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Folk medicinal use of *Blumea lacera* (BURM. F.) DC. To cure threadworms

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Abstract

In this paper highlights a brief description of *Blumea lacera* (Burm. F.) DC. belongs to Asteraceae family is provided along with its medicinal use to cure threadworms.

Keywords: Threadworms, Folk Medicinal use, *Blumea lacera*

Introduction

During survey on the medicinal plants of Uttar Pradesh, the author came across common population of *Blumea lacera* at Saroorpur, Meerut district. Uttar Pradesh is divided into two geographical regions, which are Southern hills and Plateau and Ganga Plain. The Western Uttar Pradesh situated in the Northern part of India and it includes seven regions (Meerut, Saharanpur, Moradabad, Aligarh, Bareilly and Agra). During the major part of the year climate of W.U.P. is influenced largely by the prevalence of dry air of the continental type, the summer being intensely hot and winter cold.

Uttar Pradesh has a very ancient and colorful history. The region finds mention in the great epics, the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*. Uttar Pradesh lies between 23°52' and 29°45' North Latitudes, to 77°04' and 84°38' East Longitudes. The Uttar Pradesh region covers a surface area of 240,928sq km and ranks fifth in terms of area and the most populous state of the India. Uttar Pradesh comprises 75 districts. Uttar Pradesh is one of the border states of India and is bounded in the north by Uttaranchal, in the north-west by Haryana, in the south-west by Rajasthan, in the south by Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, in the south-east by Jharkhand and in the east by Bihar.

In this region, soil mostly loamy and in some area it is sandy loam, silty loam and clay loam occasionally meet within the area. The rainfall varies considerably from year to year. The maximum rainfall recorded during the monsoon in the month of July-September. Climatically the year may be divided into four seasons. The cold season from near the end of November to the beginning of March is followed by hot season, which continues till about the end of June, when the south-west monsoon arrives, the monsoon season lasting till September end and the next two months forming the transitional period. The air is dry for the most part of the year. In April and May, these are usually the driest months.

Methodology

The present paper is based on the survey and collection of the data from the native informants, who are Vaidhya or Hakim (Ayurvedic medicine practitioners) and rural people who have knowledge about Ayurvedic medicine with their local name. Oral interviews were held in villages and information recorded at the spot.

Medicinal plants were collected and preserved for the future use. The plants were pressed in old newspapers and blotting sheets for dehydration in strong ply board. The Species were changed to fresh sheets after an interval of 24 hours to 2-3 days depending on the weather conditions until the specimens were completely dry. The plant species were identified with the help of available floras. Doubtful medicinal plants are confirmed at the herbaria of Forest Research Institute (F.R.I.) and Botanical Survey of India (B.S.I.) Dehradun.

There is no method to preparation of medicine reported by earlier researchers. Perusal of literatures on medicinal plants. Singh (1993) [4], Tomar and Singh (2005) [6], Tomar and Singh (2006) [7], Tomar (2007) [9], Dhiman and Dhiman (2008) [11], Tomar (2008) [9], Chauhan *et al.* (2009) [3], Singh *et al.* (2009) [5], Tomar (2009) [10], Jain and Suryavanshi (2010) [2],

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Tomar (2011) [11], Tomar (2014) [12], Tomar (2015) [13] and Tomar (2015) [14]. In this present study a brief description of species is provided along with its medicinal use.

This method to preparation of remedy has been recorded for the first time by the author to cure threadworms and described here:

Folk medicinal uses

Fresh leaf juice is used to expel threadworms, half to one tsp of fresh leaf juice is applied orally to children.

Dose

The same dosage is applied for twice a day for a week or until to free from threadworms.

Description of Species

An erect, leafy herb. Leaves oval or obovate, dentate or serrate, not lobed. Heads in short, axillary cymes or terminal, spiciform panicles. Florets yellow. Achenes not ribbed, glabrate.



Blumea lacera (Burm.F.) DC.

Chemical composition

It contains essential oil called blumea camphor.

Results and discussion

The species has been identified as a *Blumea lacera*. Species is very commonly occurs as a leafy herb. It is found frequently in waste places, old buildings and shady places. Therefore, study was conducted and revealed that *Blumea lacera* is used as Ayurvedic medicines in some part of Uttar Pradesh.

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