

ABSTRACT

The present ethnobotanical study was conducted during 2007-09 in Division Sahiwal. In this study 192 persons were interviewed and about 304 plants were reported ethnobotanically important. These plant species were belonging to 80 families of diversified groups of the whole plant world, i.e. one family to Algae, three to Pteridophytes, four to Gymnosperms and seventy two to Angiosperms. About one third of the total plant species were representing family Poaceae, Papilionaceae and Asteraceae having 36, 29 and 20 species respectively. About 144 plant species had their medicinal values while 184 having fodder values. The other uses were food, fuel, timber, agricultural tools, etc. Most of the plants had a single usage although a reasonable number had double or multiple usages. The ethnomedicinal use of plants was found common among poor people as they can not afford to purchase costly allopathic medicines. It was recorded that urbanization and ruthless harvesting of bushes and trees for fuel purposes were the main factors responsible for the depletion of natural resources of the study area. As the study area is one of the densely populated and agriculturally enriched areas, the excessive use of injurious herbicides was noted to be another key factor for the eradication or destruction of local wild flora. It was concluded that due to rapid cultivation and frequent use of pesticides naturally growing weeds had been eliminated from the cultivated lands. Recommendations have been discussed for the sustainable utilization, proper management and conservation of the valuable flora of the study area.