A Study of Ethno-Medicines in Assam: A General Perspective

K.C. Mahanta

Department of Anthropology, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh 786 004, Assam, India


ABSTRACT Ever since proto-historic times of Bhagadatta of Mahabharata fame, Assam as being associated with Mother Goddess Kamakhya of Kamrup, has been noted as the land of ethno-medicines both herbal and magico-religious. There has grown up since ancient times a class of traditional folk medicine-practitioners who besides relying upon certain occult phenomena deal with various plants ingredients for preparing herbal medicines for therapeutic use. Common Assamese village folks, by and large, through observation and practice, learn the medicinal value and property of various herbs growing wild in the wasteland in the habitational neighbourhood.