

Research Article

Use of wild edible plants by the indigenous group of Namsai district, Arunachal Pradesh, Northeast India

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(Received: July 31 2023; Revised: June 19, 2024; Accepted: July 19, 2024)

ABSTRACT

The necessity for depending on wild edible plants (WEPs) by tribal communities is due to their high medicinal and economic value. Namsai district of Arunachal Pradesh is a home of different indigenous group of people. The communities of the region depend on the WEPs for the sustenance of their livelihood. The present study conducted in the markets of Namsai district recorded a total of 35 WEPs used by the local people for consumption purposes. In the study, majority of the plants are recorded as herbs (14), followed by the tree (8), shrub (5), fungi (3) and aquatic plants (3). Tangsa and Adi tribes have the highest consumption of wild plants, with *Phoebe cooperiana* being a widely consumed edible plant among the communities. The Leguminosae family exhibited the highest utilization efficiency with a score of 10. The edibility index indicated that two species (*Centella asiatica* and *Mastersia assamica*) achieved a score of 100% while the remaining 31 species scored between 10% and 20%. Based on the analysis of relative frequency of citation, 17 out of the 35 species exhibit relative frequency values greater than 0.5. The study emphasizes on significance of preserving the utilization of Wild Edible Plants (WEPs) by the local community and to secure their availability for future generations.

Keywords: wild edible plants, community, medicinal, utilization efficiency, edibility index, economical

