

# A Survey of Indian Medicinal Plants

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Man right from the dawn of human creation has been in search of toward off diseases by means of plants having medicinal values. The history of medicine in india can be traced to the remote past. Ayurved , Susruta samhita and Charak samhita gives a remarkable description of medicinal Plants. During the Buddhist period considerable progress was made and medicinal plants were contivated under the direction of highly qualified specialists. The drug in use are of many number and varied in character. The identification of drug will remain the prime difficulty until the prominent characterstics of each drug are well established.

During recent years chemists have synthesised potent remedies such as arsenicals and antimalarial compounds, which have proved effective in the treatment of protozoal diseases and sulphonamides useful in the treatment of bacterial diseases.

Antibiotic drug have revolutionized the treatment of bacterial and rickettsial diseases and some virus diseases can also be controlled by such antibiotic. Diseases which were considered incruable a few years back are cured by their use.

A general survey of some of the indian medicinal plants of therapeutical use are taken into consideration and their medicinal values were incorporated.

## 1. *Albizzia amara*

This plant belongs to family 'Leguminosae' and is called Krishna Sirisha in Sanskrit, Turinjil in Tamil and Sigara in Telugu.

Their seeds are used as astringent given in piles, diarrhoea and gonorrhoea. Flowers are externally applied to inflammation , boils and ulcers. Leaves are very helpful in ophthalmia.

## 2. *Albizzia Chinensis*

This plant belongs to family 'Leguminosae' and is called Mottavaka in Malyalam, Katturinjal in Tamil and Chinduga in Telugu.

The infusion of bark is used as a lotion for cuts, scabies and skin diseases. The whole plant is used as a fish poison.

## 3. *Baliospermum Montanum*

This plant belongs to family 'Euphorbiaceae' and is commonly called as Naka-danti in Malayalam, Niradimuttu in Tamil and Nelajidi in Telugu.

The seeds are purgative and is used externally as stimulant and in jaundice. Decoction of leaves are used in asthma. Oil from the seeds are used in external application for rheumatism.

#### 4. **Barringtonia Acutangula**

This plant comes under the family 'Lecythidaceae' and is commonly known as Kadappai in Tamil and Kadapa in Telugu. It is also called Piwar in Marathi.

Its seeds are used as an expectorant and as snuff in headache. The juice of the leaves of this plant is used in diarrhoea.

#### 5. **Caesalpinia Crista**

This plant belongs to family 'Leguminosae' and commonly called as Gajaga in Marathi, Kazanchik in Tamil, Gachacha-Kaya in Telugu and Kazanchik-kara in Malayalam.

Its seeds are used in antipyretic tonic, asthma and it also acts as an antidote to snake-bite. Tender leaves are used in the treatment of liver disorder. The extracts of leaves and seeds are externally applied for dispersing inflammatory swellings. The seed oil is used as embrocation to remove freckles from the face and for stopping discharges from the ear.

#### References

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