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**Ethnobotanical uses of wild fruits of Santal paraganas (Jharkhand)**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Santal Paraganas of Jharkhand harbours a wide range of forest cover including several significant trees, shrubs and herbs species. The indigenous and tribal communities like Mahalis, Santals, Paharias, Koras, Karmalis, Bhumijs, Kols etc. living in and around these forest areas use their traditional wisdom to meet their requirements utilizing various forest products in a sustainable way. Present study aims to analyse and record ethnobotanical uses of different wild fruits being used by these communities. Data was collected using participant observations and in- depth interviews. Intensive survey conducted in the area revealed a total of 30 different wild fruits species belonging to 29 genera and 21 families serving both as nutritional supplement and ethno-medicines, treating different ailments. Most of the species among these have the potential to contribute to future food and nutrition security, dietary and culinary diversification. There is an immediate need for further critical phyto-chemical analysis of these plant species and exploring new valid drugs for common use, before the extinction of this precious traditional knowledge.*

***Keywords :*** Wild Fruits; Ethnobotanical uses; Traditional; Nutrition etc.