



BOOK REVIEW

Ethnobotany of the Jarawa tribe of Andaman Islands, India (With an appendix on typifications and taxonomic notes), 2020, Tapas Chakravorty, Vinod Maina & M. Chennakesavulu Naik, published by Dr Tapas Chakravorty, 4- Botanic Garden Lane, Howrah-711103 (WB), ISBN: 978-93-5416-617-4, pp. lxxii +128, 15 x 22 cm, Soft Bound, (Price Rs.1300/-)

Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been among the top most and significant mega diversity regions in the Indian subcontinent with extremely rich ethnic and plant wealth. The indigenous inhabitants of Andaman & Nicobar Islands are among the most ancient human communities found all over the world. Tribal communities inhabiting the Andaman group of Islands, viz. Great Andamanese, Onges, Sentinelese and Jarawas belong to the Negrito stock whereas the tribes inhabiting in the Nicobar group of Islands viz.: Nicobarese and Shompens belong to the South-East Asian Mongoloid stock. Till few decades back Jarawas were hostile and had distrust towards the Indian settlers in the Andaman Islands for over a century. Only recently they became friendly with the outside communities and settlers. This attempt has been the very first effort by authors to bring out a book on extensive ethnobotanical studies about the Jarawa tribe in Andaman Islands. Dr Tapas Chakravorty, senior author of this publication is a well acclaimed taxonomist and ethnobotanist. He had botanically and ethnobotanically explored the Andaman & Nicobar Islands under various programmes during his long work tenures at Botanical Survey of India, Andaman & Nicobar Regional Centre, Port Blair. The other authors also possess vast field experience and expertise.

This publication provides a comprehensive account of the ethnobotanical studies on the Jarawa tribe in Andaman Islands. The contents of the book have been divided in 11 main chapters, viz. Introduction; Aborigine tribes and settlers; Historical Notes; Review of Literature; Background of present studies; Materials and Methods and Jarawa tribe. Chapter on Jarawa tribe discusses about the

origin, language, social aspects, age sex ratio, movement, dietary pattern and storage of food, hygienic practices, common diseases and morbidity, cosmology and ethnobotany followed by remaining three chapters on Impact of human interference; concluding remarks; Appendix-Typifications and taxonomic notes on plant species followed by the Tables and References. The book has been well illustrated with 65 coloured figures/photographs of the plant species and Jarawas as well as six tables making it more informative and interesting for the prospective readers.

Authors have concluded that Andaman & Nicobar Islands have a highly fragile ecosystem with indigenous communities and unplanned developmental activities including tourism are likely to have serious loss of biodiversity as well as endanger the cultural practices of all indigenous communities. Therefore, authors advocated for the sustainable development in these islands. This publication will be extremely beneficial for the research scholars, teachers and researchers as well as the policy makers. Taking into account the overall contents of the book, it is a must for the personal bookshelf as well as libraries of the colleges and universities, botanical institutions and other research organizations.

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