## ARTICLE

# Folk Medicinal Plants Used by Local Herbalists in and around Rajshahi Metropolitan City, Bangladesh 

A.H.M. Mahbubur Rahman*<br>Plant Taxonomy Laboratory, Department of Botany, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi-6205, Bangladesh

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#### Abstract

Folk medicinal plants used by local herbalists in and around Rajshahi metropolitan city were recorded. The study include 111 medicinal plants used to cure various diseases such as diarrhea, diabetes, toothache, fever, worm, snake-bite, blood disease, cough, menstrual disease, wound, itches, chicken pox, constipation, dysentery, eczema, piles, sex problems, skin diseases, headache, anemia, burning sensation, bronchitis, paralysis, jaundice, asthma,etc. Finally, this study shows that traditional medicine really contributes to the health care of the population and deserves to be accompanied. The identified medicinal plants will guide future research into natural substances for the development of improved traditional medicines.


oped their knowledge of the flora and fauna of the forest that is known as folk or indigenous knowledge. At the same time, they have developed folk beliefs based on traditional practices that helped them in curing various forms of diseases. The beliefs and practices related to curing disease which are based on unwritten knowledge are carried from generation to generation through the practitioners ${ }^{[7]}$. Various research work on traditional medicinal plants was carried out in Bangladesh by ${ }^{[2,4,5,11,12,15,17-31]}$. The present document was undertaken to record the traditional medicinal plants used by local herbalists in and around Rajshahi metropolitan city, Bangladesh.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1 Study Area

Rajshahi is a metropolitan city, and a major urban,

[^0]commercial and educational centre of Bangladesh. It is also the administrative seat of eponymous division and district. Located on the north bank of the Padma River, near the Bangladesh-India border, the city has a population of over 763,952 residents. The city is surrounded by the satellite towns of Nowhata and Katakhali, which together build an urban agglomeration of about 1 million populations. Arguably Rajshahi is the most clean and green among the cities in Bangladesh ${ }^{[3]}$.

### 2.2 Methodology

The present investigation focused on traditional medicinal plants in and around Rajshahi metropolitan city, Bangladesh during July 2017 to December 2018 to collect information on the medicinal uses of different plant species. A total of 111 species belonging to 102 genera under 55 families were recorded. Medicinal information was obtained through semi-structured interviews with knowledgeable traditional healers. A total of 19 local herbalists having an age range 32-78 years were interviewed using semi-structured interviewed method ${ }^{[32]}$ Plant parts with either flower of fruits collected using traditional herbarium techniques to make voucher specimens for documentation and voucher specimens have been preserved at Herbarium of Rajshahi University.

### 2.3 Identification

Collected specimens have been critically examined, studied and identified. Identifications have been confirmed by consulting standard literatures ${ }^{[8,14,1]}$. Nomenclature has been updated following recent literature ${ }^{[1,9,13]}$.

## 3. Results and Discussion

Folk medicinal plants used by local herbalists in and around Rajshahi metropolitan city, Bangladesh was carried out from July 2017 to December 2018. A total of 111 plant species under 102 genera and 55 families were recorded. Distribution of angiosperm species in the families shows variation. The family Fabaceae and Euphorbiaceae represented by 6 species each. Each of Moraceae and Apocynaceae is represented by 5 species. Each of Asteraceae and Amaranthaceae is represented by 4 species. Each of Lamiaceae, Acanthaceae Zingiberaceae, Liliaceae, Piperaceae Malvaceae, Caesalpiniaceae, Combretaceae, Rutaceae, Solanaceae and Verbenaceae is represented by 3 species. Each of Lauraceae, Cucurbitaceae, Mimosaceae, Myrtaceae, Anacardiaceae, Oxalidaceae, Apiaceae, Convolvulaceae, Araceae and Poaceae is represented by 2 species. A single species in each was recorded by 30 families (Table 1). Out of 111 species, $41.73 \%$ species were used
in herbs, followed by $17.92 \%$ shrubs, $7.79 \%$ climbers and $31.27 \%$ trees (Figure 1). For each species local name, scientific name, family, habit, ailments, treatment process and part (s) used are provided.

Use of plant parts as medicine shows variation. Leaves ( $49.89 \%$ ) are the leading part used in a majority of medicinal plans followed by Bark (15.92\%), fruits (19.70\%), root ( $17.32 \%$ ), seed ( $12.88 \%$ ), stem ( $8.68 \%$ ), whole plants ( $16.82 \%$ ), flowers ( $3.53 \%$ ), leaf stalk ( $0.99 \%$ ), rhizome ( $2.53 \%$ ), gum ( $3.53 \%$ ), petiole ( $2.53 \%$ ), tuber ( $1.65 \%$ ), bulb ( $1.65 \%$ ), latex ( $1.65 \%$ ), bud ( $0.99 \%$ ) (Figure 2). The survey has also recorded 66 categories of uses of 111 medicinal plants. Out of 66 diseases, fever (20.82\%), dysentery (18.11\%), cough (11.83\%), diarrhea (9.99\%), asthma ( $8.32 \%$ ), diabetes ( $7.89 \%$ ), skin disease ( $7.50 \%$ ) and jaundice (6.53\%) (Figure 3).

The result of this information showed that these local people of study area still depend on medicinal uses of plants for the treatment of burning sensation, diabetes, bronchitis, weakness, insects and snake bite, high blood pressure, asthma, passing of semen, gonorrhea, skin diseases, jaundice, headache, glandular swelling, diarrhea, acidity, dry cough, cancer, dysentery, scabies, menstrual disorder, tumors, leucoderma, catarrhal fever, chronic fever, malarial fever, toothache, burning wounds, stomachic, stomachache, piles, fever, epilepsy, gout, rheumatism, traumatic injury, abortion, vomiting, bleeding gums, ulcer, anemia, ring worm, hiccup, pneumonia, gastritis, tuberculosis, arthritis, heart disease, abdominal pain, hypertension, paralysis, constipation, baldness, sore, dyspepsia, chicken pox, pain, pyorrhea, eczema, cholera, flatulence, scurvy, intoxication, indigestion, whooping cough, digestive system disorders, liver disorders, intestinal worms, worms, gastrointestinal disorders, edemas, alterative and attendant, wound and injury, menstruation, cold, lung infection, dysuria, edema, bleeding, heavy bleeding, kidney, eye inflammation, boils, mouth freshener, bruises, high cholesterol, dry skin, hepatitis, hair fall, cough and many types of diseases.

Most of the species were used for the treatment of different diseases are Polyalthia longifolia, Cinnamomum tamala, Litsea glutinosa, Peperomia pellucida, Piper betel, Piper longum, Kalanchoe pinnata, Nigella sativa, Nymphaea nouchali, Tinospora cordifolia, Argemone mexicana, Ficus religiosa, Ficus benghalensis, Ficus hispida, Ficus racemosa, Artocarpus heterophyllus, Boerhaavia diffusa, Amaranthus spinosus, Amaranthus viridis, Achyranthes aspera, Enhydra fluctuans, Basella alba, Glinus oppositifolius, Polygonum hydropiper, Aborma augusta, Bombax ceiba, Hibiscus rosa-sinensis, Abelmoschus esculentus, Sida cordifolia, Coccinia grandis, Momordica
charantia, Brassica napus, Moringa oleifera, Mimusops elengi, Diospyros malabarica, Acacia nilotica, Mimosa pudica, Cassia fistula, Tamarindus indica, Saraca indica, Cajanus cajan, Lablab purpureus, Erythrina variegata, Dalbergia sissoo, Butea monosperma, Clitoria ternetea, Lowsonia inermis, Punica granatum, Psidium guajava, Syzygium cumini, Terminalia arjuna, Terminalia chebula, Terminalia belerica, Acalypha indica, Euphorbia hirta, Jatropha gossypifolia, Phyllanthus emblica, Phyllanthus reticulatus, Ricinus communis, Cissus quadrangularis, Litchi chinensis, Mangifera indica, Spondias pinnata, Azadirachta indica, Citrus aurantifolia, Aegle marmelos, Feronia limonia, Averrhoa carambola, Oxalis corniculata, Centella asiatica, Coriandrum sativum, Swertia chirata, Catharanthus roseus, Rauvolfia serpentina, Alostonia
scolaris, Nerium indicum, Carissa carandus, Calotropis procera, Datura metel, Solanum nigrum, Capsicum frutescens, Ipomoea aquatica, Ipomoea batatas, Heliotropium indicum, Clerodendrum viscosum, Vitex negundo, Lantana camara, Ocimum sanctum, Leucas aspera, Leonurus sibiricus, Nyctanthes arbortristis, Andrographis paniculata, Justicia gendarussa, Adhatoda vasica, Tridax procumbens, Wedelia chinensis, Tagetes erecta, Eclipta alba, Areca catechu, Colocasia esculenta, Alocasia indica, Cyperus rotundus, Cynodon dactylon, Saccharum officinarum, Ananas comosus, Musa sapientum, Curcuma longa, Zingiber officinale, Amoтит subulantum, Allium сера, Allium sativum, Aloe barbadensis (Table 1). The collected information is comparable with the result of other studies in Bangladesh like ${ }^{[2,4,5,10,11,12,15,6,17-31]}$.

Table 1. Investigated medicinal plants used by the local herbalists in the study area

| Bangla name | Botanical name and Family name | Habit | Parts Used | Ailments \& Treatment Process |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ada | Zingiber officinale Roscoe (Zingiberaceae) | Herb | Rhizome | Indigestion: Rhizome powder is taken internally ${ }^{[2]}$. Cold and Cough: Corm juice is taken ${ }^{[5]}$. Cattarhal fever: Ginger juice mixed with leaf juice of Ocimum sanctum and honey is taken orally ${ }^{[29]}$. Gout: Warm paste of rhizome with cotton seed is applied externally ${ }^{[28]}$. |
| Akando | Calotropis procera (Aiton) <br> W.T. Aiton <br> (Asclepiadaceae) | Shrub | Leaf | Arthiritis: Warm mustard oil with salt and leaves are taken externally ${ }^{[26]}$. Paralysis: Warm leaf paste is taken externally ${ }^{[28]}$. Rheumatism: Gums mixed with Brassica napus oil used internally ${ }^{[22]}$. |
| Alach | Amomum subulatum Roxb. (Zingiberaceae) | Herb | Seed, Fruit, pod | Mouth freshener, Nausea, motion sickness \& Cough: Powder of seeds is taken orally ${ }^{[10,11]}$. |
| Anarosh | Ananas comosus (L.) Merr. (Bromeliaceae) | Herb | Flower, Leaf, Fruit | Fever: Fruits are taken internally ${ }^{[17]}$. Abortion: Young flower extract is taken internally ${ }^{[21]}$. |
| Apang | Achyranthes aspera L. <br> (Amaranthaceae) | Herb | Stem, Leaf, Root | Jaundice: Juice of leaves is taken internally ${ }^{[24]}$. Tonsillitis: The crushed leaf mixed with water and filtrate is taken ${ }^{[19]}$. Traumatic injury: Root decoction is taken internally ${ }^{[5]}$. |
| Arhar | Cajanus cajan (L.) Millsp. <br> (Fabaceae) | Shrub | Leaf, Seed | Piles: Leaf paste is taken ${ }^{[17]}$. Jaundice and pneumonia: Leaf juice is taken orally ${ }^{[20]}$. Bowels: Seed paste is taken externally ${ }^{[25]}$. Mother milk secretion: Decoction leaves and seeds are taken orally ${ }^{[31]}$. |
| Amra | Spondias pinnata (L.f.) Kurz. <br> (Anacardiaceae) | Tree | Bark, Root | Diarrhea, Dysentery and Vomiting: Infusion of the bark is taken ${ }^{[30]}$. Gonorrhea: Decoction of the bark is taken orally ${ }^{[23]}$. Menstruation: Roots are use in regulating menstruation ${ }^{[24]}$. |
| Aakh | Saccharum officinarum L. (Poaceae) | Shrub | Stem | Jaundice: Stem juice is taken internally ${ }^{[25]}$. |
| Arjun | Terminalia arjuna (Roxb.) <br> Wight \& Arn. <br> (Combretaceae) | Tree | Bark | Blood pressure \& Heart disease: Extract of stem bark is taken orally ${ }^{[17]}$. |
| Amm | Mangifera indica L. <br> (Anacardiaceae) | Tree | Gum, Leaf | Fever, Diarrhea and Toothache: Decoction of the leaves is taken internally ${ }^{[18]}$. Skin disease: Gum paste is used externally ${ }^{[22]}$. |
| Amrul | Oxalis corniculata L. (Oxalidaceae) | Herb | Leaf | Stomach pain: Decoction of leaves mixed with water is orally taken for the treatment of stomach pain ${ }^{[27]}$. Scurvy: Leaves juice is taken orally to cure scurvy ${ }^{[29]}$. |
| Amloki | Phyllanthus emblica L. (Euphorbiaceae) | Tree | Fruit, Bark, Leaf | Diabetes: Green fruits and cumbered dry fruits can be used for treatment of diabetes ${ }^{[23]}$. Stomach problem: Fruit powder and bark juice is taken orally ${ }^{[21]}$. Toothache problem: Young fruits are taken orally. Scurvy: Green fruit is taken internally ${ }^{[10]}$. |


| Bangla name | Botanical name and Family name | Habit | Parts Used | Ailments \& Treatment Process |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ashok | Saraca indica L. (Caesalpiniaceae) | Tree | Bark, Root | Abortion: Powder of dried bark is taken internally ${ }^{[2]}$. Anemia: Bark extracts mixed with 1 teaspoon sugar and 1 glass of milk is taken orally ${ }^{[27]}$. Dysentery: Root extracts mixed with water is taken ${ }^{[31]}$. |
| Babla | Acacia nilotica (L.) Willd ex Delile (Mimosaceae) | Tree | Bark, Leaf, Bark | Bronchitis: Bark extracts is taken orally ${ }^{[21]}$. Dysentery: Pods are taken internally ${ }^{[11]}$. Leucoderma: Leaf decoction is taken [25]. |
| Badarlathi | Cassia fistula L. <br> (Caesalpiniaceae) | Tree | Young Leaf, Fruit, Bark | Ringworms: Juice of young leaves is taken orally ${ }^{[24]}$. Gout: Fruits pulp is taken ${ }^{[5]}$. Constipation: Leaf decoction is taken orally ${ }^{[12]}$. Diabetes: Decoction of bark mixed with water is taken ${ }^{[17]}$. |
| Bhat | Clerodendrum viscosum Vent. (Verbenaceae) | Shrub | Leaf, Root | Asthma, tumors and skin diseases: Leaf and root paste is taken externally ${ }^{[20]}$. Hair disease: Leaf paste is applied ${ }^{[23]}$. |
| Basak | Justicia adhatoda L. <br> (Acanthaceae) | Shrub | Whole plant specially leaf | Cough and Fever: Leaf juice is taken internally ${ }^{[18]}$. Piles: The extract or juice of plant is used in bleeding piles ${ }^{[30]}$. |
| Bel | Aegle marmelos (L.) Correa (Rutaceae) | Tree | Fruit, Root | Stomachache: Unripe wood apple is made pieces and used in stomachache ${ }^{[4]}$. Constipation: Ripe wood apple is made juice and taken to cure constipation ${ }^{[10]}$. Diarrhea: Extract of root is taken. Heart disease: Root juice is taken internally ${ }^{[23]}$. |
| Bot | Ficus benghalensis L. <br> (Moraceae) | Tree | Latex, Root, Bud | Rheumatic pain: Latex is applied externally ${ }^{[12]}$. Vomiting: A tip of the hanging roots crushed and mixed with water is used for obstinate vomiting ${ }^{[19]}$. Malaria: Grinding, decoction of young buds; taken orally for malaria ${ }^{[25]}$. |
| Bohera | Terminalia bellirica (Gaertn) Roxb. (Combretaceae) | Tree | Green fruit | Cough: Green fruit decoction is taken orally ${ }^{[26]}$. |
| Berela | Sida cordifolia L. <br> (Malvaceae) | Herb | Whole plant | Asthma: 10 g root juice smeared and boiled in 4-5 cup of water till it comes to 2 cup, filtered and the decoction is taken twice daily for 1 month ${ }^{[27]}$. Bleeding Piles: 5-6 young leaves are crushed and applied on the affected area at least 15-20 days ${ }^{[29]}$. Gonorrhea: 2-3 seedlings are boiled in a 1 liter of water till it comes to 250 ml then the solution taken orally in early morning ${ }^{[19]}$. Rheumatism: 2-3 saplings are finely crushed mixed with little amount of mustered oil, boiled it and then the solution is taken orally for 4-5 days ${ }^{[22]}$. |
| Bherenda | Ricinus communis L. (Euphorbiaceae) | Shrub | Leaf, seed | Jaundice: Leaf juice is taken orally ${ }^{[30]}$. Dysentery: Juice of tender leaves mixed with sugar is orally taken to cure Dysentery ${ }^{[31]}$. Constipation: Seed oil is used internally for the treatment of constipation ${ }^{[23]}$. |
| Bokul | Mimusops elengi L. (Sapotaceae) | Tree | Stem-bark | Swelling: Stem bark decoction is taken ${ }^{[12]}$. Asthma: Flowers smell is used to cure asthma by smoking ${ }^{[19]}$. |
| Chotra | Lantana camara L. <br> (Verbenaceae) | Shrub | Leaf | Wound: Grind the leaves with turmeric and salt and apply it twice a week to the wounds ${ }^{[24]}$. |
| Chirata | Swertia chirata L. (Gentianaceae) | Herb | Whole plant | Fever: Whole plant juice is taken internally ${ }^{[20]}$. Vomiting: Root juice mixed with honey is taken orally ${ }^{[21]}$. |
| Chitki | Phyllanthus reticulatus Poir. (Euphorbiaceae) | Shrub | Leaf, Root | Diarrhea: 100 g leaves are soaked into 3 cups of water for overnight and then administered internally ${ }^{[12]}$. Malaria: 20 gm root is boiled with $4-5$ cups of water till it comes to 1 cup and half of the liquid is administered orally in early morning and other half in the evening for $4-5$ days ${ }^{[22]}$. Epilepsy: 10 gm roots are crushed and soaked in a 1 liter of water for 10-12 hours and then the solution taken 4-5 days ${ }^{[27]}$. |
| Chatim | Alstonia scholaris (L.) R. Br. (Apocynaceae) | Tree | Bark, Gum, Root | Ulcers: The milky juice of gum is taken orally to cure ulcers ${ }^{[26]}$. Cancer: Root extracts is taken orally to cure cancer ${ }^{[28]}$. Rheumatism: Dry bark, salt, and Piper nigrum crushed them with water and made a paste used for rheumatism ${ }^{[23]}$. Gastric problem: Bark ( 50 mg ) is mixed with sufficient salt and administered once daily for 5 days ${ }^{[19]}$. |
| Dherosh | Abelmoschus esculentus (L.) Moench (Malvaceae) | Herb | Fruit | Stomachic: Water, sugar mixed with fruit juice is taken ${ }^{[25]}$. Female weakness: Young fruits use as a vegetable at lunch regularly for a month ${ }^{[26]}$. Hair fall: Paste of young fruits used on head regularly ${ }^{[28]}$. Constipation: Young fruits use as a vegetable regularly ${ }^{[12]}$. |


| Bangla name | Botanical name and Family name | Habit | Parts Used | Ailments \& Treatment Process |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dhone | Coriandrum sativum L. (Apiaceae) | Herb | Seed, Whole Plant | Asthma: Whole plant extract is taken ${ }^{[2]}$. Sneezing: Coriander seeds mixed with ginger, jeera, pepper and milk make juice, it taken internally ${ }^{[25]}$. Cold \& Fever: Whole plant juice mixed with salt is taken ${ }^{[27]}$. |
| Durba ghas | Cynodon dactylon (L.) Pers. (Poaceae) | Herb | Whole plant | Stop bleeding: Whole plant paste is taken externally ${ }^{[11]}$. |
| Dalim | Punica granatum L. (Punicaceae) | Tree | Fruit, stem, Leaf, Seed | Dysentery: Dried fruit decoction is taken ${ }^{[4]}$. Dry cough: Dry leaf powder is taken orally ${ }^{[18]}$. Stomach pain: Three to four young twigs are eaten with little salt twice a day for a week ${ }^{[20]}$. Heart and throat pain: The seeds juice is considered a tonic for the heart and throat ${ }^{[12]}$. |
| Debdaru | Polyalthia longifolia (Sonn.) <br> Thw. <br> (Annonaceae) | Tree | Bark | Fever: The bark is used as a febrifuge in the treatment of fever ${ }^{[26]}$. |
| Dudhia | Euphorbia hirta L. (Euphorbiaceae) | Herb | Whole plant | Dysentery: Whole plant is used to make paste and taken 3 times a day to cure dysentery ${ }^{[28]}$. Bronchitis: Grinding decoction of whole plant is taken to cure bronchitis once daily for a week ${ }^{[31]}$. |
| Dhutra | Datura metel L. (Solanaceae) | Shrub | Leaf | Rheumatic pain: Paste of leaves is taken externally ${ }^{[4]}$. Asthma: Leaf smoked is taken ${ }^{[10]}$. Skin disease: Datura and Neem Leaf paste is applied externally ${ }^{[23]}$. |
| Gaikhura | Amaranthus viridis L. (Amaranthaceae) | Herb | Whole plant | Acidity: Leaves are boiled with roots and smashed then taken ${ }^{[17]}$. Leprosy: Whole plant juice taken internally ${ }^{[29]}$. |
| Genda | Tagetes erecta L. (Asteraceae) | Herb | Whole plant | Bleeding: Leaf paste is taken externally ${ }^{[12]}$. Pain: Leaves are smashed and the paste is applied on the blotch after slight warming to make it lighter to burst out and reduces the pain ${ }^{[31]}$. Tuberculosis: About 250 mg leaves powder mixed with little amount of goat-milk and have to be taken ${ }^{[23]}$. Dysentery: 2 teaspoonful's leaves juice mixed with 2 teaspoonfuls's of sugar is taken ${ }^{[25]}$. |
| Ghrito kumari | Aloe vera (L.) Burm. f. (Liliaceae) | Herb | Leaf | Paralysis: Leaf extract is taken orally ${ }^{[18]}$. Jaundice: Juice of leaf is taken internally ${ }^{[24]}$. Weakness: Juice of leaf mixed with sugar is taken ${ }^{[22]}$. Skin care: Leaf paste is taken externally ${ }^{[5]}$. Hair fall: Juice of leaves is used for hair fall solution and mode silky and shines ${ }^{[26]}$. |
| Gaab | Diospyros malabarica (Desr.) Kostel. (Ebenaceae) | Tree | Fruit, Leaf, Stem | Dyspepsia: About 15 mg fruit powder macerated with little amount of water to make a paste and then taken orally twice daily for 3-4 days ${ }^{[30]}$. Cough: Approx. 2 gm of leaves powder is boiled in 5 cup of water till it come to the 2 cup than half of the liquid is administered orally in early morning and other in the evening for 7 days ${ }^{[31]}$. |
| Gima shak | Glinus oppositifolius (L.) Aug. <br> DC. <br> (Molluginaceae) | Herb | Leaf | Fever: Fried leaves are eaten to cure several fevers ${ }^{[21]}$. Body pain: Juice of leaves is orally taken to relief from body pain ${ }^{[17]}$. Earache: Castor oil and whole plant warm juice is taken ${ }^{[11]}$. |
| Guloncho | Tinospora cordifolia (Thunb.) <br> Miers <br> (Menispermaceae) | Climber | Stem, Leaf Stalk | Passing of semen: Stem juice mixed with milk is taken orally. Diabetes: Powder obtained from feaf stalk r mixed with neem paste is taken ${ }^{[31,23]}$. Jaundice: Leaf juice is taken orally ${ }^{[26]}$. Pain and Edema: The plant oil is effective in reducing pain and edema ${ }^{[28]}$. |
| Hatisur | Heliotropium indicum L. (Boraginaceae) | Herb | Leaf | Dog bite: Leaf juice is taken externally ${ }^{[25]}$. Insects bite: Leaf $\underset{[24,11]}{\text { juice }]}$ mixed with 5 gm Ricinus communis oil is taken externally [24,11] |
| Haritaki | Terminalia chebula Retz. (Combretaceae) | Tree | Seed, Fruit | Vomiting: Seed powder mixed with honey is applied orally ${ }^{[22]}$. Dysentery: Fruit powder mixed with hot water is taken ${ }^{[27]}$. |
| Harjora | Cissus quadrangularis L. (Vitaceae) | Climber | Whole plant | Irregular menstruation: Juice obtained from stem is taken internally ${ }^{[20]}$. Stomachic: Stem paste is taken internally ${ }^{[12]}$. Indigestion: Juice of leaves are mixed with water and orally used for indigestion ${ }^{[18]}$. Piles: Juice of leaves are orally used for recovery of piles ${ }^{[17]}$. |
| Helencha | Enhydra fluctuans (Lour.) Spreng. <br> Asteraceae | Herb | Whole plant | Fever: Curry made from whole plant is taken ${ }^{[10]}$. |


| Bangla name | Botanical name and Family name | Habit | Parts Used | Ailments \& Treatment Process |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Holud | Curcuma longa L . (Zingiberaceae) | Herb | Rhizome, Flower | Eczema: Rhizome paste is taken externally ${ }^{[19]}$. Dysentery: Powder made from rhizome mixed with hot rice, mustard oil and table salt is taken ${ }^{[23]}$. Gonorrhea: Paste of flower is taken ${ }^{[18]}$. Gastric problem: Fresh rhizome chewing with table salt ${ }^{[21]}$. |
| Jagath madan | Justicia gendarussa Burm. f. <br> (Acanthaceae) | Shrub | Leaf | Headache: Leaf is covered with mustard oil then that leaf is put on the forehead ${ }^{[5,18,31]}$. |
| Jagdumur | Ficus racemosa L. <br> (Moraceae) | Tree | Fruit | Dry cough: Curry made from young fruit is taken internally ${ }^{[24]}$. Asthma: Fresh fruit mixed with honey is taken ${ }^{[21]}$. Diabetes: Young dry fruit powder is taken orally ${ }^{[12]}$. |
| Joba | Hibiscus rosa-sinensis L. (Malvaceae) | Shrub | Flower | Burning wound: Paste of flower is used for burning wound ${ }^{[11]}$. Irregular menstruations: Paste of flower mixed with water orally treated twice daily for two weeks ${ }^{[23]}$. Cooling and astringent: Powder obtained from flower buds mixed with water is taken internally ${ }^{[26]}$. Hair treatment: Paste of flower used orally for hair treatment ${ }^{[27]}$. |
| Jamalkota | Jatropha curcas L. (Euphorbiaceae) | Shrub | Leaf, Seeds, Gums, Stems, | Fever: Juice made from Jamalgota leaf, lemon leaf and ata leaf mixed with hot water is taken ${ }^{[25]}$. Worms: Paste made from seeds is taken internally ${ }^{[28]}$. Cancer: Decoctions of leaves are used for anti-cancer ${ }^{[29]}$. Constipation: Gum mixed with liquid food and orally treated ${ }^{[22]}$. |
| Jam | Syzygium cumini (L.) Skeels. <br> (Myrtaceae) | Tree | Bark, Seed, Fruit | Asthma: Bark decoction is taken internally ${ }^{[24]}$. Diabetes: Seed paste is taken with sugar or a pinch of salt, fruits extracts taken daily against diabetes ${ }^{[31,23]}$. |
| Kalomegh | Andrographis paniculata <br> (Burm.f.) Nees. <br> (Acanthaceae) | Herb | Leaf | Fever, headache, diarrhea, and cholera: Juice obtained from leaves is taken internally ${ }^{[24]}$. Lung infections: Decoction of leaf is taken orally ${ }^{[21]}$. Leprosy: Paste of leaf is taken externally ${ }^{[25]}$. |
| Kamranga | Averrhoa carambola L. (Oxalidaceae) | Tree | Fruit, Leaf | Piles: After slicing the star fruit it has to be boiled in open sunlight for 1 week and to make dry powder out of it. Then 1.5 gm of that powder of star fruit has to be taken with one glass of water twice every day ${ }^{[17]}$. Fever: 2 gm dry powder of star fruit leaves has to be taken with 1.2 cup of water every day morning and evening for $3 / 4$ days ${ }^{[20]}$. Dysentery: In an intense stage of these ailments 1 teaspoonful of extract or juice of ripens star fruit has to be taken to improve the situation ${ }^{[31]}$. Liver pain: 3-4 teaspoonful of ripen star fruit juice to be taken with water to improve this condition ${ }^{[21]}$. |
| Karamcha | Carissa carandas L. <br> (Apocynaceae) | Shrub | Fruit, Root, bark | Diabetes: Root bark decoction is taken orally $\left.{ }^{[22}\right]$. Wound: Decoction of root bark is orally taken internally ${ }^{[12]}$. |
| Katanotey | Amaranthus spinosus L. (Amaranthaceae) | Herb | Whole plant | Toothache: Whole plant decoction is taken ${ }^{[23]}$. Dysentery: Leaf juice is taken internally ${ }^{[10]}$. Wounds: Leaf paste is taken externally ${ }^{[31]}$. |
| Kathal | Artocarpus heterophyllus Lam. <br> (Moraceae) | Tree | Root, Leaf | Diarrhea: Decoction of roots is used internally in diarrhea ${ }^{[2]}$. Skin disease: Yong leaves paste used regularly on infected skin ${ }^{[5]}$. |
| Kalokeshi | Eclipta alba (L.) Hassk. <br> (Asteraceae) | Herb | Whole plant | Diarrhea: Leaf juice mixed with sugar or honey is taken ${ }^{[10]}$ Constipation: Pounded leaf mixed with cold water is taken ${ }^{[11]}$. Hair treatment: Leaf paste is applied externally ${ }^{[5]}$. |
| Kochu | Colocasia esculenta (L.) Schott. (Araceae) | Herb | Leaf, Petiole | Stop bleeding: Leaf juice taken externally ${ }^{[17]}$. Tumors \& Cancer: Leaf juice is taken internally ${ }^{[30]}$. |
| Korobi | Nerium oleander L. <br> (Apocynaceae) | Tree | Leaf, Root bark | Ulcer \& Joints pain: Root bark paste is taken externally ${ }^{[25]}$. Insect bite \& Swellings: Young leaf decoction is taken externally ${ }^{[18]}$. |
| Kola | Musa sapientum L. (Musaceae) |  | Stem, Bark | Stop bleeding: Stem juice is taken ${ }^{[11]}$. Snake bite: Bark juice is taken externally ${ }^{[18]}$. |
| Kalijeeri | Nigella sativa L. (Ranunculaceae) | Herb | Seed | Blood pressure: Seed oil is taken orally ${ }^{[20]}$. Asthma: Black seed is taken internally ${ }^{[31]}$. |
| Korolla | Momordica charantia L. (Cucurbitaceae) | Climber | Whole plant | Colic and fever: Whole plant juice is taken ${ }^{[2]}$. Diabetes: Juice of the whole plant orally taken to treated diabetes. The leaves juice is taken orally daily for diabetes ${ }^{[12]}$. Headache: Root paste is used in headache ${ }^{[21]}$. Stomachic: Cooked fruits used as stomachic ${ }^{[30]}$. |


| Bangla name | Botanical name and Family name | Habit | Parts Used | Ailments \& Treatment Process |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Kolmi shak | Ipomoea aquatica Forssk. (Convolvulaceae) | Climber | Whole plant | Jaundice and Bronchitis: Dry leaf powder mixed with cold water is taken orally ${ }^{[24]}$. Fever, Anthelmintic, Carminative, Leprosy, and Liver complaints: Cooked vegetables are taken orally ${ }^{[31]}$. |
| Kotbel | Feronia acidissima L. (Rutaceae) | Tree | Stem, Leaf, Fruit | Piles: Paste prepared from stem bark is applied externally ${ }^{[26]}$. Vomiting: Leaves juice is orally taken to control vomiting ${ }^{[28]}$. Heart disease: Fruits juice is orally taken to help heart disease and digestion ${ }^{[18]}$. |
| Khoksha dumur | Ficus hispida L.f. <br> (Moraceae) | Tree | Fruit | Diabetes: Juice of fruit mixed with water is taken orally ${ }^{[22]}$. Jaundice: Fruit decoction is applied ${ }^{[26]}$. |
| Lajjaboti | Mimosa pudica L. <br> (Mimosaceae) | Herb | Root, Leaf | Diarrhea: Root paste is taken ${ }^{[4]}$. Piles: Root juice is taken externally ${ }^{[18]}$. Snake bites: Root juice mixed with raw cow milk is taken internally ${ }^{[20]}$. Muscular pain: Decoction of leaf mixed with water is taken ${ }^{[21]}$. |
| Lebu | Citrus aurantifolia (Christm.) <br> Swingle <br> (Rutaceae) | Shrub | Fruit | Catarrhal fever: Fruit juice mixed with honey is taken orally ${ }^{[24]}$. Apetite: Has to eat by making lemonade or may be taken with rice ${ }^{[21]}$. Nausea: Juice of fruits is taken internally ${ }^{[25]}$. Stomachache: Fruit juice mixed with water and taken it every morning in empty stomachache ${ }^{[23]}$. |
| Luchipata | Peperomia pellucida Kunth. <br> (Piperaceae) | Herb | Leaf | Headache: Crushed leaf is applied externally ${ }^{[12]}$. Abdominal pains and Fever: Leaf juice is taken ${ }^{[26]}$. |
| Litchu | Litchi chinensis Sonn. (Sapindaceae) | Tree | Fruit | Heart, brain and liver: Fruits are tonic to the heart, brain and liver ${ }^{[28]}$. |
| Mehedi | Lawsonia inermis L. (Lythraceae) | Shrub | Leaf | Skin disease: Leaf paste is taken externally ${ }^{[20]}$. Hair treatment: Leaves pastes are valuable external used in hair fall solution and make hair silky and shine ${ }^{[23]}$. |
| Madar | Erythrina orientalis Murr. <br> (Fabaceae) | Tree | Leaf, Root | Joints pain: Paste of leaves is applied externally to relief pain of the joints ${ }^{[12]}$. Earache: Leaves juice is poured into the ear to relief earache ${ }^{[21]}$. Toothache: Leaves juice is used to relief toothache ${ }^{[18]}$. Nematode: Extract of roots is taken once daily as much as patient can to control ${ }^{[29]}$. |
| Mankochu | Alocasia macrorrhizos (L.) G. <br> Don. <br> (Araceae) | Herb | Fruit, Petiole | Snakebite: Paste of petiole used in affected area treated for snake bite ${ }^{[5]}$. Fever: Fried of fruit is taken to cure several fevers ${ }^{[17]}$. |
| Mistialo | Ipomoea batatas (L.) Lam. (Convolvulaceae) | Climber | Tuber, Leaf | Edema: At least10-12 leaves are paste and used in the affected area for at least 1 month ${ }^{[25]}$. Dysentery: Sweet potato grained with appropriate amount of water and 1 teaspoonful filtered extract of it has to be taken 15-20 minutes alternately to treat the disease ${ }^{[28]}$. Skin disease: Tuber paste is taken externally ${ }^{[29]}$. |
| Mohavringaraj | Wedelia chinensis (Osbeck) <br> Merr. <br> (Asteraceae) | Herb | Leaf | Alopecia: Leaf paste is taken externally ${ }^{[5]}$. Stop vomiting: Leaf juice mixed with salt is taken orally ${ }^{[29]}$. |
| Morich | Capsicum frutescens L. (Solanaceae) | Herb | Leaf, Fruit | Night blindness: Juice of leaves is used to cure night blindness ${ }^{[17]}$. Headache: Leaves are used in headache on forehead ${ }^{[28]}$. Blood dysentery: Chili powder mixed with water and fried with hot rice is taken internally ${ }^{[26]}$. Mouth disease: Young fruit paste is taken ${ }^{[25]}$. |
| Muktajhuri | Acalypha indica L. (Euphorbiaceae) | Herb | Leaf | Ringworm: Leaf juice is taken orally ${ }^{[24]}$. Snake bite: Leaf paste is applied externally ${ }^{[20]}$. |
| Mutha | Cyperus rotundus L. <br> (Cyperaceae) | Herb | Tuber, Root | Fever: Fresh root are crushed and boiled in 5 cup of water reduced to 3 cup then filtered it and the decoction has to be taken twice per day ${ }^{[31]}$. Diarrhea: About 5 gm of crushed root are soaked overnight in 3 cup of water and taken twice daily for $3-5$ days ${ }^{[26]}$. Wounds \& Sores: Macerated root paste is taken externally ${ }^{[22]}$. |
| Nayantara | Catharanthus roseus (L.) G. <br> Don. <br> (Apocynaceae) | Herb | Whole plant | Leukemia: Whole plant is plucked and made juice which helps in leukemia ${ }^{[2,5,26]}$. |
| Neem | Azadirachta indica A. Juss. <br> (Meliaceae) | Tree | Leaf | Chicken pox: Leaf paste mixed warm water is taken externally ${ }^{[17]}$. Jaundice: Juice of leaf is taken ${ }^{[28]}$. Pyorrhea: Leaf decoction is taken ${ }^{[11]}$. Skin disease: Paste of leaf is taken externally ${ }^{[29]}$. |
| Nishinda | Vitex negundo L. (Verbenaceae) | Shrub | Leaf | Headache: Tonic obtained from leaf is taken ${ }^{[18]}$. Catarrhal fever: Leaf decoction mixed with long pepper is taken ${ }^{[12]}$. |


| Bangla name | Botanical name and Family name | Habit | Parts Used | Ailments \& Treatment Process |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |


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| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Hair treatment: Seed oil is boiled slightly and externally used in hair. It makes hair strong and shines ${ }^{[27]}$. Sleep: Seed oil used on head to for good sleep ${ }^{[23]}$. Skin cracks: To avoid skin cracks seed oil applied on skin ${ }^{[19]}$. Gout: Plaster of mustard is used in gout ${ }^{[12]}$. Cough and Neuralgic: Warm seed oil is taken externally ${ }^{[29]}$.

Teaniasis: Crushed of fresh seeds is taken orally ${ }^{[25,29]}$. Blood Dysentery: 4 gm fresh seed are crushed and has to be boiled in 3 cup of water until it comes to 1 cup then filtered it and the decoction taken twice a day as a remedy against blood dysentery ${ }^{[31,12]}$. Toothache: Equal amount of root powder and dry nut powder are to fry in the pots and make ash out of it. Then the ash may be used for brushing the teeth as a remedy against toothache ${ }^{[29]}$. Sore: Fruit has to be dried in open sunlight and to make dry powder out of it. Then the powder applied on the affected area ${ }^{[23]}$.

Blood pressure and Dysentery: Extract obtained from root is taken internally ${ }^{[28]}$.

Dysentery: Dried rhizome powder mixed with water as used

Shapla | Nymphaea nouchali Burm. f. |
| :---: |
| (Nymphaeaceae) |$\quad$ Herb $\quad$ Rhizom, Leaf for

## for dysentery ${ }^{[17]}$. Burning spot: Paste of leaves is used to re-

 move burning spot ${ }^{[25]}$.Blood pressure: Whole leaves cooked and eaten in high blood pressure ${ }^{[23]}$. Abortion: Paste obtained from root bark is taken orally ${ }^{[11]}$. Fever and abdomen pain: Extract obtained from root is taken orally ${ }^{[20]}$. Rheumatism: Oil obtained from seed is taken ${ }^{[28]}$. Diabetes: Leaves are dried on heat and if taken with rice regularly, help in controlling diabetes ${ }^{[12]}$. Cold \& Cough: Leaf extract is taken internally ${ }^{[26]}$.

Chronic fever: Leaves juice mixed with honey is orally in chronic fever ${ }^{[11]}$. Round and thread-worms: Root juice is taken orally ${ }^{[5]}$. Rheumatic fever: Juice obtaine from bark is
 [23].

Coughs, colds, fever and bronchitis: The leaves juice is taken internally ${ }^{[23]}$.
Loose motion, Dysentery and Stomach pain: Whole plant paste is taken internally ${ }^{[17]}$. Tuberculosis: Whole plant juice is taken internally ${ }^{[20]}$.
Diabetes: Leaf juice is taken internally ${ }^{[19]}$. Bronchitis: Oil obtained from leaf mixed with honey is taken internally ${ }^{[10]}$. Cold \& Cough: Dry leafs beady is use to smocking for few times to cure cough caused cold ${ }^{[17]}$.
Hypertension: Juice obtained from leaf is taken internally ${ }^{[12]}$. Fever and Vomiting: Juice obtained from crushed leaf juice mixed with water is taken orally ${ }^{[26]}$.
Fever: Ripe fruit pulp is taken internally ${ }^{[4]}$. Gastritis: 200 gm dry seed powder is boiled with 3 cups of water till to reduce 2 cups and then taken orally twice daily for 7-9 days ${ }^{[25]}$. Blood Dysentery: Leaf juice is taken orally ${ }^{[21]}$. Mouth disease: Boiled decoction of stem and bark is administered thrice for 5 days to prevent mouth disease ${ }^{[28]}$.
Dropsy: Leaf decoction is taken internally ${ }^{[12]}$. Ringworm: Green fruit paste is taken orally ${ }^{[19]}$.
Dysentery and Diarrhea: Juice obtained from leaf is taken ${ }^{[21]}$. Bronchitis: Juice obtained from crushed leaf mixed with water is applied internally ${ }^{[24]}$. Bleeding: Paste of crushed leaf is taken externally ${ }^{[29]}$.
Weakness: Juice obtained from petiole mixed with sugar is taken orally ${ }^{[26]}$. Stomach pain: Paste of seed mixed with water is applied internally ${ }^{[31]}$.


Figure 1. Investigated plant habit in the study area


Figure 2. Recorded plant parts used as medicine


Figure 3. Investigated dominant diseases in the study area

## 4. Conclusions

The survey has recorded 66 categories of ailments of 111 medicinal species belonging to 55 families were recorded in the study area. Rural community's practitioners and older people of Rajshahi utilize a number of plant species grown around their homes for several medicinal uses. However, the younger generation by ignoring their ancestral traditional medicine is inclining towards the allopathic medicine. Since, several bioactive compounds are being extracted from traditional medicinal plants; they are in great demand in pharmaceutical industries. The photochemical an analysis and pharmacological investigations
of traditional medicinally important plants by taking in view their proper conservation too, would help in developing novel drugs to treat ailments. The investigation also recorded important medicinal plants and how to use them to care for and treat various diseases.

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[^0]:    *Corresponding Author:
    A.H.M. Mahbubur Rahman,

    Plant Taxonomy Laboratory, Department of Botany, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi-6205, Bangladesh;
    Email: drrahmanahmm@ru.ac.bd

