

Project Update: September 2016

Our Rufford-supported works and their results have been presented at the national and international conferences where we shared our findings and conservation initiatives. The proceedings of our presentations have been published by the organisers (below).

Below are photographs of presenting poster at NAST conference by me, and students making 'SAVE VULTURE' slogan during International Vulture Awareness Day 2016.



drying method and temperature on the quality of dried ginger was studied on peeled and sliced ginger of Nashe variety by comparing sun drying with cabinet drying (30OC, 40OC and 50 OC). Essential and fixed oil content of Nashe variety dried by sun drying and cabinet drying ranged from 1.87-1.9% and 4.44-5.26% respectively. The highest essential oil (1.99±0.18%) was retained in ginger dried at lowest temperature (30OC), while the highest fixed oil content was retained in sun-dried ginger (5.26±0.31%). From this study, it was found that Nashe variety has much higher essential oil and fixed oil content than Boshe variety of ginger. Effect of processing (peeling and slicing) on retention of essential and fixed oil was significant and can be concluded that higher essential and fixed oil can be obtained by the use of mild processing conditions.

P-BI-1-766

Status and Conservation of Himalayan Vultures After Banning of Diclofenac in Nepal Himalaya

Dikpal Krishna Karmacharya
Global Primate Network-Nepal, Kirtipur, Nepal
E-mail: dikpal.karmacharya@gmail.com

The population of resident Gyps vultures have undergone dramatic decline (>97%) in numbers since the mid 1990s. The veterinary drug diclofenac has been identified as main cause of catastrophic decline of these naturally scavenging birds in 2004. There are extensive studies on lowland vultures but a very little is known regarding highland species, Himalayan Vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*). Aiming to overcome this gap we have initiated participatory long term monitoring and conservation project for Himalayan species in Nepal Himalayas. We spent six walking days for preliminary presence absence survey and 10 days for extensive survey of vultures each in 2013 and 2014 in the line transects from Muktinath to Pokhara of Annapurna region covering all potential sites. We made collaboration with local government bodies to monitor banned veterinary drug diclofenac in all the veterinary retailers and declared the Manang and Mustang Districts as Diclofenac Free Zones (DFZ). We launched conservation education in schools and community groups to convey the message on flood conservation. We counted maximum 183 of *G. himalayensis* and least two critically endangered *G. bengalensis* vultures. We recorded average 22.9 of *G. himalayensis* per day and 1.525 per km line transect in 2013 which was almost twice as many recorded during surveys that were conducted between 2002 and 2006 where the mean number was 12.4 per day. Our results suggest the rate of decline has retarded in the area after implementation of conservation programs.

P-BI-1-811

Taxonomic Study of Some Species of *Clematis* L. (Ranunculaceae) in Nepal

Pratikshya Chalise, Suresh Kumar Ghimire, Sangeeta Rajbhandary
Central Department of Botany, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Nepal
E-mail: pratikshya71@gmail.com

The genus *Clematis* L. has ca. 1000 species and cultivars throughout the world. There are 32 species of *Clematis* L. in Nepal including infraspecific taxa of which *C. phlebentha* is endemic to the himalayas. The plant is characterized by climbing habit by means of twining petioles or petiolules, presence of showy sepals and absence of petals, numerous stamens and carpel, single pendulous ovule, persistent, plumose style. The present study aims to understand the inter-relationship between five species of *Clematis*; *C. buchananiana*, *C. connata*, *C. gouriana*, *C. montana* and *C. napaulensis*, based on their morphology, anatomy, phenology, palynology & distribution. The work is based on the herbarium specimens housed at TUCH and KATH and some personal collections. The species of *Clematis* showed wide range of morphological,