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Medicinal uses of *Panicum brevifolium* L

Subhadarshini Satapathy^{1*}, Sanjeet Kumar² & Sweta Mishra²

¹Department of Botany, School of Applied Sciences, Centurion University of Technology and Management, Odisha, India

²Ambika Prasad Research Foundation, Odisha, India

*Email-Id:subhadarshini.satapathy@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Medicinal plant plays an important role in the Indian System of Medicine. Each plant, it may be herbs or shrubs have the medicinal values according to their phytochemical composition. According to WHO (World Health Organization) about 80% people rely on plant for medicine. Most of the grasses also have some medicinal values. Panicum brevifolium L. is a small annual grass belongs to family Poaceae. It is a species present in forest zone, characteristics of secondary vegetation in moist, shady stations road sides and water ways. Present work was done in Odisha. The main aim of the study was to know the medicinal values of Panicum brevifolium L. The study reveals that the plant is used to cure infections and less work has been done on this plant. Hence, it needs more attention to reveal its other medicinal properties.

In the preparation of drugs, plant continued to provide natural sources and about 25% of active drug ingredients are extracted from plant (Li & Xing 2016). Grasses are available everywhere and are monocotyledonous flowering plant belongs to family Poaceae. It is the fifth largest family following Asteraceae, Orchidaceae, Fabaceae and Rubiaceae (Bauchanakhelladi et al. 2010). All staple food and cereals like rice, wheat, corn etc. is from this family. They are also used in traditional

medicine (Sagar et al. 2018). *Panicum brevifolium* L. is a slender decumbent grass up to 75 cm and rooting at nodes. Leaves are ovate 2.5-7.5 cm acute or acuminate, base amplexicaul with a cordate base; ligule short. Panicle open, much divided up to 10 cm long, rachis, branches and pedicles capillary. Spikelet is solitary 1.8-2.2 mm long, ovate, acute and somewhat gibbous. Obtuse, upper sub-cordate dorsally convex. It is commonly found in moist places in forests especially in hills and

throughout Tropical and Sub tropical forests in India (Saxena and Brahmam 1995; Hains 1922). The present study is carried out in Odisha, an eastern Indian state on the Bay of Bengal.

Odisha is situated in the East coast of the Bay of Bangel of Indian sub-continent and lies in between 17^o 48'- 22^o 94'N latitude and 81^o 24'-87^o 29'E longitude. The state Odisha is known for its natural sources and cultural heritages (Pradhan et al. 2018). People depend on the plants for their primary healthcare. Recent study was carried out in different targe site of Odisha and plants were identified by "The Flora of Orissa" (Saxena and Brahmam 1995) and the medicinal uses were recorded by questionnaire with local people and from some old literature. *Panicum brevifolium* L. is a grass which is used to cure infections (Li & Xing 2016).

CONCLUSION

The study reveals that *Panicum brevifolium* L. is an annual grass found in hills, moist and roadsides. By questioning with local people and from the old literature it reveals that this grass is used to cure infections.

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