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Ethnomedicinal uses of *Rauvolfia serpentina* (L.) Benth.

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ABSTRACT

Rauvolfia serpentina (L.) Benth. is a medicinal plant which is used in various earliest preparations for therapeutic interventions. These are considered as respiratory material of biologically active compounds ample chemical variety. These are also used medicinal and agricultural industries. The chemical extract from the plant intensifies health condition of organisms. The root and leaves of the plant are rich in metabolites and proteins. Various alkaloids from *Rauvolfia serpentina* have been segregated and used in treatment of snake bite, hypertension and breast cancer. With modern cultivation technology this species is used commercially. In ancient times this species was used against snake bite, mental illness and high blood pressure and recently its cultivation is widely improved and the products like stem, leaves are widely used in pharmaceutical and agricultural industries.

Rauvolfia serpentina is one of important medicinal plant which has a great contribution towards health of society. The plant has some substances which have physiological actions on the body of an animal. The leaves, roots are useful for wellness of different diseases like diarrhea,

Epilepsy, Cancer, Snake Bite, insomnia, etc (Abhijit & De 2010). It has importance towards the stimulation of uterine shrinkage and develops the ejection of unborn child. It is commonly called 'Sarpagandha' and in many states, it is therefore used for snake bites (Sarkhel

2014). It has a better effect towards mental illness, hypertension and blood pressure (Gupta et al. 2006). The chemical substances present in the plant are raw for preparation of drugs. It has of gallic acids and carbon compounds so, it has a great role towards the agrochemical industries for preparation of pesticide and enhancement of immunities. Besides these activities *Rauvolfia serpentina* pointed at the used of documenting the nutrients. This plant holds alkaloids of indole which includes ajmaline, ajmalicine, reserpine, serpentina, etc. (Katič et al. 1980).

Ethnomedicine

It is observed that most of tribal people found the medicinal uses of this plant. The eminent persons like Rajendran, Sanil Kumar, and Thomas have invented the medicinal use of different part of this plant. The ethnomedicinal importance was remarked by Dey and De in 2010. These plants are found in the wetlands of Terai region of Nepal. In ancient time Nepalese used these plants in case of diarrhea, fever, cut, abdominal pain and microbial disorder (Sarkar et al. 1999; Sarmah et al. 2008).

Against snake, insect and animal bite

This plant is used as an antidote for snake poison. The juice of the leaves taken two times a day for 3days. Roots and buds of leaf are grinded with milk and mixture is used on the area of affects by snakebite. This plant is also used in case of insect and animal bite. Orally fifty grams of this plant taken for 3 days in case of snake bite and sting of scorpion. Roots of this plants used in case of dog bite. The juice decreases the quick spreading of poison in blood of human (Pattanaik 2006; Pattanaik et al. 2009; Sen et al. 2008; Singh 2008).

Mental illness, hypertension, blood pressure

The roots of this plant are used in high blood pressure, mental illness and hypertension. It is a hypertensive and tranquilizer (Singh et al. 2010).

Gastrointestinal disease

The root juice of this plant is used in the treatment of liver pain and leaves juice is used for treatment of stomach pain .In Arunachal Pradesh roots are directly consumed in case of fever and stomach ache. Some intestinal worms are excreted by using this plant product .It is also used in case in case of diarrhea (Anisuzzaman et al. 2007).

Asthama

The leaves and flower of this plant is used for the wellness of asthma and respiratory disorder. This plant is also used for treatment of eye disease, spleen disease, AIDS, Headache and fever (De Britto & Mahesh 2007).

Ethno-veterinary practice

Roots of this plant are used for the dysentery, common, stomach pain and menstrual irregularity and pain during the period in case of animals (Singh & Sureja 2007).

In beverages

The root bark increases the bitterness in the preparation of rice beer (Ghosh & Das 2004).

CONCLUSION

This review concluded that *R. serpentina* is a plant with important role of ethnic use .The different parts of the plants are used to cure different diseases. In the modern time; it is a task for us to verify and experiment so that it can be used in preparation of Ayurvedic medicines.

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