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## Use of ethnoveterinary plants by indigenous rangeland community of Kanyakumari District , Tamil Nadu ,India

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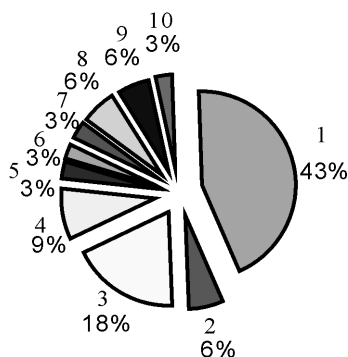
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**Key words** : ethnoveterinary ,kanyakumari ,traditional knowledge

**Introduction** Ethnobotanical studies are often significant in revealing locally important plant species especially for the discovery of crude drugs .Specialized herbal healers in rural communities have the greater knowledge of medicinal plants for the use of local interest (Arnold & Perez ,2001) .The present study was carried out by documenting the use of medicinal plants for the ailments and diseases of livestock ,used by the folk community of Puthalam ,Kanyakumari District ,south India .

**Methodology** The ethnoveterinary inventory was conducted at Puthalam village ,Kanyakumari District ,Tamil Nadu ,India . The study was conducted using survey method .

**Results & Discussion** A total of 35 angiosperm species ,belonging to 21 families were inventoried as ethnoveterinary use . Of the plant parts used leaf component was predominantly used ; combinations of plant parts and plants were also used in the healing practices ( Figure 1) . Dysentery and bowel related ailments were the most common disease in livestock treated by the community Further emphasis has been laid that the majority of the community has the widespread belief in traditional therapies (Teklehaymanot and Giday 2007) . Besides documenting such valuable knowledge systems ,effective and intensive conservation measures have to be evolved for the sustainable rangeland management system .



**Figure 1** Percentage of plants used as per their components used .1 -leaf ; 2 -Seed ; 3 -whole plant ; 4 -Plant exudates ; 5 -shoot ; 6 -leaf and oil ; 7 -Inflorescence ; 8 -seed ; 9 -Root/underground parts ; 10 -Bark

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