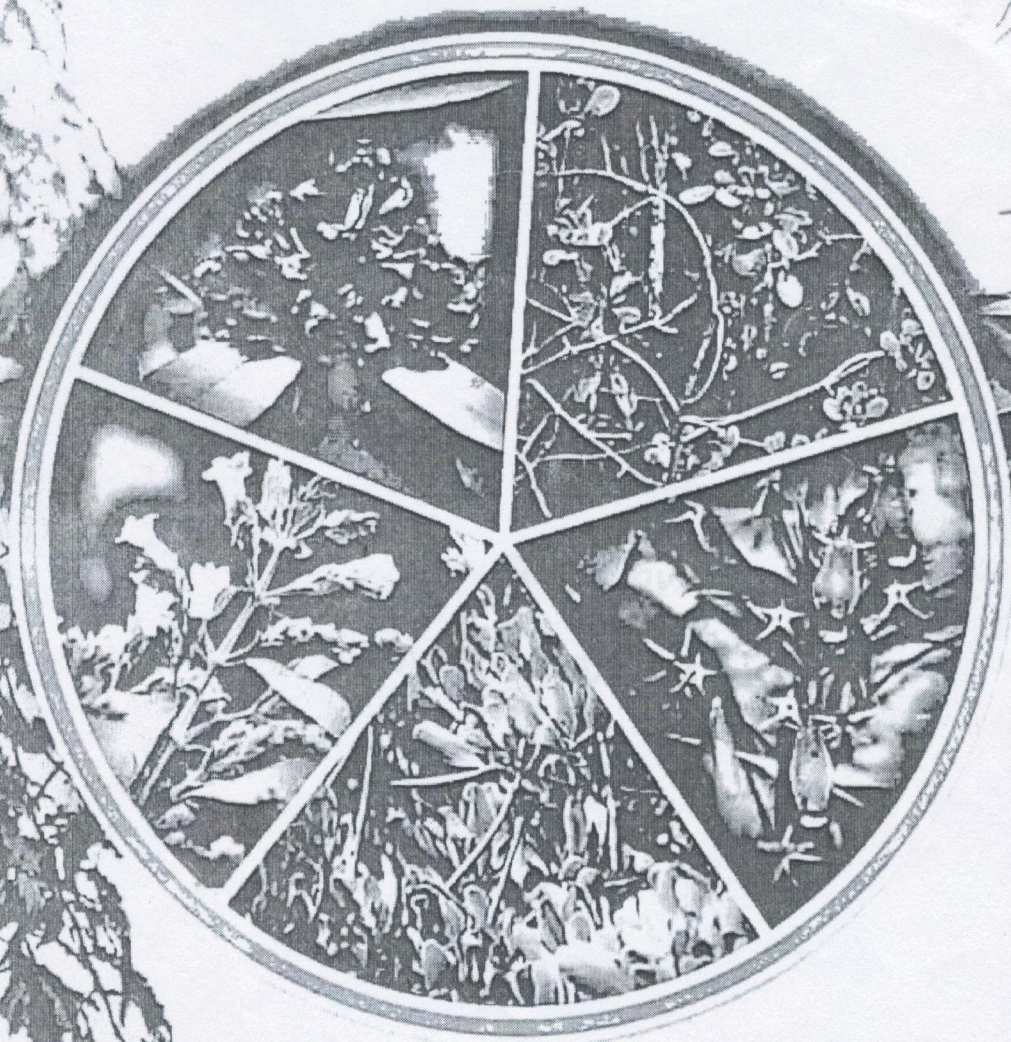


Medicinal Plants and Traditional Knowledge in the Indian Subcontinent



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Ethnobotany knowledge and conservation of
wild and cultivated medicinal plants of Southwest
Bengal

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Ethnobotany knowledge and conservation of wild and cultivated medicinal plants of Southwest Bengal

Abstract:

Ethnobotany deals with the relationship between plants and ethnic people of a community. It signifies its use value and conservation through traditional knowledge gained from their fore fathers. Till date, many ethnic groups live in and around forest in India though their home is adjacent to cultivated field. Many crop plants in addition to traditional wild plants are available in and around them but now-a-day, due to modernization; local varieties of crops are going to vanish from their land and home premises due to repeated cultivation practice and for more output. Forests and jungles are going to vanish due to versatile use of land in an unwanted way even rapid penetration of people inside the forest areas. Repeated forest fire and cutting of woody plants is due to income generations are the main culprits for degradation of forest and vegetation. In this communication author is trying to discuss on some medicinal plants and their potential to decipher the knowledge even to conserve the ideas as traditional knowledge for better management of resources and land.

Key words: Ethnobotany, ethnic people, southwest Bengal, medicinal plants, uses and conservation.