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Oplismenus burmannii (Retz.) P.Beauv.: a medicinal grass

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ABSTRACT

Plant that produces Secondary metabolites regarded as herbs or medicinal plants. People in developing or developed country depend on the plant derived medicine. These are used either making a paste or taken as tonic or mixing with other medicinal materials. The processes of making medicine from plant part are written in the old traditional literature like Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani. The present study was carried out in Odisha which is a state with 62 group of tribal. Tribal people depend on plant for their primary health care. The main aim of this work is to study the medicinal values of Oplismenus burmannii. The result reveals that this plant have some medicinal values and used in case of cattle to cure galactagogue and also used during pregnancy in case of human. There is a very less work done on this grass. Hence more study needs to done to know more traditionally medicinal values.

INTRODUCTION

The majority of people on this planet still rely on the traditional medicinal plants and other material for their primary health care needs (Farnsworth et al. 1985). According to WHO 80% of world's population- primarily those of developing countries depend on plant derived medicine for their health care

(Fakim 2006). In India, several medicinal systems have evolved among these systems are Ayurveda, Siddha and the Unani system of medicine (Posey 1999). The demand for medicinal plants has increase from day-to-day life due to local, national and international interest. Plant derived medicines are cheaper than synthetic drug and don't have any side effect for which the

demand is increasing in both developing and developed countries (Adhikari et al. 2010). *Oplismenus* is a small genus belongs to family Poaceae. It is annual or Perennial grass found in Tropical regions and also found throughout India (Verma et al. 2014). *Oplismenus burmannii* is an annual delicate leafy grass diffusely branched with ascending culms, 15-45 cm in length. Leaves lanceolate to ovate-lanceolate, 1.2-5 acuminate, with fine, scattered white hairs both sides; sheaths closely ciliate towards mouth. Panicle up to 10 cm long. Spikelet 1.8-2.5 mm long. Lower glume ovate, 3-5 nerved with a pale, capillary, often flexuous. It is commonly known as “Wavy-Leaf Basket grass”, and locally known as “Kanguriya” (Saxena & Brahmam 1995; Hains 1922).

METHODOLOGY

Study area

Odisha is the major part of eastern Ghats having rich Diversity of medicinal plants along with various type of tribal communities with unique (Dash et al. 2019). People depend on plants for their healthcare. the aim of the study is to know the medicinal values of *Oplismenus burmannii*. The plant was identified by following “Flora of Odisha” by Saxena and Brahmam (1995). Then by discussing with the local people and literature survey, the medicinal uses were recorded.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Whole plant is chopped into small pieces, mixed with molasses and given to cattle as galactogauge by the Asurs (Saha et al. 2014). Decoction of *Oplismenus burmannii* is usefull during pregnancy (Poulsamy et al. 2007). Plant extract used for Cytotoxicity activity against human

epidermoid Carcinoma of Nasopharynx (Aswal et al. 1984).

CONCLUSION

The present study reveals that *Oplismenus burmannii* is used in the treatment of galactogauge and also used during the pregnancy. Very less work was done on this plant. Hence, it needs more study to know more medicinal properties of the plant.

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