

systems reached to them. As the diseases and treatment measures are having parallel relationship with eco-system and physical environment and hence local health traditions of Andaman & Nicobar Islands do not differ much more to that of main-land Indian perspective. The medicinal plants of this particular region play a pivotal role in its health care system.

The health care practice among the tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is itself a subject of scientific research. Each and every branch of science is trying to explore and enhance their knowledge as per their requirement based upon their own basic principles to enrich the science.

However, understanding of local health tradition in these Islands have limited to ethno-botanical study i.e. collection of plant species; its taxonomical identification and preservation by herbarium. Hence, it is really a need of time to explore the traditional practices by its all aspects at once i.e. perception of diseases at community level, preparation of medicines, application procedures, dosages and relevant practices regarding healing as well as prevention of diseases. On counterpart due to activities like destruction of natural habitat, over exploitation, deforestation, intensified agro-horticultural practices, introduction of exotic species, pollution and devastating effect of Tsunami on traditional landscapes and lives; day by date knowledge about ethno-medical practices is alarmingly decreasing.

It is established fact that these Islands have good ethno-medical tradition due to enormous support floral diversity. It is observed that maximum i.e. 86% of the total geographical area of these Islands is under protected reserve forest, with very rich bio-diversity. It is also noticed that Phyto-geographical composition of Andaman group is considerably distinct from that of Nicobar group islands, as evidenced from the presence of only 28% of flora common to both islands group. The floristic composition of Andaman Islands shows affinities towards Myanmar flora and mainland India whereas Nicobar Islands show affinity towards Sunda Bio-geographical zone. Near about 200-220 plants specimens have identified as endemic to these islands and among them