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Limnophila repens (Benth.) Benth a coastal flora of Puri, Odisha

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ABSTRACT

*Traditionally plant has been used as a source of medicine since ages in Odisha. The plants and their traditional use are part of the natural and culture heritage in Puri, Odisha. Puri is one of the most sacred pilgrim centres for the Hindus in the country. Two things that make Puri most popular is beach and the floral diversity within. Puri has abundantly wetland areas which comprise enormous species which are known and others are yet to be known. Hence, an attempt has been made to evaluate the medicinal uses of *Limnophila repens* and to compile all these works that are in scattered in literatures.*

Puri it lies between 19°28' N and 20°35' N latitudes & between 84°29' E and 86°25' E longitudes. It is bound in the north and northeast by the district of Dhenkanal and Cuttack, on the west and southwest by Phulbani and Ganjam district and the south and southeast by the Bay of Bengal. The length of the sea-coast in Puri district is nearly 150km. Sandy ridges are found along the sea-coast which stretch into the district of Cuttack and Ganjam (Panda and Patnaik 1993). Puri has wide range of aquatic ecosystem which is used for many purposes. Many wetland floras are unidentified and many need to be explored. *Limnophila* is an

aquatic perennial herb. *Limnophila* belongs to the family Plantaginaceae. It is mostly found as submerged and emergent. Its natural habitats are rivers, lakes, ponds as well as marshy lands. The emergent stems are usually above the surface of the water. The submerged stem has feathery leaves encircled about the stems. Stem are angled, glabrous; leaves are opposite, decussate, sessile, elliptic, linear-lanceolate. Flower colour is mainly single white, pink, purple or blue to lavender (Dhatchanamoorthy et al. 2016; Saxena & Brahmam 1995). In most part of the India *Limnophila repens* edible parts are tender leaves & shoots. It is

used as chutney in Jharkhand (Singh and Kumar 2014). In Kerala the whole plant paste is mixed with *Mimosa* is used to treat Leucoderma (Swathi and Joseph 2017).

Plant morphology

Limnophila repens is aquatic perennial herb with strong aromatic smell. The submerged stem is usually above the water. Leaves is opposite, sessile or subsessile, ovate, obovate, elliptic- lanceolate. Flower is axillary, solitary or in short racemes, pedicel filiform, hispid, outside hairless, inside white hairy; corolla violet-pink. Flowering and fruiting period is from November to February (Panda and Panda 2012; Dhatchanamoorthy 2016) (Plate 1).

Future aspects

From the literature it is concluded that *Limnophila repens* has less documented. The present work exhibited the database of *Limnophila repens* in Puri district of Odisha which will help in future work for its medicinal significance. Therefore, this species should be conserved by taking proper care of the water body otherwise the day will come and this plant will be in verge of extinction.



Plate 1: A) Habitat of *Limnophila repens*, B) Vegetative parts of *Limnophila repens*

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