

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**PLANT DIVERSITY OF RANGO FOREST OF KALIMPONG DISTRICT AT
INDIA-BHUTAN BORDER, WITH REFERENCE TO MEDICINAL
IMPORTANCE**

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***Abstract:** Knowledge about the medicinal plants is important to know the natural resources of a particular geographic area. The forests at the foothills of Eastern Himalaya have rich diversity of medicinal plants. Keeping this in view, a survey on terrestrial plants with medicinal and economic importance was conducted in Rango Forest of Kalimpong district of West Bengal, situated at the bank of river Jaldhaka at the border of India and Bhutan. A total of 123 plants species of medicinal importance were enumerated by field study during autumn season of 2022. Among the recorded species, 109 were flowering plants (51 families) and remaining 11 were pteridophytes (7 families). We had recorded 53 herbaceous species, along with 19 shrubs, 43 tree members and 7 species of epiphytes with traditional medicinal uses by local people. During the study, information about medicinal uses of the plants were collected from local people. The study will provide valuable information about plant resources with medicinal importance from the study area for the first time.*

Key words: Medicinal plant diversity, Rango Forest, India Bhutan Border.