

Important Medicinal Plants of Mount Abu and Need for their Conservation

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Mount Abu is a famous hill station of Western India. It's dense vegetation harbours a number of plants of medicinal importance particularly in Ayurveda. In the present paper an account of pharmaceutically important medicinal plants of Mt. Abu have been given alongwith observations on the problem and need for their conservation have been recorded.

Mount Abu, which lies between 24° 43'N and 72° 38' to 72° 53'E along the South-West extremity of the Aravalli, is a famous health-resort of western India. It lies on the southern part of Sirohi district in Rajasthan bordering Gujarat State. The main plateau (1200 m) is surrounded by forests from all sides with a few exposed tops, Gurushikhar (1722m) being the highest point. The slopes and base (foot hills) including the plateau

are covered with mixed deciduous forest, sprinkled with evergreen species. However, the forests in the area have denuded considerably. Floristically the area is well explored by several workers like Ahaluwalia (1952), Bhandari and Mehta (1978), Chavan *et al.* (1960, 1967) Gupta and Saxena (1968), Jain (1961, 1967), Kanodia *et al.* (1961, 1962, 1966) Macadam (1890), Mahabale (1946), Mathur (1960, 1964), McCann (1942, 1943), Raizada (1954) etc. Medico-botanically the area is not well explored. The Regional Research Institute (Ay.), Jaipur has conducted a medico-botanical survey of the area covering various aspects. In the present paper an attempt has been made to present an account of some pharmaceutically important medicinal plants and also the problem of their conservation in the area discussed.

The topographical, climatic and geographical features of Mt. Abu, which is the highest point between the Himalayas

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