Full Length Article



# **Documentation of Ethnoveterinary Practices Used for Treatment of Different Ailments in a Selected Hilly Area of Pakistan**

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## ABSTRACT

In the present study, the in vogue ethnoveterinary practices in the Mansehra District of Pakistan were documented. Results revealed that 35 plant species representing 25 families were used in the area to treat the ailing animals. Most frequently used plants were from the families Apiaceae, Brassicaceae, Compositae, Pinaceae, Poaceae and Verbenaceae families. Other commonly used ingredients of ethnoveterinary prescriptions were; used engine oil, butter, mineral salt, lasi, kafor, yogurt, milk and buffalo's urine. The most frequent ethnoveterinary practices were recorded for the treatment of gastrointestinal helminthiasis, tick and lice infestation, myiasis, mange and pneumonia. © 2010 Friends Science Publishers

Key Words: Ethnoveterinary; Livestock; Plant; Documentation; Mansehra

# **INTRODUCTION**

Since cave age humans are treating their animals using traditional veterinary medicine, but this knowledge was only recorded properly in recent times. The descriptive reports on observation and experiences of traditional animal health knowledge published before 1950 had never clearly used any technical term to define this type of knowledge, which was later termed as 'ethnoveterinary' by McCorkle (1986). Ethnoveterinary medicine (EVM) comprises all the approaches applied by humans to improve their livestock production, like breeding practices, animal feed technology, ritualism, herbalism, spiritualism and ethno epidemiological knowledge on livestock diseases. Ethno-veterinary knowledge (EVK) reflects people's experience in life and is believed to be the property of specific community/family. EVK is stored in the memory of people and passed on from generation to generation verbally (Wanzala et al., 2005). Farmers and pastoralists have a long history of the use of traditional medicines and they have deep knowledge of their environment (Nfi et al., 2001). Medicinal plants for several centuries have been widely used for treatment of diseases. Even today, in African countries 95% of traditional medical preparations are of plant origin (Hoareau & DaSilva, 1999; Giday et al., 2003; Ole-Miaron, 2003).

To date, numerous reports are available on medicinal activity of plants (Akhtar *et al.*, 2000). Treatment of gastrointestinal helminthiasis, fever, various nervous problems, rheumatism, skin diseases, chronic fever, cough,

eczema and dyspepsia has been reported in literature with plants like; Caesalpinia crista, Saussurea lappa, Melia azedarach, Trachelospermum jasminoides, Morringa oleifera, Butea frondosa etc., (Anonymous, 1956; Chopra, 1956; Ikram & Hussain, 1978). Plants like; Peganum harmala (Said, 1969), Mallotus phillippinensis (Ikram & Hussain, 1978; Akhtar & Ahmad, 1992), Punica granatum (Akhtar & Riffat, 1985), Lagenaria siceraria (Awan, 1981), Adhatoda vesica (Lateef et al., 2003) and many others are well known for their anthelmintic activity (for review see; Nadkarni, 1954; Chopra et al., 1956; Said, 1969; Akhtar et al., 2000). Similarly a number of plants have been identified for having acaricidal activity (Sutherst et al., 1982; Hassan et al., 1994; Cruz-Vazquez & Ruvalcaba, 2000; Webb & David, 2002; Muro et al., 2003). Use of different medicinal plants for treatment of various ailments of animals is an integral part of EVM.

Majority of Pakistani livestock farmers are poor and own 5-6 animals per family (Anonymous, 2006). Most of these farmers can not afford modern allopathic drugs due to economic constrains, which ultimately leads to poor livestock production and economic losses due to poor health of animals. Under such circumstances, EVM can be promoted as an alternative of modern drugs and it will help in poverty alleviation by empowering the people to use their own resources for treatment of their livestock. Livestock farmers all over the Pakistan can draw on over 4000 years of knowledge and experience. But this needs to be documented on priority basis as this valuable knowledge is disappearing,

To cite this paper: Sindhu, Z.U.D., Z. Iqbal, M.N. Khan, N.N. Jonsson and M. Siddique, 2010. Documentation of ethno-veterinary practices used for treatment of different ailments in selected a hilly area of Pakistan, 201x. *Int. J. Agric. Biol.*, 12: 353–358

because of rapid socio-economic and ecological changes and also as a result of the loss of cultural heritage under the guise of civilization (McCorkle & Mathias-Mundy, 1992; Nfi *et al.*, 2001). Some workers have documented the indigenous ethnoveterinary practices in different parts of Pakistan (Jabbar *et al.*, 2006; Tabassam *et al.*, 2006; Farooq *et al.*, 2007; Dilshad *et al.*, 2008), but still documentation is required to be done in many parts of the country to conserve. Objective of this study was to document the use of indigenous plants with particular reference to control of parasites in some hilly areas of Pakistan.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Study area:** Natural features of Pakistan range from the sandy beaches and mangrove swamps in south to icy peaks of Himalaya and other mountains in the north; allowing different landscapes and climates with variety of flora and fana. This study was conducted in the District Mansehra of North-West Frontier Province of Pakistan (Hilly areas). Documentation was done in three regions of this district i.e., Mansehra, Balakot and the Kaghan Valley. Mansehra is located at 34°-12' and 35°-50' and 47°-07' longitude. It is home to different ethnic groups like; Afghans, Pashtuns, Turks, Hazaras, Kashmiris, Hindko, Tanolis, Rajputs, Arians etc. Leading distinctive features of District Mansehra are its mountain ranges, natural lakes and the valleys.

**Data collection:** Officials of the livestock research station Jabbah, Mansehra were contacted for guidance. For identification of key respondents a reconnaissance survey-a small-scale rural rapidappraisal (RRA) phase was conducted (Jabbar *et al.*, 2006). A list of veterinarians, local healers and farmers, identified by RRA was prepared. For documentation of EVM, a multidisciplinary team was formed comprising of interviewer, veterinary officer from local livestock research station and guide from local area.

Data was obtained in the following areas: (a) use of plants for EVM especially for control of insects/parasites, (b) source of plant material, part of the plant used, the method of medicinal preparation and route of administration (c) persons having knowledge of EVM. Eighty seven respondents including traditional veterinary healers, veterinary officers and veterinary assistants participated in the study and reported 61 indigenous recipes (Table I). Botanical samples of the plants, mentioned by the respondents were collected from field and identified by a botanist in University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan.

#### RESULTS

Bleeding, foot and mouth disease, gastrointestinal helminthiasis, mange, myiasis, pain, pediculosis, pneumonia, tick infestation and uterine prolapse were ten common conditions/ailments of animals for which traditional prescriptions are usually being used in the area. Recorded data led to the documentation of 35 plant species representing 25 families (Table II). The most frequently reported (>15 times) plants represented Apiaceae, Brassicaceae, Compositae, Pinaceae, Poaceae and Verbenaceae families. Materials other than plants including used engine oil, butter, mineral salt, lasi, kafor, yogurt, milk, buffalo's urine were used either independently or in combinations.

The most frequently reported ( $\geq 10$  times) plant species used for ethnovetrinary practices were *Allium sativum*, *Trachyspermum ammi* (L.) Sprague, *Brassica campestris*, *Eclipta prostrate*, *Cedrus deodara*, *Zea mays*, *Vitex negundo*, *Prunus persica*, *Daphne mucronata* and *Zingiber zerumbet*. Seeds, leaves, root, bark, bulb, oil extract, fruit and rhizome were the frequently used parts of the plants. Ethnoveterinary prescriptions were commonly prepared by grinding, crushing, preparing the decoction in water or any vegetable oil (preferably *Brassica campestris* oil) and mixing the ingredients as such. The commonly used modes of administration were feeding/drenching and topical application.

# DISCUSSION

Most of the people using the plant species to treat the animals got this knowledge from their forefathers, with exception of few, who learned it from others or by hit and trial method. The people who participated in this study were smallholders and could not afford modern drugs. So it was easy for them to get plants from local area and to treat their livestock with home made recipes. That is why, due to poor purchasing power of farmers its thought that integration of scientifically validated ethnoveterinary practices in livestock farming system in rural areas may help in poverty alleviation and increasing the livestock production (Iqbal et al., 2005; Mathias, 2007). During the present study it has been observed that farmers prefer to collect the required plant directly from field, depending upon season and availability of plant. It has also been observed that some plants are very popular in particular areas e.g., trees of C. deodara are abundant. So the farmers can easily collect the wood to extract oil, which is being used for treatment of tick infestation, mange and gastrointestinal helminthiasis.

The communities included in the present study were traditionally rural in nature. Therefore, the farmers were quite rich in the knowledge of diversity of EVPs for animal health and production. Use of different plants for management of ecto- and endo-parasites has been documented earlier in different parts of world (Lans & Brown, 1998; Adewunmi *et al.*, 200; Ch *et al.*, 2006) but in Pakistan only few reports are available on documentation of EVPs (Jabbar *et al.*, 2006; Farooq *et al.*, 2007). Thus the present study was first of its kind in which EVPs for control of parasites in hilly areas of Pakistan.

The mode of preparation of EVM depends on active ingredient to be extracted, route of administration and the medical intent (prophylaxis or therapy) (McCorkle & Mathias-Mundy, 1992). Part of the plant to be used, depends

Vernacular name of plant	Scientific name	Disease treated	Animals	Part used	Preparation and administration	Farmers using the EVPs (%)
Ghnola, ghanorr		Myiasis	Sheep	Root	Ground the dried root in fine powder; put two pinches in wound	6
_ada		Gastrointestinal helminthiasis	Cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo	Root	Prepare the decoction of root; batter the flour with decoction; give 70	6
ada		Tick infestation	Cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo	Root	g per oz Prepare the decoction of root; batter the flour with decoction; give 70 g per oz	9
/luskk kafor		Myiasis	Cattle, buffalo, sheep, dog		Wet one tablet in water and then put in wound	14
awa (kerwi erson)	Alhagi maurorum	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis	Sheep	Seed	Grind and mix 50 g of jawan in 250 ml of lasi; dmimnister per oz	6
Garlic	Allium sativum	Tick infestation	Cattle, buffalo	Bulb	Administer 125 g pounded bulb per oz	14
arlic	A. sativum	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis	Sheep, cattle, buffalo	Bulb	Ground 250 g garlic bulb in 250 ml of lasi; administer per oz (half dose for sheep)	
Bari allaiche	Amomum subulatum	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis	Sheep	Fruit	Grind one dried fruit into fine powder and administer orally	10
oro ganda	Arisaema flavum	Myiasis	Cattle, buffalo, sheep	Root	Ground the dried root into fine powder; put two pinches of powder in open wound	6
Jara	Arundo donax L.	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis	Sheep	Leaf	Pound a hand full of leaves in pestle and mortar; soak in 250 ml water for 24 h; administer the water per oz	6
Sumbal	Berberis lycium	Myiasis	Cattle, buffalo,	Root	Grind the dried root into fine powder; put 5 g in wound	6
Bhat pewa	L. Bergenia ciliate	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis	sheep Sheep	Leaf	Feed about 250 g per oz	9
Austard oil	Brassica campestris	Pediculosis	Cattle, buffalo	Oil	Mix 1 l oil with 4 kg yogurt and administer per oz	6
Austard oil	B. campestris	Pediculosis	Cattle, buffalo	Oil	Mix the mustard oil with milk and butter (1 kg each) and administer per oz	6
/ustard oil	B. campestris	Gastrointestinal helminthiaisis	Buffalo	Oil	Administer 1 lit mustard oil per oz	6
fustard oil	B. campestris	Pediculosis	Cattle, buffalo	Oil	Add some mineral salt in mustard oil and topically apply on affected area	6
fustard oil	B. campestris	Mange	Cattle, buffalo, sheep	Oil	Topical application of oil	6
/ustard oil	B. campestris	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis	Cattle, buffalo	Oil	Administer 2 table spoons of oil to calf just after birth	6
Bhang	Cannabis sativa	Pediculosis, tick infestation	Cattle, buffalo	Leaf	Grind 2 kg leaf with 1 kg mineral salt; burn it in tandoor and divide in 14 equal parts; administer per oz, twice a week	6
Bhang	C. sativa	Uterine prolapse after birth	Cattle, buffalo	Leaf	Grind 50 g leaf in 250 ml of water and administer per oz after parturition	6
Dear	Cedrus deodara	Protection of stored products		Wood	Place a small piece of wood in stored grains	6
.00	C. deodara	1	Cattle, buffalo, sheep	Wood oil	Topical application on affected area	41
.00	C. deodara	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis	Cattle, buffalo, sheep	Wood oil	Administer 2 table spoon per oz	6
.00	C. deodara	Pediculosis	-	Wood oil	Mix the wood oil in equal quantity of buffalo's urine; apply topically	6
.00	C. deodara	Mosquito repellent	Human		Topical application of wood oil	6
00	C. deodara	fungal growth	Cattle, buffalo, sheep	Wood oil	Topical application on affected area	6
oo lute lal	C. deodara Daphne	Mange Pediculosis	Sheep Cattle, buffalo,		Mix 2 table spoons of wood oil in 250 g yogurt and administer per oz Ground the fresh leaves in pestle and mortar; topically apply the	6 9
Lute lal	mucronata D. mucronata	Gastrointestinal	human Sheep	Leaf	water extracts from leaves during pounding Grind 250 g leaves after adding 250 ml of water; filter and administer	6
Cnis	Dioscorea	helminthiasis Myiasis	Cattle, buffalo,	Arial	per oz Ground the dried plant into fine powder; put two pinches of powder	6
hangri	deltoida Eclipta prostrate	Pneumonia	sheep Sheep	parts Arial	in open wound Prepare a decoction of arial parts and administer 250 ml per oz	23
ling	Linn. Ferula	Gastrointestinal	Sheep, goat	parts Resin	Crush into fine powder and administer about 5 g	6
Dhaman (tree)	assafoetida L. Grewia optiva	helminthiasis Gastrointestinal	Cattle, buffalo,	Bark	Pound the hand full of bark and soak in 250 ml of water; left it	6
Garlic	i. A. sativum	helminthiasis Tick infestation	sheep, goat Cattle, buffalo	i. Bulb	overnight; administer per oz Pound 250gm of garlic bulb to make a paste; mix that paste in corn	14
i. Corn . Red chili i. Mustard oil	ii. Zea mays L. i. Capsicum annum L.	Tick infestation		ii. Seed i. Fruit ii. Oil	flour (whole) and administer per oz Mix red chili, mineral salt and mustard oil (50 g each) and administer per oz	6

# Table I: List of ethnoveterinary practices (EVPs)/prescriptions used by people in hilly area (District Mansehra) for treatment of different ailments/conditions of animals

**Table I: Continued** 

#### **Table I: Continued**

Vernacular	Scientific name	Disease treated	Animals	Part used	Preparation and administration	Farmers	using
name of plant		for				the EVPs (	%)
i. Ajwain	i. Trachyspermum ammi	Pneumonia	Cattle, buffalo		Mix equal quantity of ajwain, saunf, zerra and black salt	9	
ii. Suund	ii. Zingiber zerumbet			ii. Rhizome	(75 g) in 500 g of gur; boil all this in 2 l of milk and		
iii. Sounf	iii. Foeniculum vulgare Mill.			iii. Seed	administer per oz		
iv. Zeera	iv. Cuminum cyminum L.			iv. Seed			
i. Timber	i. Zanthoxylum armatum DC.	Pneumonia	Cattle, sheep	i. arial parts	Boil 25 of ajwain seeds + equal quantity of timber in 1 l of	3	
ii. Ajwain	ii. T. ammi			ii. seed	Lasi; administer per oz		
i. Timber	i. Z. armatum	Tick infestation	Cattle, buffalo	i. Arial parts	Mix equal quantity (50 g) of both plants with mineral salt	6	
ii. Suund	ii. Z. zerumbet			ii. Rhizome	and grind in 200 ml of water; dminister per oz		
i. com	i. Z. mays	Mange	Buffalo	i. seed	Mix equal quantities of mustard oil, gur and corn flour	6	
ii. Mustard oil	ii. B. campestris	U		ii. Oil	(whole) and cook on stove; administer per oz		
Mehndi/heena	Lawsonia inermis	Tick infestation.	Cattle, buffalo,	Leaf	Soak the fresh leaves in water and left over night; feed 10	6	
		pediculosis	sheep		leaves; repeat twice on daily basis		
Mehndi/heena	L. inermis	Tick infestation.	Cattle, buffalo,	Leaf	Grind the dried leaf into fine powder; add water to prepare	6	
		pediculosis	sheep		a paste; topically apply the past on affected area	-	
Memaikh	Paeonia emodi L.	Pain	Sheep, man	Root	Prepare a decoction of leaf and drench per oz	6	
Cheer	Pinus roxburgii	Myiasis	Cattle, buffalo,		Put the small amount (approx. about the size of small	6	
cheer	T unis roxourgu	101 y lubio	sheep	reesin	tablet) of resin in wound	0	
Bankhakri	Podophyllum emodi	Myiasis	Sheep	Arial parts	Ground the arial parts in fine powder; put two pinches in	6	
Dalikliakli	1 бабраушан етоба	Iviyiasis	Sheep	Anaipans	wound	0	
Arro	Prunus persica	Myiasis	Cattle, buffalo,	Loof	Pound the twigs after adding some water; put that water in	14	
Allo	r runus persica	wrytasis	sheep	Leai	wound	14	
Jamal ghota	Ricinus communis	Gastrointestinal	Sheep, goat	Seed	Crush two seeds into fine powder and administer orally	5	
Jamai gilota	Ricinus communis	helminthiasis	Sheep, goat	Seeu	Crush two seeds into the powder and administer orany	5	
Jamal Ghota	D		Charm	Seed		5	
Jamai Gnota	R. communis	Gastrointestinal	Sheep	Seed	Crush two seeds in mortar and pestle and administer orally	5	
D' 1	<b>D</b> .	helminthiasis		G 1		0	
Rind	R. communis	Myiasis	Cattle, buffalo,	Seed	Crush the seeds to extract oil and put the few drops of oil	9	
** 1			sheep	<b>D</b> .	in wound	0	
Hola	Rumex hastatus	Myiasis	Cattle, buffalo,	Root	Pound the fresh root after adding some water; put few ml	9	
			sheep	_	of water in wound		
Hola	R. hastatus	External	Animals and	Root	Pound the root to extract water from root; put few drops of	6	
		bleeding	human		water on wound to stop the bleeding		
Kouth, quste	Saussuria lappa	Gastrointestinal	Cattle, buffalo,	Root	Mix one table spoon of powdered root in 250 ml of water;	6	
shareen		helminthiasis	sheep		administer per oz		
Mori	Solanum xanthocarpum	Pneumonia	Cattle, buffalo	Arial parts	Burn the arial parts into ash; administer 10 g per oz. once a	6	
					day for three days		
Ajwain	T. ammi	Tick infestation,	Cattle, buffalo,	Seed	Grind 100 g seeds and leave the powder in open for three	6	
		pediculosis	sheep		days; administer per oz		
Ajwain	T. ammi	Pneumonia	Cattle, buffalo		Add 75 g seed in 3 l lassi and administer per oz	9	
Mervani	Vitex negundo	Mange	Cattle, buffalo,	Leaf	Pound the leaves well in pestle and mortar; topically apply	18	
		-	sheep		the pounded material		
Corn	Z. mays	Tick infestation,	Cattle, sheep	Seed	Make the balls from the whole Zea mays flour by mixing	14	
		pediculosis			adequate amount of water; leave that ball in open for 12 h;		
		-			administer 100 g per oz		

N.B: Doses mentioned are for large animals, while for small animals usually half amount is used

on type of plant and disease to be cured. In EVM every part of the plant is used like roots, bark, wood, leaves, stem, flowers, fruit, juice, resin, latex, grains, buds, bulbs and seeds (Nfi et al., 2001; Giday et al., 2003; Ole-Miaron, 2003; Viegi et al., 2003). But regime of dosage of ethnoveterinary recipes is not yet standardized. Basically the farmers decide the dose and method of administration according to intensity of disease and size of animal. Doses were often mentioned as handful and bottle full for large ruminants and small ruminants usually receive the half of the dose recommended for large ruminants. All the farmers measured the doses for their prescription as handful or bottleful. This dose measurement method is not appropriate and handful quantity varies depending upon the size of particular person's hand. That is why EVM is subjected to criticism by the veterinarians (Niwa et al., 1991; Bakhiet & Adam, 1995; Longuefosse & Nossin, 1996).

Various vehicles used for drug administration used in were milk, butter, vegetable oil or lasi. Selection of the vehicle depends upon availability of material at home, as farmers do not have to pay for it. Research needs to be conducted on proper standardization of doses and selection of vehicles to reduce the risk of drug toxicity to animals and development of resistance in pathogens. This will also help in reducing the cost of treatment in cases, where ingredients are purchased from market. In all the prescriptions documented during the present study, plants were processed by grating, boiling and burning the material. But there is no standard time/condition for boiling, burning or grating the plant material, which needs to be standardized for better efficacy of these prescriptions.

It was also observed during the study that farmers were well familiar with the symptomatic diagnosis of different ailments as endorsed by the veterinarian who was a member of the survey team. But overall the use of EVMs for treatment of parasitic diseases was more frequently recorded in comparison to the treatment of other ailments. Among parasitic problems, farmers reported ectoparasites more frequently than endoparasites and other diseases. This

Family	Scientific name	Vernacular name	Part used	Diseases treated
Alliaceae	Allium sativum	Garlic	Bulb	Tick infestation, gastrointestinal helminthiasis
Apiaceae	Cuminum cyminum	Zeera	Seed	Pneumonia
Apiaceae	Ferula assafoetida	Hing	Resin	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis
Apiaceae	Foeniculum vulgare	Saunf	Seed	Pneumonia
Apiaceae	Trachyspermum ammi	Ajwain	Seed	Pneumonia, tick infestation, pediculosis
Araceae	Arisaema flavum	Soro ganda	Root	Myiasis
Asteraceae	Saussuria lappa	Kooth, quste sharing	Root	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis
Berberidaceae	Berberis lycium	Sumbal	Root	Myiasis
Brassicaceae	Brassica campestris	Mustard oil	Oil	Pediculosis, tick infestation, gastrointestinal helminthiasis, mange
Cannabaceae	Cannabis sativa	Bhang	Leaf	Pediculosis, tick infestation, uterine prolapse after birth
Compositae	Eclipta prostrate Linn.	Bhangri	Arial parts	Pneumonia
Dioscoreaceae	Dioscorea deltoida	Knis	Arial parts	Myiasis
Euphorbiaceae	Ricinus communis	Jamal ghota	Seed	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis
Euphorbiaceae	Ricinus communis	Arind	Seed	Myiasis
Fabaceae	Alhagi maurorum	Jawa (kerwi serson)	Seed	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis
Lythraceae	Lawsonia inermis	Mehndi, heena	Leaf	Tick infestation, pediculosis
Paeoniaceae	Paeonia emodi L.	Mameikh	Root	Pain
Pinaceae	Cedrus deodara	Loo	Wood oil, wood	Tick infestation, mange, gastrointestinal helminthiasis, protection of stored grains
Pinaceae	Pinus roxburgii	Cheer	Resin	Myiasis
Poaceae	Arundo donax	Nara	Leaf	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis
Poaceae	Zea mays	Makai	Seed	Tick infestation, mange
Podophyllaceae	Podophyllum emodi	Bankhakri	Arial parts	Myiasis
Polygonaaceae	Rumex hastatus	Hola	Root	Myiasis, coagulant
Rosaceae	Prunus persica	Arro	Leaf	Myiasis
Rutaceae	Zanthoxylum armatum	Timber	Arial parts	Pneumonia, tick infestation
Saxifragaceae	Bergenia ciliate	Bhat pewa	Leaf	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis
Solanaceae	Capsicum annum	Red chili	Fruit	Tick infestation
Solanaceae	Solanum xanthocarpum	Mori	Arial parts	Pneumonia
Thymelaeaceae	Daphne mucronata	Kute lal	Leaf	Pediculosis, gastrointestinal helminthiasis
Tiliaceae	Grewia optiva	Dhaman (tree)	Bark	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis
Verbenaceae	Vitex negundo	Marvani	Leaf	Mange
Zingiberaceae	Amomum subulatum	Bari allaiche	Fruit	Gastrointestinal helminthiasis
Zingiberaceae	Zingiber zerumbet	Suund	Rhizome	Tick infestation, pneumonia

Table II: Plants used in the hilly area	(District Mansehra) for	treatment of differ	ent conditions/ailments in
ethnoveterinary medicine system			

could be due to the fact that ecto parasites are present on the external body parts and can be diagnosed easily, as compared to other ailments of animals. This could be a reason for that more EVPs were recorded for treatment of ectoparasites than any other ailment.

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(Received 31 December 2009; Accepted 19 January 2010)