

ABSTRACT

The chief goal of this study is to explore, Tehsil Arifwala, District Pakpattan Pakistan, where the vegetation is distinctive in terms of mesic climates. This location, like other unidentified regions across the nation, has not been studied for its plant biodiversity or its ethnobotanical applications. By viewing this need, the area was surveyed in different seasons to record its flora and ethnobotanical information during October, 2021 to June 2022. The interviews were conducted from 120 different informants with the help of the questionnaire and through observations during the guided walks in the different villages and towns. Traditional homeopaths were included in studies because the demographic characters were designed in such a way that they showed the informant's experience with plant species. The information gathered in the field was then examined using several quantitative indexes e.g. Fidelity level (FL), Usage value Index (UVI), Relative popularity level (RPL), Rank order priority (ROP), and Informant consensus factor (ICF) were five different quantitative indexes. Arifwala which fall in arid hot sub-tropical monsoon- rains region of Punjab has a wide range of wild flora, with diversity. The respondents of local area, Hakim's, Herbalist, Traditional healers stated that 148 plant species belonging to 58 families were used often used for a variety of purposes. Collected specimens were identified and compared by the Flora of Pakistan and Flora of Punjab. Specimens were deposited in Dr. Sultan Ahmad Herbarium, GCU Lahore. Each plant's scientific name, local name, flowering period, life form, parts usage in medicine, mode of administration and ethnobotanical usages with recipes were all included in the documentation. Poaceae, and Fabaceae and Asteraceae were the most dominating families of the area with 17, 13 and 11 species respectively, out of the all reported families. The ethnobotanical information showed that 53% of the plants of area were utilized as medicinal purposes, 14% as fodder, 36% as food, 12% as ornaments, 15% as timber, 10% for making handicrafts e.g. baskets, handlefans, changer, chabba, modha, roof thatching, and 8% for insect repellents. Out of the total 148 species of study area that have been collected and identified, trees were 25, herbs were 78, shrubs were 23, grasses were 18, creepers were 5, Climbers were 5 and hydrophytes were 3. The present research work is thorough ethnobotanical evaluation of the studied area and this folk information can be useful to scientist's for further chemical exploitation of indigenous plants.