

## Book Review

**Ethnobotany of the Kondh, Poraja, Gadaba and Bonda of the Koraput region of Odisha, India** by Dr. Merlien Franco and Dr. D. Narasimhan, Published by D. K. Printworld (P) Ltd., F-395, Sudarshan Park, New Delhi-110015; 2012, Hard bound, pp xiii+254 including 48 coloured plates, Price Rs. 1250, US \$ 50.

Ethnobotany is the science of survival for mankind and had played fundamental role in all primitive/ancient societies and to the operation of all ecosystems. In modern societies, ethnobotany is playing key role in new drug development, conservation, search of new food crop and so on. In such circumstances, the present book is relevant and useful.

The book under review has been presented in seven chapters in a coherent sequence. The book starts with introduction about ethnobotany and its scope. In next chapter, information on study area, tribal population, culture, social structure and linguistic affinities has been given in detail. The chapter three, i.e. enumeration of ethnobotanical plants includes 212 species which are used by different tribes of Koraput region of Orissa. The correct botanical name with authority of each species is mentioned with local names/tribal names, ethnic use for different tribes and field collection number. The complete information about useful parts, economic use/remedy preparation has been mentioned. About 50 quality photographs of plants with botanical names and indigenous use are given, certainly it will aid in identification of plants. On the ethnotaxonomy of plants a chapter is dedicated. In next chapter, the ethnobotanical concept of origin of knowledge, transmission, disease diagnosis and healing practices of tribes of Koraput region is written in very interesting manner. This

book has also included a chapter on forests and non-timber forest products. The chapter seven is dedicated to agro-biodiversity, it includes tribal land management practices like, terrace cultivation, shifting cultivation, crop rotation and major crops with their landraces. In the last chapter, under Indigenous technologies some unique tribal technologies of liquor preparation, oil extraction and beverage preparation, have been described in details. The book includes 32 tables, an excellent compilation of information is provided in tabular form. The table no. 15, 17, 19, 21 provide list of ailments with medicinal plants used in treatment by *Kondh*, *Poraja*, *Gadaba* and *Bonda* tribes, respectively.

Apart from plant photographs, photographs of tribal people, cultural practices, tribal market, wedding affair, landscape, sacred groves, liquor distillation plant, fishing trap, snacks plates, cultivated lands, indigenous technologies, and different landraces of paddy and minor grains are given. The qualities of photographs are impressive and authors deserve appreciation.

The book is useful for academicians, ethnobotanists, researchers, anthropologists, ecologists, crude drug dealers, pharmacologists, phytochemists, policy makers, entrepreneurs and archaeologists. All in all, it is an interesting book with useful information.

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