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Medicinal uses of *Schoenoplectiella articulata*: a wetland sedge

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ABSTRACT

Wetlands plays a vital role in the human life. Wetland flora also have medicinal values. In present study *Schoenoplectiella articulata* was taken to consider its medicinal values. The study was carried out in some target places of Odisha. It reveals that *Schoenoplectiella articulata* have some medicinal values which is used to cure disease like diarrhoea, vomiting, body ache etc. Hence, more research needs to do to know its other medicinal uses.

INTRODUCTION

Wetland is called as kidney of landscape and it covers about 6% of its area (Maltby & Tumer 1983). The Wetland plants play an important role in the life of human being. Some Wetland plants are used as medicine (Swapna et al. 2011). Cyperaceae is highly diverse and globally distributed sedge family. It is the third largest family among the flowering plant and comprises up to 5,500 species and 109 genera (Muasya 1998). Mostly, sedges habitats are wetlands, including marshes, fens, shore line etc. (Reznicek 1990). *Schoenoplectiella*

articulata (Plate 1) is a perennial herb, the stems are densely tufted, spongy and green in colour up to 2-40 cm. leaves reduced to 1-2 bladeless, scarious, obliquely truncate sheaths. Inflorescence pseudo lateral, capitate, globose, consisting of numerous spikelets; involucrel bract erect, similar to and continuous with the stem, transversely separate, sometimes too much longer than the stem proper, up to 60 cm long. Spikelets brown and sessile, ovoid to oblong-ovoid. Glumes firm, appressed, concave, with scarcely prominent keel, broadly ovate, 3-5 mm long and wide, acute, apiculate, many nerved, brown or rufous-testaceous. Bristles

none. Stamens 3. Stigma 3. Nut triquetrous, obovoid, 1.75 mm long, conspicuously to obsoletely transversely wavy-ridged, black

(Saxena & Brahmam 1995; Haines 1924). The tribal people of Odisha use this plant as medicine for their health care.

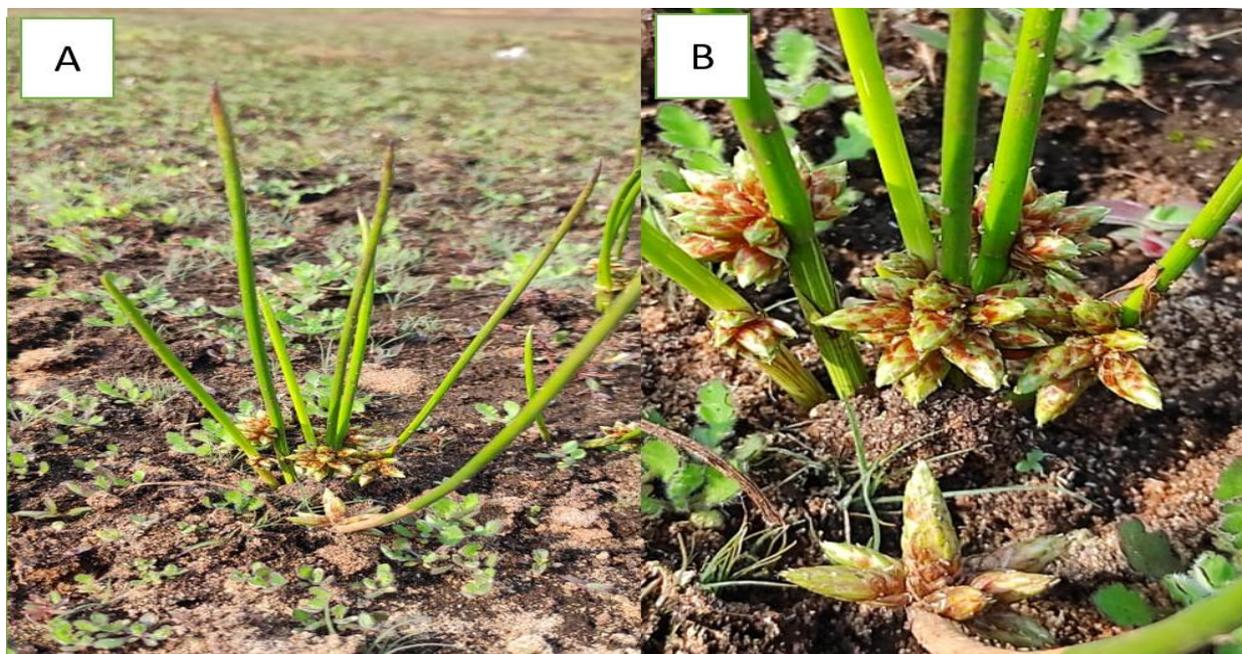


Plate 1: A) Habitat; B) Vegetative part of *Schoenoplectiella articulata*

METHODOLOGY

Study area

Odisha is a state situated in the Eastern part of India consisting of 30 districts. Many wetlands like numerous Man made or natural reservoirs and ponds are found. Odisha covers about 34820 ha of total landscape in post monsoon period (Misra et al. 2012). The *Schoenoplectiella articulata* is identified by following “The Flora of Orissa” (Saxena & Brahmam 1995). And questioning with local people and following the old literature the medicinal uses were recorded.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Tuber of *Schoenoplectiella articulata* is used to treat diarrhoea and vomiting. Its fruits and leaves used to get relief from Body ache, pain and fever. Also, it has anthelmintic and antibacterial properties

(Sahu et al. 2019). Due to presence of Potassium, it plays an important role in lowering blood pressure and risk of kidney stones. Zinc keeps good immune system. Manganese maintains good bones and control the sugar level (Bharadwaj et al. 2014).

CONCLUSION

The study reveals that *Schoenoplectiella articulata* is a sedge which have many medicinal values. This plant is used to treat diseases like diarrhea, body ache, pain, fever. Also control blood pressure & maintain good immune system. Hence, it needs more attention to reveal more medicinal uses in future.

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