

MEDICINAL PTERIDOPHYTES OF KUMAON AND GARHWAL (U.P. HILLS)

R.N. Tewari¹ and G. Pandey²

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The graceful appearance of ferns and fern allies (lower pteridophytes) catches eyes of plant explorers specially in the Himalayan region where the pteridophytic flora is much richer as compared to the rest of the country by virtue of varied topography, climate, soil and vegetation. Kumaon and Garhwal hills jointly constitute the U.P. Himalaya due to similar geographical, geophysical and climatic conditions. There has been very little systematic work on pteridophytes of U.P. Himalaya, as a whole, after Duthie (1906). During the course of survey of medicinal plants of the eight hilly districts of U.P., since 1969, attempts were made to collect and study the pteridophytic specimen alongwith the constituents of angiospermic and gymnospermic flora from different localities in between 500 m. to 4000 m.a.s.l.

ferns and fern allies collected from the area alongwith the other records/information which is found scattered in the literature with a view to attract the attention of researchers to look deep in to this group of plants for finding out solution of health problems of mankind vis-a-vis controversial drugs, drugs with lost botanical identity and selecting new drug resources by phytochemical, pharmacological and clinical investigation. Localities, ecological notes and medicinal properties of these plants have been described in this paper.

Present work is an enumeration of

1. Assistant Research Officer (Botany)

2. R.O. Incharge

IIADR, Tarikhet, (Dist.) Almora.