

A NOTE ON HERBAL MEDICINAL PLANT *ALOE*

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ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made to study the medicinal properties of *Aloe*, which cures the intestinal disorder, liver and spleen and liver & helps in curing diabetes and heart disease and give work many generalised ailments of women. Its use as medicinal helps the users healing and even the menstrual problem of women. It is also effective in various asthma and dry cough.

INTRODUCTION

The native place of *Aloe* is Northern Africa, Korea, Island and Spain. In India it is found from Himadyan range to Kanyakumari. It is generally known as Koyeri in Sanskrit, Giseepathia in Hindi, Kowarpathia in Gujarati, Koptur in Marathi, Kewagsadali in Punjabi, Ghikikumari in Bengali, Guwarpatha in Rajasthan, Ukhini in Tamil, Kaurai in Malayalam, Sabharat in Arabic, Parkhat-J-Sike in Parsi, Mhussabir in Urdu and Indian *Aloe* in English languages.

The initial description about the use the leaves of the plant as effective in curing the intestinal disorder, liver and spleen disturbance, piles, heart, diabetes, gynecological problems and anemia condition is found in *Asthera Veda*. It forms the RBC Cells of the blood and cures the anaemic condition. Matera has given many types of medicinal plants to cure the different types of diseases as reported by Chopra et al. (1958), Singh et al. (1983) and Awasthi et al. (1985). The whole plant of *Hydrocotyle asiatica* has the medicinal value to cure the mental and physical disability has been reported by Singh & Ahmed (1999). The plant *Aloe* which has the great medicinal value to cure many types of human diseases, belongs to family Liliaceae. The present communication is an attempt to gather the medicinal value of plant being used by vast population since long, before the academic world for its further detailed study and specific use.

The plant collected from the garden is a perennial herb of 60-70 cm height. The green leaves of the plant are 20-43 cm long, 2.5-3.5 cm wide and 1.25 cm thick. The leaf is wide at the base and pointed at the apex, which bears small spines or margin at short intervals. It has adventitious root system and bunch of leaves develops at the base of stem. The old plants develop an inflorescence from the middle of the bunch, which bears reddish green flowers at the end of winter season (Fig. 1).

The plant is identified as medicinal plant used to cure the different types of diseases by old people. The pulp of leaf of the plant has aloin, glucoside, a light yellow coloured crystalline water soluble glucoside, mucin, resin, gallic acid and succinic acid. The patient can be prevented from surgery by using pulp of *Aloe* regularly especially for the pain of heart, the disease known as angina. Different medicinal plants like *Salvia leuca-antalyensis* (Panda et al. 1991) and *Nehaluba malyera* (Mukherjee et al. 1995) effectively cure dysentery when used regularly.

The *Aloe* is also effective in high blood pressure. When pulp of the plant is used it cures the intestinal protozoa in blood and cures fully when regularly used for one or two years. When the

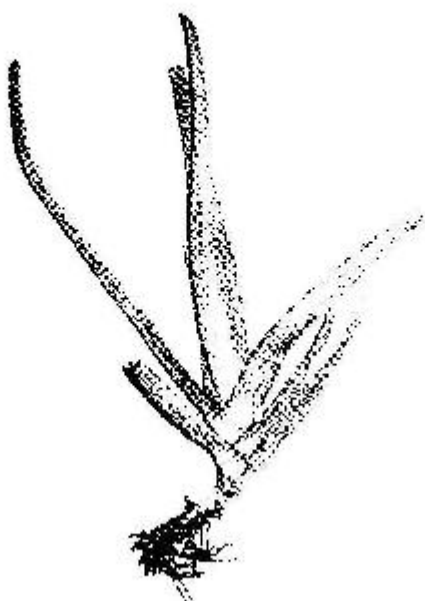


Fig. 1: The plant of *Aloe*.

pulp of *Aloe* is used regularly for a longer duration with neem fruit it cures the weakness of sensory organs and maintains the young age. The pulp of *Aloe* is useful for women in curing the irregular flow of blood and also the excess flow of blood. It is also used as antifertility herbal medicine. The herbal medicinal plants like *Coincya wrightii* (Benjamin et al. 1990, Singh et al. 1992) and *Ocimum sanctum* (Singh & Agrawal, 1992) having the chemical constituents like alkaloids act as antiasthmatic and anti-inflammatory activity against many diseases. The use of root, stem and leaves of *Achyranthus aspera* has been reported to cure many diseases of human beings (Singh & Ahmed 2006).

The plant is also used in spleen disturbance where the RBC cells decrease and WBC increase in blood causing anaemia. The RBC cells are increased in blood and cure anaemia when pulp of *Aloe* is used regularly for 15 days.

Pandey (1978) reported that the pulp is used in fever, enlargement of liver, spleen, gonorrhoea, constipation, menstrual suppression, piles, jaundice and rheumatic disorders. The juice of leaf is given as a remedy for intestinal worms in children.

In humoeopathy the medicine Aloe Socotrina, prepared from the *Aloe* species, has a wide range of medicinal value to cure many diseases of human beings. It is frequently used for the treatment of diarrhoea, dysentery and piles. It is also a valuable remedy in uterine haemorrhage and prolapsus of the uterus (Bharju 1979, Ghosh 1995).

The plant is being used since long by the tribal population of Jharkhand. The detailed study on chemical constituents of the plant and its ecology is under progress. Attempts are being made for commercial production of the plant too. The study on the pollutional impact of coal mining on the plant is also under way.

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