

## Some Plants Used By Kayah Tribe In Loikaw Area, Kayah State

Nilar Htun<sup>\*1</sup>, Swe Swe Win<sup>\*\*</sup>& Phyar Reh<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

### Abstract

This present study deals with some plants being used in traditional ceremony by Kayah tribe living in Loikaw area, Kayah state. It lies approximately between 18° 30' and 19° 55' North latitude and between 94° 40' and 97° 93' East longitude. Traditional and habitual culture of Kayah tribe is very interesting. There are many uses of plants for various traditional ceremonies from birth to death in life. Since ancient times, if someone faced a socio-economic problems, some plants were used for fortune telling purposes in order to encounter good luck in life. Many traditional cultures of Kayah tribe can be observed by using plant materials or plant products. In this study, totally 45 species in daily life and in traditional and religious ceremonies by Kayah tribe were stated from the taxonomical point of view by the help of photographs showing part used of the plants. And then the images of traditional ceremony using the various kinds of plants also stated in this paper.

### Introduction

Loikaw is the capital of Kayah State in Myanmar and the inhabitants are mostly Kayah. Many Kayah races traditional cultures can be observed by using plant materials or plant products. Plants growing in Loikaw area are commonly used by local people in habitual culture and traditional festivals. The other important crops of study area are rice, millet, maize, sesame, groundnut, garlic, and vegetables. Plants parts and plants products are used in their daily life. In this paper, some plants used by Kayah were described in Tagon Daing festival, baby naming ceremony, house warming ceremony, spiritual ceremony and Dee ku ceremony. And then these plants and parts of the plants are used in the traditional ceremony as special occasion from birth to death. Aim and objectives of this paper is to identify some plants used in traditional ceremonies by Kayah tribe living in Loikaw area; to record plants used in habitual culture and traditional ceremonies of Kayah tribe.

### Materials and Methods

Plants data collection was carried out during from November 2017 to November 2018. Plants materials were collected from different location and habitats of the study area. Plants identification were carried out by using Flora of Ceylon (Dassanayake 1980-2001), Checklist of the Trees, Shrubs, Herbs and Climbers of Myanmar. (Kress, J. *et.al* 2003), Taxonomic Study on Magnoliophyta (Nwe Nwe Yi, 2007), Taiyin thar Yoeyar Dalay Hton San Myo (Kayah), 1967. Kayah Ethnic Culture and Customs), Sapay Beikman, Myanmar Socialist Party. A study on the traditional festival of Dee ku in the Kayah State. Ku Phyar Yae & Eugene, 2017. Personal interviews about the plants include local name, part used and their usage. The studied plants were systematically arranged into families, genera, and species alphabetically.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Associate Professor , Department of Botany, Loikaw University

### Results

In this paper, totally 45 species in 40 genera and 24 families were identified during the research period.

No.	Family	No.	Scientific Name	Myanmar Name	Kayah Name
1.	Amallyliaceae	1.	<i>Allium sativum</i> L.	Kyetthun phyu	Po Hoe Bu
		2.	<i>Allium tuberosum</i> Rotter ex Spreng	Gyu Myit	Pe Pairi
2.	Anacardiaceae	3.	<i>Gluta usitata</i> (Wall.) Ding Hou.	thitsi	Ta Saw Maw
3.	Apiaceae	4.	<i>Centella asiatica</i> L.	Myin kwa	Tase Khamel Lei Maw
4.	Araceae	5.	<i>Colocasia esculenta</i> (L.)Schott	Pein	Khral Maw
5.	Asteraceae	6.	<i>Spilanthes calva</i> DC. in Wight	Pe le nyin	Ei Thaw Maw
6.	Bignoniaceae	7.	<i>Oroxylum indicum</i> (L.) Vent.	Kyaung sha	Da Day Maw
7.	Brassicaceae	8.	<i>Brassica campestris</i> L. var. <i>campestris</i>	Monnyin	Ta palae Maw
8.	Caesalpiniaceae	9.	<i>Bauhinia purpurea</i> L.	Swe daw	Ei Haw Maw
		10.	<i>Bauhinia variegata</i> L.	Swe daw	Ei Haw Maw
9.	Costaceae	11.	<i>Costus speciosus</i> (Koenig)Smith.	Phalan taung mwe	Tu Su Maw
10.	Cucurbitaceae	12.	<i>Benincasa hispida</i> (Thunberg ex Murray) Cogniaux	Kyauk pha yon	Lu Sel
		13.	<i>Cucumis sativus</i> L.	Tha khwar thi	Dol Sel
		14.	<i>Cucurbita lagenaria</i> (L)L.	Bu	Krar Maw
		15.	<i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duch. in Lam.	Shwe pha yon	Lay Hay Maw
		16.	<i>Dipterocarpus tuberculatus</i> Roxb.	In	Ta Thaw Maw
12.	Fabaceae	17.	<i>Trigonella foenum-graecum</i> L.	Pe nathar	Kyet Lu Yet
		18.	<i>Vigna unguiculata</i> subsp. <i>cylindrica</i>	Pe Thi	Cot Bel Sel
13.	Gentianaceae	19.	<i>Swertia japonica</i> (Schult.) Makino	Pan Say Kha	Phoe Kal Maw
14.	Lamiaceae	20.	<i>Elsholtzia atachyodes</i> (Link) C.Y.Wu	Kayah Pinsein	Law Van Maw
		21.	<i>Tectona grandis</i> L.	Kyun	Lei Haw Maw

No.	Family	No.	Scientific Name	Myanmar Name	Kayah Name
		22.	<i>Vitex altissima</i> L.f.	Kyet le zan	Tha khe yein
15.	Malvaceae	23.	<i>Gossypium herbaceum</i> L.	Wa Pin	Ta Phe Maw
16.	Musaceae	24.	<i>Musa sapientum</i> L.	Nget Pyaw	De Clew Maw
17.	Myrtaceae	25.	<i>Syzygium jambos</i> L.	Tha Byae	Ta Mor Maw
18.	Ochidaceae	26.	<i>Bulbophyllum shanicum</i> King & Pantling	Kayah Thazin	Kayah Thazin
19.	Pinaceae	27.	<i>Pinus khasya</i> ex Gordon	Htin Hyu	Ta Ngu Maw
20.	Poaceae	28.	<i>Cephalostachyum pergracile</i> Munro	Tin Wa	De Thar Wel Maw
		29.	<i>Dendrocalamus giganteus</i> Munro	Wa Bo	Wel Du
		30.	<i>Erianthus ravennae</i> L.	Thekkel	Ta Haw Oo Be
		31.	<i>Oriza sativa</i> L.	Saba	Baw Maw
		32.	<i>Oriza sativa</i> L. var. <i>kon</i> Myint 2	Taung ya Saba	Show Khu Baw Maw
		33.	<i>Saccharum officinarum</i> L.	Kyan	De Kalae Boe Maw
		34.	<i>Saccharum spontaneum</i> L.	Thekkel gyi	Ta Haw Du
		35.	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i> (L.) Moench	Pyaung Kauk	Shi Lawr Maw
		36.	<i>Thysanolaena latifolia</i> Honda	Dee ku	Dee Ku Maw/ Ei Du Maw
21.	Rhamnaceae	37.	<i>Ziziphus mauritiana</i> Lam.	Zi	De Kalaw Maw
22.	Rutaceae	38.	<i>Zanthoxylum acanthopodium</i> DC.	Mat Khar	Ei San Maw
23.	Solanaceae	39.	<i>Capsicum annum</i> var. <i>longum</i> (DC.) Sendtn.	Nga yoke	Sar Hae Maw
		40.	<i>Solanum indicum</i> Sensus	Kazaw Kha	Kat Hae Maw
24.	Zingiberaceae	41.	<i>Amomum corynostachyum</i> Wall.	Gon min	Phoe Tee
		42.	<i>Boesenbergia rotunda</i> (L.) Mans.f.	Seik phoo	Shay Oo Khu
		43.	<i>Curcuma angustifolia</i> Dalz.	Marlar	Phoe Paw
		44.	<i>Curcuma longa</i> L.	Nanwin	Me Byar Khu Maw
		45.	<i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roscoe	Gin	Ta Arr Maw

In this study, most of collected plants are either wild or cultivated. Among them, essential traditional plants or plants parts of Kayah tribe were described as followings.

1. **Scientific Name** -*Syzygiumjambos*L. ( Myrtaceae ) (Fig.1)  
 Myanmar Name - ThaByae  
**Part use** -Stem, Leaves  
 Traditional Uses - Kay Htoe Boe pole Festival (**Ta khon Taing**)
  
2. **Scientific Name** -*Tectonagrands*L.(Lamiaceae) (Fig. 2)  
 Myanmar Name -Kyun  
**Part used** -Stem  
 Traditional Uses - Kay Htoe Boe pole festival (Ta khon Taing)
  
3. **Scientific Name** -*Benincasa hispida*(Thunberg ex Murray) Cogniaux (Cucurbitaceae) (Fig. 7) Myanmar  
 Name - Kyaukpha yon  
**Part used** -Pepo  
 Traditional Uses - house warming ceremonies keep on 1<sup>st</sup> step of ladder.
  
4. **Scientific Name** - *Oriza sativa* L. (Poaceae ) (Fig.4, 14)  
 Myanmar Name - Saba  
**Part used** - Inflorescences  
 Traditional Uses - Saba hnan Ta khon Taing festivals
  
5. **Scientific Name** - *Costusspeciosus*(Koenig)Smith.(Costaceae) (Fig.5)  
 Myanmar Name - Phalan taung hmwe  
**Part used** -Leaves  
 Traditional Uses -used in spiritual cerebation ( Eain Twin Nat)
  
6. **Scientific Name-** *Thysanolaenalatifolia*Honda (Poaceae) (Fig. 9)  
 Myanmar Name - Ta Myat si pin or Dee ku pin  
**Part used-** Leaves  
 Traditional Uses- It is used for impartment festival called **Dee KuPwae**
  
7. **Scientific Name** - *Oroxylumindicum* (L.) Vent.(Bignoniaceae) (Fig. 10)  
 Myanmar Name - Kyaung sha  
**Part used** -Leaves  
 Traditional Uses -To driving away bad sprits (**Pho Dee Ka Ree**) at every home.

**8. Scientific Name** - *Ziziphus mauritiana* Lam. (Rhamnaceae) (**Fig. 10**)

Myanmar Name - zi

**Part used-** - Leaves

Traditional Uses - To driving away bad sprits (Pho Dee Ka Ree) at every home .

**9. Scientific Name** - *Pinus khasya* ex Gordon (Pinaceae) (**Fig. 11**)

Myanmar Name - Htin Hsu

**Part used** - Woody parts

Traditional Uses - To compel away bad sprits (Pho Dee Ka Ree) at every home.

**10. Scientific Name** - *Dipterocarpus tuberculatus* Roxb. (Dipterocarpaceae) (**Fig. 8**)

Myanmar Name - In

**Part used** - Stem, Leaves

Traditional Uses- used as container for paying respect to guardian sprits.

**11. Scientific Name** - *Saccharum officinarum* L. (Poaceae) (**Fig. 13**)

Myanmar Name - Kyan

**Part used** - Culm, Leaves

Traditional Uses - paying respect to guardian spirit at mountain.

**12. Scientific Name** - *Dendrocalamus giganteus* Munro (Poaceae) (**Fig. 3, 6, 12**)

Myanmar Name - Wa Bo

**Part used-** Culm, Leaves

Traditional Uses - It is an essential bamboo and used for special occasions.

**13. Scientific Name** - *Oriza sativa* L. var. konMyint (2) (Poaceae) (**Fig. 15**)

Myanmar Name - Taungya Saba

**Part used** - Grains

Traditional Uses - Used to make KaukThit Sar Pwe after harvesting.

**14. Scientific Name-** *Allium tuberosum* Rotter ex Spreng (Amallyliaceae) (**Fig. 16**)

Myanmar Name - GyuMyit

**Part used-** Young shoot, Roots

Traditional Uses - consume together with pounded rice and other vegetables.

**15. Scientific Name** - *Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench (Poaceae) (**Fig. 17, 18**)

Myanmar Name - PyaungKauk (Khaung yae)

**Part used** - Grains

Traditional Uses - for traditional spiritual celebration, wedding, harvests and any warmly hospitality.

**16.Scientific Name- *Zanthoxylumacanthopodium* DC. (Rutaceae) (Fig.19)**

Myanmar Name - Mat Khar

**Part used** - Fruits

Traditional Uses - Mainly used as spice in making popular kayah sausage.

**17.Scientific Name-*Swertia japonica* (Schult.) Makino(Gentianaceae)(Fig.20)**

Myanmar Name - Pan Say Kha

**Part used-** The whole plants

Traditional Uses - The dry powder of the whole plant is used in soups.

**18.Scientific Name- *Trigonellafoenum-graecum* L. (Fabaceae)(Fig. 21)**

Myanmar Name -Penathar

**Part used** - The whole plant

Traditional Uses - Used for Thingan festival as Tha gan pan.

**19.Scientific Name - *Saccharumspontaneum* L. (Poaceae) (Fig.22)**

Myanmar Name - Thekkelgyi

**Part used** - Calm, Leaves

Traditional Uses - This plants are used for thatching the house's roofs .

**20.Scientific Name- *Bulbophyllumshanicum* King & Pan. (Ochidaceae)(Fig.23)**

Myanmar Name - KayahThazin

**Part used** - The whole plant

**Traditional Uses-** offering in many religious ceremonies and used by Kayaladies for ornamenting their hair.

### Discussion and Conclusion

This paper deals with some plants especially used in traditional ceremonies by local people of Kayah tribe in Loikaw area. The plants are essential among them in the various kinds of ceremonies . Local people pay attention on the plants for spiritual life from their birth to death. In conclusion, some plants used in the culture of local people means Unity in the community, peace, free from danger and success.Thus, it is important to conserve these plants not be endangered. This study indicated and recorded the botanical point of views at the area of Kayah State, while working at Loikaw University.

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