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[Arpana Y. Ramchandre]

Aim of the present work :

India is a richest source of medicinal plants. However only few plants have been studied, still a great number of plants have not been investigated which are extensively used in medicine.

Now-a-days efforts are being made to develop herbal medicines in research institute. At the same time efforts are also being made for its standardisation and came into Indian formulations. So the present work is proposed to investigate the plants used in medicines by local people in Sangli district. Data was collected by personal contact with local people and practitioners.

The importance of adequate phytochemical work of crude drugs used in various medicines is becoming increasingly recognised and in this respect present work will be useful. Plenty of plants have not much been studied with phytochemical point of view, one of them is *Alocasia indica*.

The *Alocasia indica* plant has some of the medicinal activities like diuretics, antihelmintic. The root stock is considered as a mild laxative and diuretic, it is generally used in piles, constipation and dropsy in the form of a gruel. The juice of the leaf or leaf decoction is given for colic. Leaf juice is astringent and the rhizome is said to be useful on anasarca. [The Wealth of India].

In our investigations of survey of folk medicines it was found that this *Alocasia indica* plant leaves is extensively used for the treatment of Jaundice. For many years and thousands of the patient have been cured. A person in Islampur is using this plant since many years for the treatment of Jaundice successfully. Hence this plant is selected for the phytochemical investigation. By using the leaves of *Alocasia indica* a crude drug the cost of the treatment could be considerably reduced.

The utility of the Western medicines to the masses in India has been limited by reason of its costliness and several side effects. Apart from the economic consideration this crude drug is more suited to the habit of people and climatic conditions that prevail in this soil. The question is only development. It should be possible to formulate different preparation from responsible constituents for particular treatment of disease, which could be sold at very cheap price.

Attention to this subject is of great importance to this country because of economy and low cost of advice and treatment are of paramount importance to any plan of medical relief that can hope to succeed in this country. The development of phytochemical studies of Alocasia indica leaves itself has great importance in future.

The active principles responsible for the therapeutic action have to be isolated out and worked out so the salient features of present dissertation work deals with survey of folk medicines in Sangli district and phytochemical studies of the leaves of Alocasia indica plant.