

# *Chapter - 7*

# ETHNOBOTANICAL STUDIES

The diverse floristic resources of a place are always affecting the ways of living of the people inhabiting that place. The diverse methods of traditional usage of local floristic components for food, medicine, religious-rituals, daily domestic activities, different cultural and religious ceremonies, ethnic cultures etc. are the basics of ethnobotany. *Ethnobotany is a total natural and traditional relationship and the interrelation between man and his surrounding plants wealth* (Jain 1987)

As the district of Darjeeling, described to be the host of diverse varieties of flora and fauna, as its geography and climate varies between two extreme ends, likewise, the inhabitants of the district also vary in a wide range. The district shares its geographical boundaries with the Kingdom of Bhutan to the east, Nepal to the west, the State of Sikkim to north and North Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal to the south and south east. It also touches the boundaries of Bangladesh and Bihar to the SE and SW corners. It not only shares its geographical boundaries but it also shares the cultural and socio-anthropological relationships with these places.

Yonzon & Mondal (1982), Yonzon *et al* (1984, 1985), Bhujel (1984, 1996, b), Rai *et al* (1998), Rai S (2002), Rai & Das (2004), Ghosh & Das (2007a,b), Rai *et al* (2007), Das *et al* (2007) and Chettri *et al* (2014), among others, has contributed towards the ethnobotany of the district specially of Darjeeling hills.

The aborigines of the district of Darjeeling were the different ethnic communities in broad sense of Gorkhas, viz, Lepcha, Sherpa, Rai, Limboo, Tamang, Kagatay (Yolmo), Manger, Gurung, Chhetri, Bahun, Sanyasi and others inhabiting in the hills and Rajbanshi, Koche, Meche and Dhimal in the Terai. In addition Sautal and Munda tribes are also residing along the tea garden belts of Terai and Doors (Ghosh 2006, Sarkar 2011). Those people are living an almost primitive tribal life, depending mostly upon the natural resources. The modern civilizations have reached up to few selected towns only, but still in far-flung villages and fringe areas of the district the lifestyle of the people, although there have been slight changes due to modernisation, their day by day life is severely affected by nature. The people inherited vast knowledge-store about the traditional plant science, but it is a matter of sorrow that this knowledge, today is confined with some persons of older generations of these communities, and is gradually diminishing due to the inflow of products of the modern civilization. The youngsters of new generation are not worthy to have such knowledge. In the process, it is feared that many such knowledge base or information of ethnobotany may loss in the long run of time. Whatever ethonobotanical knowledge we witness today is almost based on folklore and cultural heritage in coded form or myths. Therefore, what is most important today is to record this vast knowledge-store in scientific temperament. The immediate felt-need is to bring the potential ethnomedicines and wild edible plants under the purview of scientific study, thereby ensuring their multiplication and sustainable exploitation, which may serve to meet the complex and increasing needs of human being.

## 7.1. ETHNOMEDICINAL PLANTS

Though there are a good number of dispensaries, health centers and hospitals of both the government and private sectors in this age of synthetic drug, but most of them are centralized towards the townships only. The people of interior country sides still try their first and primary treatment with folk medicines and such medicinal practitioners (Choudhary *et al* 2011).

The Gorkhas dwelling along Central to the East Himalayan tracts i.e. Nepal, Darjeeling-Sikkim, Bhutan and extending up to NE India have an unseen and unfelt relations with the flora of the region as both exist simultaneously. Being one of the primitive races, the culture of Gorkha community conserves many primitive and tribal features. The existence of spiritual healers known as “*Dhami*” and “*Jhañkri*” (among all Gorkhas in general), “*Bijuwa*” (among Rais, the Kirat Gorkhas), “*Phedangma*” (among Limbu Gorkhas), “*Bungthing*” (among the Lepchas), “*Lama*” (among Tamang Gorkhas) etc are the peculiarity of the community. Those healers always use the ethnomedicinal knowledge for the treatment of various kinds of ailments including not only the common cough and cold or fever or wounds but also some of the serious diseases like bone fractures, snake bites and even cancer. Many of the medicinal and ethnomedicinal plants or their products are available in the local markets of Darjeeling, Kurseong, Kalimpong, Mirik, Naxalbari, Bagdogra, Matigara, Salugara etc.

The third category of plants i.e. Wild plants of unknown or less known ethnomedicinal uses are considered as the ethnomedicinal plants whose medicinal value is not exposed but known to the tribal and folk communities and they use them as medicine. A short list of such plants of monocotyledonous angiosperms with local names and uses are listed in table 7.1

**Table 7.1.** Some ethnomedicinal monocot plants of Darjeeling district and their uses

Name of Plants	Family	Local Name	Parts in use and used as
<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Acoraceae	<i>Bojo</i> (N)	Rhizomes used in fever and throat complaints
<i>Allium sativum</i>	Amaryllidaceae	<i>Lahasun</i> (N)	Bulbs used in cough and cold
<i>Allium wallichii</i>	-do-	<i>Jangali pyaj/ Ban Lasun</i> (N)	Flowers & roots in gastric disorder
<i>Aloe vera</i>	Xanthorrhoeaceae	<i>Ghiukumari</i> (N)	Mucilage of leaves is used on burns & inflammations.
<i>Alpinia calcarata</i>	Zingiberaceae		Fruits & rhizomes used medicinally
<i>Alpinia nigra</i>	-do-		-do-
<i>Amomum dealbatum</i>	-do-	<i>Churumphu</i> (Nep)	Fruits medicinal
<i>Amomum subulatum</i>	-do-	<i>Aleñchi</i> (N)	Seeds in cough & cold
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Asparagaceae	<i>Kurilo</i> (N)	Root and stem used medicinally in different illness
<i>Asparagus recemosus</i>	-do-	<i>Satmuli</i> (V)	Root used medicinally in different illness
<i>Cheilocostus speciosus</i>	Costaceae	<i>Bet Louri</i> (N)	Juice of stem used in urinary tract infections
<i>Curcuma aromatica</i>	Zingiberaceae	<i>Ban Haledo, Ban Besar</i> (N)	Rhizomes used Medicinally
<i>Curcuma caesia</i>	-do-	<i>Kala Halud</i> (B)	Rhizomes used Medicinally
<i>Curcuma longa</i>	-do-	<i>Hardi, Besar</i> (N)	Rhizomes for turmeric, also used medicinally
<i>Curcuma zedoaria</i>	-do-	<i>Sathi Halud</i> (B); <i>Haledo</i> (N)	rhizomes eaten to increase appetite
<i>Cymbopogon bhutanicus</i>	Poaceae	<i>Kush</i> (N)	Leaves as purifier
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	-do-	<i>Dubo</i> (N)	Leaves in jaundice

Name of Plants	Family	Local Name	Parts in use and used as
<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Cyperaceae	<i>Mothey</i> (N)	Used as stringent
<i>Dioscorea deltoidea</i>	Dioscoreaceae		Tuber & bulbils used causing premature abortion
<i>Dioscorea pentabylla</i>	-do-	<i>Bhyagur</i> (N)	Tuber & shoots as tonic & in swelling
<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>	-do-	<i>Gittha</i> (N)	Tuber as tonic, aphrodisiac & in ulcer
<i>Fritallaria cirrhosa</i>	Liliaceae	<i>Kakoli</i> (N)	Bulbs in Tuberculosis and asthma.
<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	Colchicaceae	<i>Langade tarul</i> (N); <i>Ulat Chandal</i> (B)	Roots used as Anti cancer, or variously
<i>Hedychium spicatum</i>	Zingiberaceae	<i>Sara</i> (N)	Rhizome in Diarrhea, vomiting & nausea
<i>Kaempferia galanga</i>	-do-		Tubers used medicinally
<i>Kaempferia rotunda</i>	-do-	<i>Bhuin Champa</i> (N)	Root /tubers in bone fractures
<i>Musa balbisiana</i>	Musaceae	<i>Ban Kera</i> (N)	Seed powder in stomach disorders
<i>Musa sikkimensis</i>	-do-	<i>Ban Kera</i> (N)	-do-
<i>Paris polyphylla</i>	Melanthiaceae	<i>Panchtalay</i> (N)	Rhizome as antidotes & in fever
<i>Schumannianthus dichotomus</i>	Marantaceae	<i>Shital pati</i> (B)	Leaves used medicinally
<i>Smilax aspericaulis</i>	Smilacaceae	<i>Kukurdainay</i> (N)	Stem used as toothbrush
<i>Thysanotana latifolia</i>	Poaceae	<i>Amliso</i> (N)	Roots in toothache
<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Zingiberaceae	<i>Adua</i> (N)	Rhizomes in cough & cold
<i>Zingiber purpureum</i>	-do-	<i>Phachyang</i> (N)	rhizomes in nausea & headaches
<i>Zingiber rubens</i>	-do-	<i>Bengal ginger</i> (E)	Seeds often used as as spice
<i>Zingiber zerumbet</i>	-do-	<i>Shampoo ginger</i> (E)	showy inflorescence; often used medicinally

## 7.2. ETHNO-ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

There are a large number of monocotyledonous plant resources in the district of Darjeeling which possess tremendous ornamental value. Some of them have already exposed and found places in the nurseries and gardens and fetching good money for local horticulturists, but many of them are still waiting for their turn. These have been using as ornamentals in houses, household gardens and especially for festive occasions only by the local people. The expedition of the district revealed that it was the vast store-house of hundreds of species having ornamental values. Some of the monocot species of ethno-ornamental values have been enumerated in the Table 7.2 below:

**Table 7.2.** Ethno-ornamental monocot species of Darjeeling district

Name of Plants	Family	Local Name	Flowering Period	Parts in use and used as
<i>Aerides multiflorum</i>	Orchidaceae	<i>Sunakhari</i> (N)	Apr – June	Planted for showy flowers
<i>A. odoratum</i>	-do-	-do-	Apr – June	-do-
<i>Arundina graminifolia</i>	-do-	-do-	Jan – May	-do-
<i>Ascocentrum ampullaceum</i>	-do-	-do-	Mar – April	-do-
<i>Bambusa vulgaris</i>	Poaceae	<i>Kalai makla</i> <i>Bāns</i> (B), <i>Golden Bamboo</i>	-	Planted for its showy culms.
<i>Coelogyne corymbosa</i>	Orchidaceae	-do-	Mar – May	Planted for showy flowers
<i>C. cristata</i>	-do-	-do-	Feb – Apr	-do-
<i>C. nitida</i>	-do-	-do-	Mar – May	-do-
<i>C. ovalis</i>	-do-	-do-	Jul – Nov	-do-
<i>Crocoshia × crocosmiiflora</i>	Iridaceae	<i>Montbretia</i> (E)	Jun – Aug	-do-

Name of Plants	Family	Local Name	Flowering Period	Parts in use and used as
<i>Cymbidium aloifolium</i>	Orchidaceae	<i>Sunakhari</i> (N)	Apr – Jun	Planted for showy flowers
<i>C. bicolor</i>	–do–	–do–	Mar – May	–do–
<i>C. cochleare</i>	–do–	–do–	Sep – Dec	–do–
<i>C. devonianum</i>	–do–	–do–	Apr – Jun	–do–
<i>C. lowianum</i>	–do–	–do–	Apr – Jul	–do–
<i>C. tracyanum</i>	–do–	–do–	Apr – Jul	–do–
<i>Dendrobium amoenum</i>	–do–	–do–	Apr – Jun	–do–
<i>D. anceps</i>	–do–	–do–	Mar – Jun	–do–
<i>D. aphyllum</i>	–do–	–do–	Mar – Jun	–do–
<i>D. chrysanthum</i>	–do–	–do–	Jul – Sep	–do–
<i>D. chrysotoxum</i>	–do–	–do–	Apr – May	–do–
<i>D. densiflorum</i>	–do–	<i>Sungabha</i> (N)	Apr – May	–do–
<i>D. falconeri</i>	–do–	<i>Sunakhari</i> (N)	Mar – Jun	–do–
<i>D. fimbriatum</i>	–do–	–do–	Mar – May	–do–
<i>D. heterocarpum</i>	–do–	–do–	Mar – May	–do–
<i>D. hookerianum</i>	–do–	–do–	Jun – Jul	–do–
<i>D. moniliforme</i>	–do–	–do–	Mar – Jun	–do–
<i>D. moschatum</i>	–do–	–do–	May – Jul	–do–
<i>D. nobile</i>	–do–	–do–	Mar – May	–do–
<i>D. transparens</i>	–do–	–do–	Apr – May	–do–
<i>Eleutherine bulbosa</i>	Iridaceae	<i>Rakta Piyaj</i> (B)	May – Sep	–do–
<i>Esmeralda cathcartii</i>	Orchidaceae	<i>Sunakhari</i> (N)	Feb – May	–do–
<i>Gladiolus undulatus</i>	Iridaceae	–	Jun – Aug	–do–
<i>Hedychium coronarium</i>	Zingiberaceae	–	Aug – Dec	–do–
<i>H. gardnerianum</i>	–do–	–	Jul – Sep	–do–
<i>H. greenii</i>	–do–	–	July – Sep	–do–
<i>Hemerocallis fulva</i>	Xanthorrhoeaceae	–	May – Jul	–do–
<i>Iris domesticata</i>	Iridaceae	<i>Tarawarey Phul</i> (N)	Jun – Oct	–do–
<i>Iris clarkei</i>	Iridaceae	–	Jun – Jul	–do–
<i>Molineria capitulata</i>	Hypoxidaceae	<i>Dhotisaro</i> (N)	May – Jul	Planted as ornamental plant
<i>Ophiopogon clarkei</i>	Asparagaceae	–	May – July	–do–
<i>Papilionanthe teres</i>	Orchidaceae	<i>Sunakhari</i> (N)	May – Jun	Planted for showy flowers
<i>Phaius tankervilleae</i>	–do–	–do–	Feb – Jun	–do–
<i>Pleione hookeiana</i>	–do–	–do–	May – Jul	–do–
<i>P. precox</i>	–do–	–do–	Oct – Nov	–do–
<i>Rhaphidophora calophylla</i>	Araceae	<i>Kanchirnu</i> (N)	Mar – May	As ornamental climber
<i>R. decursiva</i>	–do–	–do–	July – Oct	–do–
<i>R. glauca</i>	–do–	–do–	Aug – Nov	–do–
<i>Rhynchostylis retusa</i>	Orchidaceae	–do–	May – Jul	Planted for showy flowers
<i>Roscoeia purpurea</i>	Zingiberaceae	–	Jun – Sep	–do–
<i>Thunia alba</i>	Orchidaceae	<i>Sunakhari</i> (N)	May – Jul	–do–
<i>Trachycarpus fortunei</i>	Arecaceae	<i>Pumpum</i>	Mar – May	Planted in gardens & parks as ornamental tree
<i>Tradescantia pallida</i>	Commelinaceae	–	Mar – Oct	Planted as ornamental plant
<i>T. virginiana</i>	–do–	–	Mar – May	–do–
<i>Vanda cristata</i>	Orchidaceae	–do–	May – Jul	–do–
<i>Yushania microphylla</i>	Poaceae	<i>Deo nigali</i> (N)	–	Planted for its showy foliage.
<i>Zingiber zerumbet</i>	Zingiberaceae	<i>Shampoo ginger</i>	July – Sep	Planted for showy inflorescence

### 7.3. ETHNO-EDIBLE PLANTS

Besides the wide varieties of cultivated crops many other wild species can serve as the complementary sources of food. While studying the dicotyledonous flora of Darjeeling district, Bhujel *et al* (1984 a,c) recorded 83 wild edible dicot plants. The people of villages use such alternative foods in their daily life. Poverty is no doubt one of the causes of such usage, but whatever the matter be, in the reality through the long term practice since the early age it has been in turn become a tradition or cultural heritage of these communities.

The present floristic survey also revealed that there are many ethno-edible monocotyledonous species of plant resources in wild. It has been observed that many people of remote villages like Gorkhey, Samanden, Sepi, Todey, Tangta, Suruk-Samthar and so on still survive on these wild edible resources of the forests, especially during the time of food-shortage. Collections of such food materials from the wild, preparation if needed and sale in the local markets is noted to be the profession for many families of such villages. Many of such wild edible species, in true sense have great nutritional as well as medicinal potentiality. But rapid collection of such valuable resources will vanish them from the area. Therefore necessity of the preservation is greatly recommended.

Another interesting character of the communities of the district, as being tribal in nature, they use one edible plant material in different ways, regardless that be a cultivated one or a wild. Preparation of fermented foods using leafy vegetables as "Gundruk", radish as "Sinki" and Soyabean as "Kinema"; similarly preparation of alcoholic liquor from rice, wheat, finger millet, *Canna* rhizomes and different fruits are some of the examples. Some important monocotyledonous ethno-edible species of Darjeeling district have been enumerated as below (Table 7.3).

**Table 7.3.** Some important ethno-edible plant species of Darjeeling district

Name of the Plant	Family	Local Name	Parts eaten	Eaten as
<i>Allium hookeri</i>	Amaryllidaceae	Dungdunge (N)	leaves	Vegetable
<i>A. stracheyi</i>	-do-	Chhepi (N)	Bulbs	-do-
<i>A. wallichii</i>	-do-	Jangali pyaj / Banlasun (N)	Bulbs, flowers	Pickle, vegetable
<i>Alocasia indica</i>	Araceae	Man kando; Man kachu (B)	Petioles, rhizomes	Vegetable
<i>A. macrorrhizos</i>	-do-	Kachu (B)	Stem, petioles	Vegetable
<i>Amorphophallus bulbifer</i>	-do-	Gurbo (N)	Tender petioles & leaflets	Curry, Salad, Vegetable
<i>A. paeoniifolius</i>	-do-	Ol (B)	Rhizome	Vegetable
<i>Areca catechu</i>	Arecaceae	Supari	Nut	chewed; used in ethnic & religious purposes
<i>Arisaema speciosum</i>	Araceae	Gurbo (N)	Shoot	often as Vegetable
<i>A. utile</i>	-do-		Tubers	Fermented for liquor
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Asparagaceae	Kurilo (N)	Tender shoot	Vegetable
<i>Calamus erectus</i>	Arecaceae	Phyakre Bet, Bet Geda (N)	Fruits young shoots	chewed as Supari, vegetable
<i>Canna indica</i> var. <i>edulis</i>	Cannaceae	Phul tarul, Kera tarul, Pustakari (N)	Rhizomes	Used as alternative food, fermented into liquor
<i>Colocasia antiquorum</i>	Araceae	Kalo mane (N); kachu (B)	Stoloniferous runners, petioles and rhizomes	Vegetable
<i>C. esculenta</i>	-do-	Singane pindalu Mane(N)	Rhizomes	Vegetable
<i>Dendrocalamus hamiltonii</i>	Poaceae	Choyal/ Tama Bāns (N)	Tender shoots	Vegetable & pickle.

Name of the Plant	Family	Local Name	Parts eaten	Eaten as
<i>Dioscorea alata</i>	Dioscoreaceae	<i>Kusumey Tarul Ghar Tarul</i> (N)	Tuber and bulbils	Eaten boiled
<i>D. deltoidea</i>	-do-		Tuber and bulbils	Eaten boiled
<i>D. hamiltonii</i>	-do-	<i>Ban Tarul</i> (N)	Tubers	Eaten boiled
<i>D. pentaphylla</i>	-do-	<i>Bhyagur</i> (N)	Tuber and bulbils	Eaten boiled
<i>Elusine corocana</i>	Poaceae	<i>Kodo</i> (N)	Grains	Gain floor, called <i>Kodo jaañr/ Tongba</i>
<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	-do-	<i>Siru, Khar</i> (N)	Very tender inflorescence	Eaten by village children
<i>Musa balbisiana</i>	Musaceae	<i>Ban Kera</i> (N)	Male flowers & young shoots	Salads & curries
<i>M. sikkimensis</i>	-do-	<i>Ban Kera</i> (N)	-do-	-do-
<i>Oryza sativa</i>	Poaceae	<i>Dhan</i> (N)	Grains	Liquor obtained from grain called <i>Bhati jaañr</i> (N)
<i>Pandanus furcatus</i>	Pandanaceae	<i>Tarika</i> (N),	Fruits	Edible
<i>Phoenix sylvestris</i>	Arecaceae	<i>Tadi/ Khajoor</i> (B)	Juice of trunk	Sugar is obtained
<i>Remusatia hookeriana</i>	Araceae		Blades of very young spathe	Vegetable
<i>Saccharum officinarum</i>	Poaceae	<i>Ukhu</i> (N), <i>Sugarcane</i>	Sweet stem	Juice chewed
<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	-do-	<i>Gañhu</i> (N)	grains	Liquor obtained called <i>jaañr</i> (N)
<i>Tupistra nutans</i>	Asparagsaceae	<i>Naakima</i> (N)	Inflorescence	Vegetable
<i>Typhonium trilobatum</i>	Araceae	<i>Kharkon Pata</i> (B,R)	Leaves	Vegetable
<i>Xanthosoma brasiliense</i>	-do-	<i>Pindalu</i> (N)	Rhizomes	boiled and eaten, or as vegetable
<i>X. violaceum</i>	-do-	<i>kalo-doodh-manay</i> (N)	Tender petioles	Stem Curry or vegetable
<i>Yushania maling</i>	Poaceae	<i>Malingo</i> (N)	Tender shoots	Vegetable & pickle

#### 7.4. PLANTS OF ASSORTED ETHNIC USES

As discussed earlier, the district is inhabited by the people of tribal nature; they are very much closer to the nature and the plants. Their rich culture and tradition are always related to the natural resources, especially the plant resources. Besides the regular use as edible, medicinal, ornamental etc, a large number of plant species of the district of Darjeeling have been recorded to be of assorted ethnic importance under various uses by its inhabitants. Various household commodities, utensils and other useful materials cultural instruments, even the whole house are made using different wild plant species. Such uses of these species are mainly in religious rituals, worshipping and in festivals, marriage ceremonies, social and traditional functions etc. Traditional bamboo baskets and utensils, wooden containers, milk-curd pots, flower-vase etc. are few examples of such uses by rural villagers. Some such plants have been listed in Table 7.4.

Table 7.4. Some Monocotyledonous plants of Assorted Ethnic Uses

Family	Name of Plants	Local Name (N)	Parts in use and used as
Arecaceae	<i>Areca catechu</i>	<i>Supāri</i>	Nut ethnic, religious & marriage purposes
	<i>Calamus erectus</i>	<i>Phyākre Bet, Bet Gedā</i>	Fruits chewed as <i>Supāri</i> , Stem made good walk stick
	<i>Calamus latifolius</i>	<i>Putli Bet</i>	Stem made good walk stick
	<i>Calamus guruba</i>	<i>Gauri Bet</i>	-do-
	<i>Cocos nucifera</i>	<i>Nariwal</i>	Mesocarp fibers as incense burner; used in ethnic & religious purposes
	<i>Daemonorops jenkinsiana</i>	<i>Dhyāngre Bet</i>	Culms used for making walking stick
	<i>Livistona chinensis</i>	<i>Chinese fan palm</i>	Leaves cut for making hand fans sold in markets
	<i>Wallichia oblongifolia</i>	<i>Thākro</i>	Early people used the mid-veins of leaves to make a small broom-like comb
Marantaceae	<i>Phrynium pubinerve</i>	<i>Kabāi</i>	Hard stout stem (petiole) sticks used to make sitting stools.
	<i>Stachyphrynium placentarium</i>	<i>Kabāi</i>	Early people used the broad leaf blades trapping between two net-like sheets made up of bamboo tapes making a waterproof sheet called " <i>Ghoom</i> " (N) used as umbrella
Musaceae	<i>Musa balbisiana</i> & <i>Musa sikkimensis</i>	<i>Ban Kerā</i>	Leaves are used as eating plates in some religious ceremonies
Poaceae	<i>Cymbopogon bhutanicus</i>	<i>Kush</i>	Used as air purifier & insect repeller, religious uses
	<i>Chrysopogon gryllus</i>	<i>Bābiyo</i>	Dried leaves rolled to make rope to tie cattle.
	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	<i>Siru, Khar</i>	Roofing of houses, cattle sheds, extra household sheds
	<i>Arundo donax</i>	<i>Narkat</i>	Dried culms used as fuel & fencing, Support for climbing crops.
	<i>Arundinella decempedialis</i>	<i>Furkay</i>	Roofing material, often mixing with <i>Imperata cylindrica</i>
	<i>Avena sativa</i>	<i>Jai</i>	Spikelets used in Pujas by Hindus
	<i>Dendrocalamus giganteus</i> <i>D. hamiltonii</i> <i>D. hookeri</i> & <i>D. sikkimensis</i>	<i>Bhāloo Bāns</i> <i>Choya/ Tāmā Bāns</i> <i>Kālo Bhāloo Bāns</i>	Large size culms used as <i>Dudhero</i> (milk vessel), <i>Dhungro</i> (vessel for keeping things or the millet beer), <i>Nālā</i> (drainage of roof water), rope making & tying purposes

Family	Name of Plants	Local Name (N)	Parts in use and used as
Poaceae	<i>Drepanostachyum intermedium</i>	<i>Titay Nigalo</i>	Weaving of baskets, containers, ( <i>Dālo, Thunse, Doko, Nānglo</i> etc) support for climbing crops like peas and beans, flute making; burning as fuel.
	<i>D. khasianum</i>	<i>Ban nigālo</i>	
	<i>Himalcalamus falconeri</i>	<i>Singāne</i>	
	<i>H. hookerianus</i>	<i>Pareng</i>	
	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	<i>Dubo</i>	Religious, marriage ceremonies, garlands for bride & grooms
	<i>Neyraudia arundinacea</i>	<i>Ghungring</i>	Ethnic medical practices; The <i>Bijuwa &amp; Phedāngmā</i> use to repell devil spirits
	<i>N. reynaudiana</i>	<i>Sānu Ghungring</i>	
	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	<i>Dhān</i>	Straw used for weaving mats ( <i>Gundri</i> ); thaching purposes
	<i>Saccharum spontaneum</i>	<i>Kānsh</i>	Stem used in death rites by Bengali people
	<i>Thysanolanana latifolia</i>	<i>Amliso</i>	Dried culms used as fuel & fencing

### 7.5. Assesment

The result of the ethnobotanical evaluation of the monocotyledonous flora of the Darjeeling District of the state of West Bengal shows that quite large number of species from the local vegetation are used by the local inhabitants even today. Almost all types of advance civilization are available in the urban areas, but a look into the city markets too will confirm the likings of the local people to use local plants in their daily life, starting from food to medicine to magico-religious activities.