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Ethnomedicinal values of *Chrysopogon aciculatus* (Retz.) Trin

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ABSTRACT

By using traditional medicinal plants in healthcare practices, new clues are found to new areas of research. The study aimed to look in to the medicinal values of Chrysopogon aciculatus used by local people for curing various diseases. Questionnaire surveys, field visit was done to known the medicinal uses by local people. The study reveals that each part of Chrysopogon aciculatus contain medicinal values. This plant is used to treat fever, gastric disorder etc. Hence, major step needs to take to know more medicinal values.

INTRODUCTION

About 50,000 flowering plants are used for medicinal purposes out of 4,20,000 plants (Schippmann et al. 2002). More than 43 % of total flowering plants are reported to be medicinal plant in India (Pushpagadan 1995). The processes of uses of medicinal plants are found from the ancient literature. Almost 80 % of the world population depend on plant resources for primary health care (Farnsworth et al 1985). In rural areas plants are used as traditional medicines (Praveen et al. 2007). The

medicinal use of plants has been found from various tribal communities through Siddha, Ayurveda and Unani (Gadgil 1996). *Chrysopogon* is a genus belongs to family Poaceae. *Chrysopogon aciculatus* is a perennial grass. Rhizome is creeping, woody; culms 20-45 cm, base rather slender, creeping, rooting and branching at lower nodes, decumbent, finally ascending, glabrous even at node. Short, densely tufted, linear leaves 2.5-12.5 cm. Panicle is very narrow, 2.5-10 cm long, usually turning red or purple, with capillary branches solitary,

apparently scaberulous or villous below the spikelet, from the villous callus being produce downwards. Sessile spikelet 3.5 mm long. Lower glum linear, acuminate or minutely 2-cuspidate, convex cymbiform. Lower lemma 2.5 mm long, hyaline, lanceolate; upper lemma with its scarbid awn 5-7.5 mm; oblong palea. Pedicelled spikelet 4-5 mm long including the scabrid cusp of lower glume. Upper glume rather shorter aristate. Lower and Upper lemma are shorter, softly villous male. It is locally known as “Guguchi” (Saxena & Bramham 1995; Haines 1924).

METHODOLOGY

Study area

Odisha is situated in the East coast of the Bay of Bangel of Indian sub-continent. It is a treasure house of healing herb, which are used in Indian System of Medicine like Ayurveda, Unani etc. (Behera et al. 2008). The main aim of the study is to know the medicinal uses of *Chrysopogon aciculatus*. The plant was identified following ‘The Flora of Odisha’ (Saxena and Brahman 1995) and discussing with local people the medicinal uses were recorded.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Root juice of *Chrysopogon aciculatus* is taken to treat liver pain. whole plant also used to cure cattle swelling legs (Anisuzzaman et al. 2007). Paste of fresh rhizome and black pepper seed is given early in the morning to cure stomach pain and gastric disorder (Saha et al. 2013). Decoction of different parts of *Chrysopogon aciculatus* is used to treat tonsillitis, furuncle, malaria and fever (Azam et al. 2013; Ong & Kim 2014). By crushing the flower is applied to poultice (Ong & Kim 2014).

CONCLUSION

The present work reveals that each part of *Chrysopogon aciculatus* has the medicinal values. Different parts are used to prepare medicine like roots, flower and whole plants. It is used to treat fever, gastric disorder, stomach pain, tonsillitis, malaria etc. Hence, more research needs to be done to know more traditionally medicinal uses of this plant.

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