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## Traditional practices of the ethnoveterinary plants in the Kaghan Valley, Western Himalayas-Pakistan

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**ABSTRACT. Introduction:** Indigenous people in a far-flung mountainous area without basic facilities, mainly rely on medicinal plants to cope with various veterinary health problems. **Objective:** The present study was carried out to explore the traditional knowledge of ethnoveterinary practices in Kaghan Valley, district Mansehra, Western Himalayas-Pakistan. **Method:** Ethnoveterinary data were collected between February to October 2014 from nine villages of the Kaghan Valley by involving 80 local people include traditional healers using a semi-structured interview. **Results:** A sum of 41 plant taxa of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants was documented for treating livestock ailments. Out of which, herbaceous plants were recorded with high percentage (27 species, 65.8 %). Most of the species were used to treat gastrointestinal diseases (12 taxa), followed by health improvement (7 taxa). The widely used part of plants for livestock ailments was the whole plant (9 species) followed by leaves (7 species), and preparation were paste (18 species) followed by powder with 10 species. The highest used values were recorded for *Arisaema costatum* (0.82), *Primula denticulata* (0.76), and high relative frequency citations for *Berberis lyceum* and *Dryopteris ramosa* with 0.37 each. Among the plant species *Skimmia laureola*, *Thymus linearis* and *Phytolacca latbenia* were among the taxa with cent fidelity level. **Conclusion:** The flora used in traditional remedies of the valley was found mostly endemic due to excessive utilization. Thus, further chemical investigation, better utilization and conservation of indigenous use of the reported species should be considered for future work.

**Key words:** traditional knowledge; livestock ailments; medicinal plants; Kaghan Valley.

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Plants have been used throughout human evolution for different purposes. The ethnoveterinary covers the utilization of plants by humans to prevent, control, and cure cattle's ailments. The subject of Ethnoveterinary botany

(EVB) or Ethnoveterinary Medicine (EVM) deals with all the traditional techniques applied by humans not only to control the common diseases of domestic animals but also to improve the breeding practices in them (Guzman, 2015).

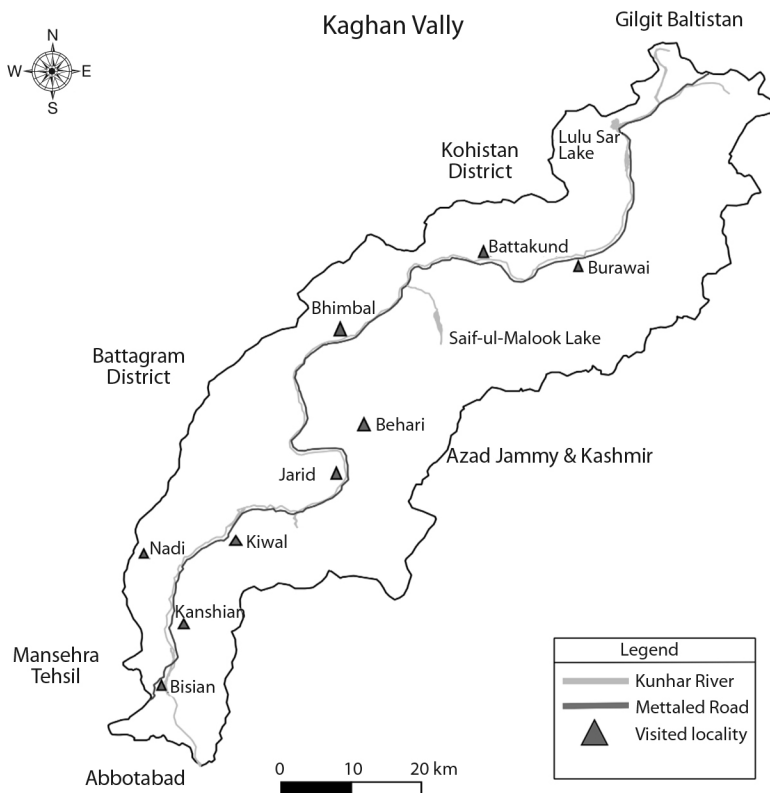
The dwellers of remote and mountainous territories preferred ethnoveterinary medicinal plants for the health issues of their livestock (Mathias, 2001). Cattles are one of the primary income sources in the mountain communities and are considered experts in animal rearing, pastoralism, and animal husbandry (Butzer, 1988). The interaction of indigenous plants and domestic animals plays a key role in the subsistence of far-flung human communities providing a wide range of dairy products (Gordon, 2000). Ample literature found on uses of plants by humans such as wild fruit, wild vegetable, fuelwood, ethnomedicine, thatching, timber, etc. The traditional ethnoveterinary knowledge got scientific attention for two decades and reported worldwide, for instance, in East Africa (Dharani et al., 2015), sub-Saharan Africa (Toyang, Wanyama, Nuwanyakpa, & Diango, 2007), Nigeria (Chafe, Musa, & Dogara, 2008), Zimbabwe (Matekai & Bwakura, 2004), Ethiopia (Yineger, Kelbessa, Bekele, & Lulekal, 2007), Uganda (Tabuti, Dhillon, & Lye, 2003), Cameroon (Nfi et al., 2001), Canada (Lans, Turner, Khan, Brauer, & Boepple, 2007), India (Usha, Rajasekaran, & Siva, 2016), Europe (Mayer, Vogl, Amorena, Hamburger, & Walkenhorst, 2014), etc. In Pakistan, few and fragmented literature are present from different parts of the country such as Greater Cholisthan desert (Khan, 2009), Southern Punjab (Jabbar, Raza, Iqbal, & Khan, 2006).

About 258 650 species of higher plants have been reported worldwide, and among them, more than 10 % of plants are used for the cure of various diseases as a community scale (Christenhusz & Byng, 2016). Based on traditional knowledge along with many known drugs (e.g., reserpine, tubocurarine, morphine, and aspirin, etc.), new plants are being studied for their medicinal uses (Rahman et al., 2018). Mountainous communities, particularly of the developing countries, are considered deprived and poorest due to the absence of basic facilities of life. The Northern part of Pakistan is mountainous and encompasses a vast population with no or poor basic facilities. These people endeavor to fulfill all their

necessities from mountain agriculture, animal husbandry, medicinal plants, and forest resources (Kiran, Jean-Yves, & Brigitte, 2011). Domestic animals (goats, sheep, and cows of different varieties) are the major source of income and dairy products for the poor community of the Kaghan Valley. The cultivation of medicinally important plants is limited by the noteworthy deficiency of accessible data on the spread and management of significant species limits (Abbasi et al., 2013). Allopathic drugs for cattle are challenging to access and afford for the people of remote and rural areas of Pakistan (Shinwari, 2010). As a result, the local people highly depend on the herbal remedy to treat many acute and chronic diseases (Abbasi, Khan, Alam, Khan, & Abbasi, 2017). The present work was based on the field works and aimed to document the medicinal plants used in veterinary diseases. The major aim of this study was to make discussion and keeping given limitation in the knowledge in the selected localities; this research was carried out to gather more vital information about ethnoveterinary plants in the Kaghan Valley, Western Himalayas-Pakistan.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Study area:** Kaghan Valley is situated between (34° 14'-35° 11' N & 72° 49' - 74° 08' E), lies under the administration of District Mansehra, Pakistan. It is the catchment area of River Kunhar, covering an area of 1 627 km<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 1). The valley is bounded by Azad Jammu and Kashmir from East and South direction, West by Allai valley, North by Chillas and Gilgit Baltistan. Floristically, the valley falls in the Sino-Japanese region (Takhtajan, 1986). The study area has four ecological zones (temperate, subalpine, alpine, and sub-tropical) with rich forests and high altitudinal mountains of the Himalayan region with averagely 22 °C minimum and 40 °C maximum temperature. (Champion, Seth, & Khattak, 1965; Schickhoff, 1995). The exclusive features of the Kaghan valley are the presence of nomads with a number of herds (Sardar, 2003; Schickhoff,



**Fig. 1.** The study area and visited localities Bank of River Kunhar in Kaghan valley.

1995). The valley is mainly inhabited by the Gujars tribe and Hindko language speakers. It is the famous and common route of nomadic people, and a considerable number of people travel by horses, mules, and donkeys and sometimes by vehicles through the valley as well as stay at high pastures (Siri Payya, Baser, Gitti Das, etc.) in the summer season. During the winter season, they move towards warmer parts of the country like lower Hazara and different parts of the Punjab Province.

**Filed survey and data collection:** Field trips were arranged consecutively in the study area from February to October 2014 for the collection of ethnoveterinary information and documented plants. Nine villages were selected based on unstructured interviews and group discussions for preliminary valley information. Local people include traditional healers

were interviewed directly by semi-structured approach (Martin, 2004). During field trips a total of 80 informants (male and female) between 20-80 years of age were interviewed with inform consents and willing to share their knowledge (Table 1), old people had more information regarding medicinal plants for cattle compared to young people. Socioeconomically, they were farmers, herdsman, and nomads. Questions on the utility of various plants, their part used, type of preparation, ethnoveterinary uses, and route of administration were asked through questionnaires (Martin, 2004). The recorded taxa and their local veterinary remedies were comparatively assessed with available literature of the country, nomenclature mainly based on Flora of Pakistan (Nasir & Ali, 1970-2001) for identification. The botanical names and authorities were confirmed following the Angiosperm

TABLE 1  
Knowledge of ethnoveterinary medicinal plants reported  
by local respondents

Variable	Demographic categories	Number of informants	Percentages
Gender	Male	50	62
	Female	30	38
Experience	Traditional healer	9	11
	Local people	71	89
Age groups	18-40	11	14
	41-60	21	26
	Above 60	48	60
Education	Illiterate	55	69
	Primary	13	16
	Middle	3	4
	Matric and above	9	11

Phylogeny Group IV system (Stevens, 2001), and The Plant List database (TPL, 2013). All the recorded species were properly processed and labeled and submitted to Hazara University, Herbarium.

**Data analysis:** The used value (UVi) was calculated by the formula proposed by (Phillips & Gentry, 1993).

$$UVi = \frac{1}{n} \sum U_i = \frac{ni}{n}$$

$U_i$  is the number of citations by each informant for the specific species “i” and “ni” is used for the total number of informants interviewed for specific plant species “i”. The use value ranges from 0 to 1.

The Relative Frequency of Citations (RFC) index was used to analyze the traditional practices of the ethnoveterinary medicinal plants and the value of each species recorded in the area (Tardío, Pardo de Santayana, & Morales, 2006).

$$RFC = FC/N$$

FC is the number of informants who use plant species traditionally, and N is the total number of informants.

Fidelity level indicates the percentage of informants claiming the use of plant species for the same purpose.

$$FL (\%) = Ip/Iu \times 100$$

$Ip$  is the number of informants who independently suggested the use of a plant species for a particular disease and  $Iu$  is the total number of informants who mentioned the same plant for any disease (Alexiades & Sheldon, 1996).

## RESULTS

**Diversity of ethnoveterinary flora:** Total 41 plant taxa of 39 genera belonging to 30 families were recorded. Out of which, 34 dicots, 4 monocots, 2 ferns, 1 gymnosperm. Family Polygonaceae was the most widely used family (4 species) followed by Poaceae and Lamiaceae (3 species) each, Apiaceae, Brassicaceae and Ranunculaceae with 2 species each and the other remaining 25 families were with one taxa each (Table 2). Herbs were dominant with 26 species followed by shrubs (9 species), trees (4 species) and ferns with 2 species. Total of 41 plant species were used to treat twenty different type of disease, grouped in six main categories, among the plant species maximum number of plant species were used to treat gastrointestinal ailments 12, followed by health improvement 7, dermal problems 6, respiratory disorders 5, urinary tract malfunction and as coolant 1 each (Fig. 2).

**Parts used and drug formulation:** Local community members used 13 different parts of plants either separately or combined for ethnoveterinary ailments. Out of which, whole plant was widely used part 8, following by leaves 7, roots 4, seeds, grains and bark 2 each, flowers, fronds, fruits and stigma with 1 each. In combination, roots & rhizomes and leaves & flowers was the widely used part 2 each, and the other remaining parts with any type of combination were recorded with one part used each. Most of the crude drugs were used in the

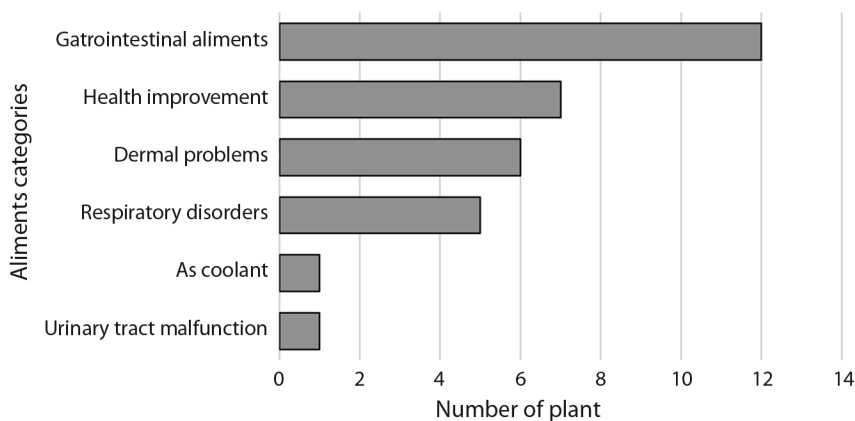


Fig. 2. Major cattle ailments versus the number of plants used.

form of paste (18 species) followed by powder (10 species), decoction (7 species), extract and fried 3 species each (Table 2).

**Quantitative analysis:** The medicinal plant species with greater use values were *Arisaema costatum* having (0.82) followed by *Primula denticulata* (0.76), *Paeonia emodi* and *Geranium wallichianum* (0.74) each, *Bergenia ciliata* (0.71), *Foeniculum vulgare* and *Thymus linearis* (0.65) each. While minimum used values of collected medicinal plants was *Viscum album* (0.14). The RFCs analysis revealed the species with high value were *Arisaema costatum*, *Berberis lyceum*, *Dryopteris ramosa* (0.37) each and *Indigofera heterantha* (0.35). *Skimmia laureola*, *Thymus linearis*, *Phytolacca latbenia*, *Oxalis corniculata*, *Oryza sativa*, *Iris hookeriana*, *Incarvillea emodi* and *Foeniculum vulgare* showed maximum fidelity level (100 %) as shown in Table 1.

## DISCUSSION

In traditional therapies, the parts and mode of preparation has a significance role in the action of medicinally used plant taxa. The root paste of *Aconitum heterophyllum* given to cattle against flu and fever. Decoction of fronds and rhizome of *Adiantum capillus-veneris* is used for treatment of diarrhea. The mashed roots of

*Arisaema costatum* has therapeutic action in fever, flu and weakness (Abbasi et al., 2013). Fresh leaves of *Foeniculum vulgare* are given to cattles to treat abdominal pain, indigestion and diarrhea (Jabbar et al., 2006). Flowers and fruit of the same species have been reported as galactagogues and ruminative (Manganelli, Camangi, & Tomei, 2001). The roots powder of *Geranium wallichianum* is mixed in water and thick paste is given to cattle for better growth. Paste of fruits and flowers of *Heracleum canescens* mixed with flour given to cattle for stomach disorder. *Incarvillea emodi* is effective given in liver inflammation and fever (Ahmad, Ahmad, & Weckerle, 2015). *Oryza sativa* boiled with curd and oil and fed to cattle for weakness and lungs infection (Abbasi et al., 2013). The thick paste of *Phytolacca latbenia* is given to ox and cow for improving health in snowy season. Resin of *Pinus roxburghii* is applied on skin infections. Also, decoction of needles is used to cure cough and asthma. Root powder of *Persicaria bistorta* is applied on injuries and boils. *Primula denticulata* plants infusion used to improve health.

Different workers used different mode of administration to cure the ailments, the use of leaf paste for enteritis, bark powder for helminthic infection, flowers as a tonic and the rind as an astringent and to treat diarrhoea (Karthick-eyan & Gajendran, 2005; Majid et al., 2019).

TABLE 2  
Ethnoveterinary medicinal plants of the Kaghan valley

Botanical name, family, voucher number and local name	Habit	Part(s) used	preparation/administration	UV	FC	RFC	FL %
<i>Aconitum heterophyllum</i> Wall. ex Royle (Ranunculaceae), /GS/SA/H-02/, Patress	Herb	Roots	The paste of dry root powder is mixed with water and given to cattle in paste form for the treatment of flu and fever.	0.41	20	0.3	80
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i> L. (Pteridaceae), /GS/GL/F-19/, Kakao	Herb	Frond & rhizome	The decoction of fronds and rhizome is used for treatment of diarrhoea.	0.18	15	0.25	50
<i>Arisaema costatum</i> (Wall.) Mart. (Araceae), /GS/NA/H-34/, Sarganda	Herb	Root & rhizome	Roots is mashed and given to cattle to relieve fever and flue. It also improved the health of cattle.	0.82	30	0.37	93.75
<i>Berberis lycium</i> Royle (Berberidaceae), /GS/TN/S-01/, Sumbal	Shrub	Bark	For the cure of mouth and foot disease of cattle's, the powder of bark applies on (Locally: Mon-khurr injuries or diseases)	0.58	30	0.37	85
<i>Bergenia ciliata</i> (Haw.) Sternb. (Saxifragaceae), /GS/TN/H-03/, Patpewa	Herb	Roots	Dry root powder mixed with curd is used to treat diarrhoea called "baa" locally.	0.71	10	0.12	66
<i>Brassica rapa</i> L. (Brassicaceae), /GS/PG/H-35/, Sarson	Herb	Seeds	Powder of seeds boiled with milk are given to cattle as a galactagogue.	0.24	20	0.25	71
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> (L.) Pers. (Poaceae), /GS/KA/H-36/, Khabal	Herb	Whole plant	Fresh plant paste is applied on wound for healing.	0.2	12	0.15	60
<i>Daphne mucronata</i> Royle (Thymelaeaceae), /GS/TN/S-04/, Kutlial	Shrub	Young leaves	The paste of young leaves is applied on skin to care rashes and skin allergies.	0.25	18	0.22	72
<i>Diospyros lotus</i> L. (Ebenaceae), /GS/TN/T-05/, Amluk	Tree	Bark	Paste of the bark is applied on blisters and lesions on mouth and foot.	0.31	23	0.28	60
<i>Dryopteris ramosa</i> (C.Hope) C. Chr. (Dryopteridaceae), /GS/TN/F-06/, Kunji	Herb	Fronds	Fronds are fried and given to cattle to treat bloody (amoebic) dysentery.	0.44	30	0.37	90
<i>Erysimum melicentae</i> Dunn (Brassicaceae), /GS/AA/H-21/, Jangli sarson	Herb	Whole plant	Whole plant is used with maize flour as a galactagogue. In summer, its paste is given to cattle and sheep for their better health.	0.31	23	0.28	82
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> Mill. (Apiaceae), /GS/TN/H-07/, Soumf	Herb	Leaves & fruits	Leaves are given to cattle after temperature to improve their taste for fodder; fruits are mixed with water and flour given to cattle to treat abdominal pain.	0.65	32	0.4	68
<i>Geranium wallichianum</i> D. Don ex Sweet (Geraniaceae), /GS/JI/H-29/, Rattan jot	Herb	Rhizome	Rhizome powder is mixed in water and thick paste is given to cattle for better growth.	0.74	15	0.18	68
<i>Heracleum canescens</i> Lindl. (Apiaceae), /GS/MA/H-18/, Dilphaki	Herb	Flowers & fruits	for stomach disorder in castles the paste of flowers and fruits mixed with flour given to cattle	0.26	10	0.12	83
<i>Incarvillea emodi</i> (Royle ex Lindl.) Chatterjee (Bignoniaceae), /GS/AA/H-22/, Jan e adam booti	Herb	Leaves & flowers	Paste of leaves and flowers of the plant is given to cattle for treatment of liver inflammation and fever.	0.48	14	0.17	100



TABLE 2 (Continued)

Botanical name, family, voucher number and local name	Habit	Part(s) used	preparation/administration	UV	FC	RFC	FL %
<i>Indigofera heterantha</i> Brandis (Leguminosae), /GS/PA/S-08/, Kaanthee	Shrub	Root's bark	Powder of root bark or its decoction is given to cattle for abdominal pain.	0.17	28	0.35	73
<i>Iris hookeriana</i> Foster (Iridaceae), /GS/PG/H-41/, Chalundri	Herb	Leaves	Paste of green leaves is given to sheep as a vermifuge.	0.47	22	0.27	100
<i>Isodon rugosus</i> (Wall. ex Benth.) Codd (Lamiaceae), /GS/SA/S-38/, Pisomaar	Shrub	Whole plant	Paste of whole plant applied on goats' skin to get rid of ticks and lice.	0.16	11	0.13	55
<i>Mentha longifolia</i> (L.) L. (Lamiaceae), /GS/MA/H-23/, Safeed podina	Herb	Roots & leaves	Powder of dry leaves and roots is used for the treatment of throat infection locally called "Aphara".	0.56	14	0.17	87.5
<i>Olea europaea</i> subsp. <i>cuspidata</i> (Wall. & G. Don) Cif. (Oleaceae), /GS/NA/T-09/, Kaho	Tree	Seeds	Seeds are boiled in water and the decoction is given for 5-6 days for indigestion.	0.21	10	0.12	40
<i>Oryza sativa</i> L. (Poaceae), /GS/DR/H-24/, Chawal	Herb	Grains	One kg rice grains is boiled with curd and oil and fed to cattle for weakness and lungs infection.	0.51	24	0.3	100
<i>Oxalis corniculata</i> L. (Oxalidaceae), /GS/TN/H-10/, Khatgorora	Herb	Whole plant	Paste is given to cattle for normal evacuation of bowels.	0.21	15	0.18	50
<i>Paeonia emodi</i> Royle (Paeoniaceae), /GS/TN/H-11/, Mamekh	Herb	Roots/tubers	Dry root powder is mixed with water and flour and given to cattle for better health and growth.	0.74	10	0.12	100
<i>Phytolacca lathenia</i> (Moq.) H. Walter (Phytolaccaceae), /GS/TN/H-25/, Lubber	Herb	Whole plant	The thick paste of plant is given to ox and cow for improving health in snowy season.	0.54	22	0.27	100
<i>Pinus roxburghii</i> Sarg. (Pinaceae), /GS/TN/T-12/, Chir	Tree	Resin & needles	Resin is applied on skin infections. Decoction of needles is used to cure cough and asthma.	0.37	8	0.1	57
<i>Persicaria bistorta</i> (L.) Samp. (Polygonaceae), /GS/TN/H-14/, Masloor	Herb	Roots & rhizome	Powder of roots are applied on injuries and boils.	0.5	14	0.17	70
<i>Primula denticulata</i> Sm. (Primulaceae), /GS/NN/H-27/, Ramtootia	Herb	Whole plant	Fresh plant is crushed and placed in water for a week, on rotting given to cattle to improve health.	0.76	23	0.28	95
<i>Punica granatum</i> L. (Lythraceae), /GS/TN/T-13/, Druua	Tree	Fruit coat	Fruit coat is given to cow after birth to maintain internal system.	0.21	20	0.25	50
<i>Ranunculus muricatus</i> L. (Ranunculaceae), /GS/PA/H-28/, Barea	Herb	Whole plant & fruits	Whole plant is crushed and applied on wounds. Powder of fruits (achenae) is used against eczemic infection.	0.32	18	0.22	64
<i>Rumex acetosa</i> L. (Polygonaceae), /GS/JI/H-39/, Khatri	Herb	Leaves	Paste of leaves is given for normal evacuation of bowel.	0.41	12	0.15	60
<i>Rumex dentatus</i> L. (Polygonaceae), /GS/PG/H-30/, Hola	Herb	Leaves	Paste of young green leaves is given for liver inflammation and paste is also applied on skin for ticks and lice.	0.32	26	0.32	86
<i>Rumex hastatus</i> D. Don (Polygonaceae), /GS/TN/H-15/, Khatimal	Herb	Leaves	Young plant paste is given to cattle for cough and <i>aphara</i> (flu, cold and temperature in cattles).	0.56	17	0.21	85
<i>Skimmia lauroleola</i> (DC.) Siebold. & Zucc. ex Walp (Rutaceae), /GS/TN/S-31/, Neer	Shrub	Leaves	Leaves rotted paste is used to treat lungs infection.	0.55	10	0.12	100



TABLE 2 (Continued)

Botanical name, family, voucher number and local name	Habit	Part(s) used	preparation/administration	UV	FC	RFC	FL %
<i>Thymus linearis</i> Benth. (Lamiaceae), /GS/NH/H-40/, Chikar	Herb	Leaves	Decoction of leaves is used for flu locally known as “Malla”.	0.65	35	0.43	100
<i>Triticum aestivum</i> L. (Poaceae), /GS/DR/H-20/, Gandam	Herb	Grains	Grains porridge is given in dysentery and is also used as galactagogue.	0.33	18	0.22	72
<i>Valeriana jatamansi</i> Jones (Caprifoliaceae), /GS/AA/H-32/, Mushkbala	Herb	Whole plant	Extract of fresh whole plant is given for liver and pancreas impairment.	0.47	15	0.22	75
<i>Verbascum thapsus</i> L. (Scrophulariaceae), /GS/PG/H-16/, Gandikan	Herb	Leaves & flowers	Leaves and flowers are heated in oil and are administered to treat severe flu.	0.37	27	0.33	67.5
<i>Viburnum grandiflorum</i> Wall. ex DC. (Adoxaceae), /GS/MT/S-17/, Guch	Shrub	Leaves & buds	Young leaves and buds paste is given against constipation.	0.21	16	0.2	64
<i>Viola pilosa</i> Blume (Violaceae), /GS/JI/H-33/, Thandi jari	Herb	Flowers	Dry flowers soaked in water are given as coolant.	0.56	8	0.1	80
<i>Viscum album</i> L. (Santalaceae), /GS/MA/S-26/, Neelatari	Shrub	Whole plant	Decoction of plant is use as a remedy of body weakness.	0.14	10	0.12	45
<i>Zea mays</i> L. (Poaceae), /GS/TN/S-37/, Makai	Shrub	Sigma	Decoction of corn silk is given for a week for urinary inflammation.	0.35	22	0.27	75

Paste of leaves of *Rumex acetosa* is given orally for normal evacuation of bowel, relieves liver inflammation and to remove ticks and lice. Root decoction is orally administered for foot and mouth infection (Abbasi et al., 2013). However, the Aerial parts are also used for the cure of Scabies. *Skimmia laureola* leaves rotted paste is used to treat lungs infection. Decoction of leaves of *Thymus linearis* is used as for flu locally known as “Malla”. *Triticum aestivum* grains porridge is given in dysentery and is also used and orally administered as galactagogue and reported for same uses by Abbasi et al. (2013). *Valeriana jatamansi* has medicinal action in liver and pancreas impairment. Fresh leaves are used directly or its extract is used, for diarrhea. This plant medicinal use is recently learnt by the locals (Ahmad et al., 2015). *Verbascum thapsus* is reported to be used as leaf ointment for the treatment of rectal prolapse (Manganelli et al., 2001). Leaves and flowers fried in oil given to treat severe flu. Young buds and leaves of *Viburnum grandiflorum* paste is given against constipation and flowers of *Viola pilosa* used as coolant. Decoction of *Viscum album* is use as a remedy of body weakness and decoction of corn silk of *Zea mays* is given for a week for urinary inflammation.

**Novelty of the study:** The current work is the first of its nature in the study area and eleven plant species (*Aconitum heterophyllum*, *Adiantum capillus-veneris*, *Arisaema costatum*, *Dryopteris ramose*, *Incarvillia emodi*, *Indigofera heterantha*, *Iris hookeriana*, *Olea europaea* subsp. *cuspidata*, *Viola pilosa* and *Valeriana jatamansi*) were documented for the first time in Pakistan for their ethnoveterinary practices. These plants were not only different taxonomically but also in ethnoveterinary uses. The ethnoveterinary knowledge diminishes more quickly as compare to the plants important for human health (Farooq et al., 2008; Khan, 2009). The communication disclosed the presence of plant based veterinary knowledge in aged people similar to the studies of Deeba, Muhammad, Iqbal, & Hus-sain (2009); Zia ud Din, Zafar, Khan, Jonsson,

& Muhammad (2010). This pattern of knowledge may be attributed with decrease interest in domestic animals generation by generation (Nfi et al., 2001). The flora used in traditional remedies of the valley was found mostly endemic due to excessive utilization (Majid et al., 2019). Conservation of indigenous use and better utilization of the reported species should be considered for future work.

**Ethical statement:** authors declare that they all agree with this publication and made significant contributions; that there is no conflict of interest of any kind; and that we followed all pertinent ethical and legal procedures and requirements. All financial sources are fully and clearly stated in the acknowledgements section. A signed document has been filed in the journal archives.

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## RESUMEN

**Prácticas tradicionales etnoveterinarias de las plantas en el valle de Kaghan, Himalaya occidental-Pakistán. Introducción:** Los pueblos indígenas de zonas montañosas lejanas sin facilidades básicas dependen principalmente de las plantas medicinales para afrontar problemas de salud de tipo veterinario. **Objetivo:** Explorar el conocimiento tradicional en las prácticas etnoveterinarias en el valle de Kaghan, distrito de Mansehra, Himalaya occidental-Pakistán. **Métodos:** Se recopilaban datos etnoveterinarios mediante una entrevista semiestructurada entre febrero y octubre de 2014 en nueve aldeas del valle de Kaghan, con la participación de 80 habitantes locales, incluidos curanderos tradicionales. **Resultados:** Se documentó un total de 41 taxones de plantas medicinales etnoveterinarias para el tratamiento de enfermedades del ganado. Se registró un alto porcentaje de plantas herbáceas (27 especies, 65.8 %). La mayoría de las especies utilizadas han sido para tratar enfermedades gastrointestinales (12 taxones), y mejora de la salud (7 taxones).

Para el tratamiento de enfermedades del ganado, lo más usual fue utilizar la planta entera (9 especies), seguida de las hojas (7 especies), con preparación en pasta (18 especies) y en polvo (10 especies). Las especies registradas con más uso fueron: *Arisaema costatum* (0.82), *Primula denticulata* (0.76) y *Berberis lyceum* y *Dryopteris ramosa* con la misma alta frecuencia relativa (0.37 cada una). Las especies *Skimmia laureola*, *Thymus linearis* y *Phytolacca latbenia* se reportaron entre los taxones con mayor nivel de fidelidad porcentual. **Conclusión:** La flora utilizada en los remedios tradicionales del valle de Kaghan fue mayoritariamente endémica. Se propone para trabajos futuros mayor investigación química, y mayor utilización y conservación en las especies de plantas reportadas por los indígenas.

**Palabras clave:** conocimiento tradicional; dolencias del ganado; plantas medicinales; Valle de Kaghan.

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