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The genus Solanum L., of Odisha, India: Source of future medicinal agents

The genus *Solanum* belongs to the family Solanaceae having about 2500 species globally and about 122 species are reported from India. The diverse landscapes of Odisha state provide a fertile land to grow numbers of *Solanum* species which are used as foods and traditional medicines. The most common *Solanum* species of Odia kitchen are Potato, Tomato and Brinjal, indicate their importance in the state and among the populace. The most common *Solanum* species of the state are *S. americanum*, *S. erianthum*, *S. nigrum*, *S. villosum*, *S. giganteum*, *S. sisymbriifolium*, *S. torvum*, *S. trilobatum*, *S. viarum*, *S. virginianum* etc. These species are growing throughout the state and local people consuming them as foods and medicines. The fruits of these species are also consumed by the birds and wild herbivorous. Less exploration works on food, medicinal and ecological values are done and there is a need to explore them along with tribal communities followed by evaluation of their food and medicinal values.



Flower of *Solanum sisymbriifolium*, Bonai Forest Division

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