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Medicinal uses of *Pennisetum pedicellatum* (Desho grass)

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ABSTRACT

Grasses makes natural homogenous group of plant. They are widely distributed and found everywhere. Grasses play an important role in Urban and Sub urban areas. All grasses belong to family Poaceae and commonly known as “True grasses”. *Pennisetum pedicellatum* is a perennial grass commonly called as “Deenath” or “Desho grass”. It acts as traditional medicine. The present study is carried out in Odisha. The aim of the study is to know the medicinal values of *Pennisetum pedicellatum*. The study reveals that the plant contains flavonoids, alkaloids and steroids. Hence, the plant can be used as traditional medicine. Stems and leaves of *Pennisetum pedicellatum* is used to cure wounds, eye problem, parasitic infections etc. for which the plant needs to conserve.

INTRODUCTION

From the beginning of human civilization people depends on plants as a source of medicine (Bukhah et al. 2007). Medicinal plants are mainly the bio sources of traditional system of medicine, modern medicine and chemical entities for derivation of drugs (Ncube et al. 2008). In the era of modern science 80% of population of developing countries of world

depend upon medicinal plants for their health care (Bigham 1994). Medicinal plants are easily available and less expensive also don't have any side effect like synthetic medicine for which it is widely accepted (Gimba et al. 2019). In Odisha, tribal people depend on plant sources for their healthcare. Grasses are common to everywhere mainly include in Poaceae which is one of the largest family of monocotyledonous

flowering plants. This family consists of bamboos, cereals, grasses and grasses of natural land and some are also cultivated in lawns. It is about 780 genera and about 12,000 species (Christenhusz & Byng 2016). *Pennisetum pedicellatum* (Figure 1) is an indigenous grass belongs to family Poaceae and tribe Paniceae. It is commonly known as Desho grass (Bogdan 1997). It occurs in Tropical and Subtropical areas. The stem height ranges from 40 to 150 cm or more and in some cases, it may be up to 10 nodes. The stem is smooth, cylindrical, jointed and encircled by the leaf sheath. Leaves are born on sheaths which arise at nodes (Saxena & Brahmam 1995). It is wide spread and commonly found in littoral and cultivated areas (Tilahun et al. 2017). The present study is carried out to know the medicinal uses of *Pennisetum pedicellatum*.



Figure 1: *Pennisetum pedicellatum*

METHODOLOGY

Study area

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 by identifying the plant by "The Flora of Orissa" and the medicinal uses were recorded by questioners with local people.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Gimba et al. in (2019) reported that *Pennisetum pedicellatum* contains flavonoid, steroid and alkaloid in leaves, roots and stems. Hence, the study indicates that leaves and stem can be used as medicine. Diallo et al. in (2002) reported that leaves and stems of *Pennisetum pedicellatum* are use in the treatment of wounds. Ukuani et al. (2018) reported that *Pennisetum pedicellatum* is used to treat pain related conditions and parasitic infections.

CONCLUSION

The present study reveals that *Pennisetum pedicellatum* contain steroids, flavonoids, and alkaloids. Hence, it can be used as medicine. *Pennisetum pedicellatum* is used to cure wounds, pain related condition and parasitic infections for which it need conserve.

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