

Oral presentation

Ethno-medico-botanical research in *Euphorbia fusiformis* - a review update

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Introduction. Herbal medicine is the oldest form of health care known to mankind. Herbs have been used by all cultures throughout history and it was an integrated part of the development of modern civilization. India is a versatile emporium of medicinal and aromatic plants.

Objectives. The main objective of the study was to compile and deliver the ethnobotanical aspects (current & past report) of *Euphorbia fusiformis* - a rare medicinal plant.

Methods. The present research describes the ethnobotanical survey in *Euphorbia fusiformis*, from the personal interviews that were carried out by present and past researchers with the various tribal practitioners in India. This study also includes the current research activity of this important taxon. (A decade survey, 1997-2006).

Results. *Euphorbia fusiformis* Buch.-Ham. ex D.Don (Euphorbiaceae) is a rare medicinal flora, found in the Western & Eastern Ghats of India. The ethnobotanical value shows a remedy in several diseases like fever, acute headache, rheumatism, gout, paralysis and arthritis. The dried root powder and fresh rhizome increase the secretion of mothers' milk, heals chronic wounds or cracking in the sole, and cures skin diseases. Its soup is recommended for liver disorders and diarrhea. Caudifolin, methylellagic acid and euphol are major chemical components. Apart from this, recent research focuses the biological activity *i.e.* anti-arthritis, anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties.

Conclusion. *Euphorbia fusiformis* is a rare, medicinal and rhizomatous herb, used in the traditional system of medicine (Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homeopathy) to cure several diseases.

Key words: Herbal medicine, *Euphorbia fusiformis*

Selected references

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