiratory illnesses, with positive outcomes (Giday et al., 2013). Documenting traditional plant knowledge for ethnoveterinary purposes can also contribute to the conservation of biodiversity (Asase et al., 2010).

In the Samba District of Jammu and Kashmir, local farmers and tribal communities have relied on the use of natural and local medicinal plants to treat their domestic animals. However, there is limited documentation of the ethnoveterinary practices used in the region and there is a risk of losing this valuable traditional knowledge. Therefore, there is a need to inventory the plants and their parts used in the traditional veterinary practices in the area.

This research paper aims to inventory and document the commonly used ethnomedicinal plants for ethnoveterinary purposes in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir. The study was conducted by collecting data from local farmers and tribal communities, including Gujjars and Bakerwals. The data included the names of the plants, their botanical families, and

Rajesh Kumar (✉)
Department of Zoology,
Government Degree College, Kathua,
J&K, India
Email: rajeshchalotra1975@gmail.com

Suraya Partap Singh
Department of Zoology,
Government Degree College, Kathua,
J&K, India
Email: suraya9@gmail.com

Received 19.09.2022; Revised 10.10.2022; Accepted 15.10.2022; Published 27.10.2022.