

PROCEEDINGS

National Workshop
on
Instrumentation Techniques
for
Research in Chemical Sciences
(WITRCS - 2017)

22-23 December, 2017



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National Workshop on Instrumentation Techniques for Research in Chemical Sciences

Proceedings

Of the National Workshop on

Instrumentation Techniques
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Phytochemical and pharmacological potential of *Saracaasoca* (Ashoka): A Review

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Abstract

Aim of the present review is to focus on the potential phytochemicals and pharmacological activity of plant *Saracaasoca* (ashoka). Various parts of the plant like seeds, leaves, flowers, bark and fruits have been investigated for their significant phytochemistry. *Saracaasoca* contains glycosides, flavanoids, tannins and saponins. It is used as spasmogenic, oxytocic, uterotonic, anti-bacterial, anti-implantation, anti-tumor, anti-progestational, anti-estrogenic activity against menorrhagia and anticancer. It is used to cure several diseases according to ayurvedic medicine also. It has specially been used to manage gynaecological complications and infections besides treating hemorrhagic dysentery, uterine pain, and tumours, cardiac and circulatory problems. Almost all parts of the plant are considered pharmacological valuable. This review is an attempt to compile and documented information on different aspect of *Saracaasoca* pharmacological properties and highlights the need for research and their potential development.

Key words- Ashoka, morphology, phytochemistry, medicinal uses.

Introduction

In the present age of pharmaceuticals, various chemicals have been employed for the effective management of disease. Due to their potential side effects researchers aimed on the effective herbal management of disease. They have been always the main principle form of medicine since traditions in India and now a day it becomes most popular throughout the world. Herbal medicines are not only providing traditional and ethnic medicine but also promising for highly efficient novel bioactive molecules. Since ages, man has been dependent on nature for curing various body diseases. The plant used as drugs are fairly innocuous and relatively free from toxic effects or were so toxic that lethal effects were well known¹.

Saracaasoca as one of the foremost plants utilised from antiquity till to date. Ashoka or Ashoka is a Sanskrit word which means "without sorrow" or with that gives on grief. Ashoka is one of the most legendary and sacred trees of India. Ashoka tree, universally known by its binomial latin name *Saracaasoca*, De.wild or *Saracaindica* belonging family Caesalpineaceae². It is a evergreen tree called in English Asoktree. It

is found throughout India, especially in Himalaya, Kerala, Bengal and whole South Region. Ashoka is one of the sacred plants of Hindus, and is especially sacred to the Hindus God of love Kama Dev, for whom it is worshipped every year on December 27, it is mentioned in Hindu mythology as the Asoka tree, beneath which the Indian philosopher and founder of Buddhism, Gautam Siddhartha was said to have been born under this tree. The aim of present study is to provide information about the phytochemical and pharmacological importance of the *Saraca asoca*³.

Classification

Kingdom- Plantae

Division - Mangolophyta

Class - Mgnolopsida

Order-Fabales

Family - Caesalpineaceae

Genus-*Saraca*

Species- *asoca*⁴

Ecological adaptations and distribution

1. Soil and climate: The plant requires slightly acidic to neutral soils for good growth with medium to deep well drained fertile soils. It grows well in tropical and subtropical situations under irrigation.