

# Therapeutic Values of some Plants used in the Treatment of Leucorrhoea among Anaemic Young Female Patents

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## ARTICLE DETAILS

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## ABSTRACT

Five plant species ie *Aloe vera* Linn.(LILIACEAE), *Phyllanthus fraternus* (EUPHORBIACEAE) *Withania somnifera* ( SOLANACEAE), *Sesaca asoca* (CAESALPINIACEAE) *wrightia tomentosa* (APOCYNACEAE) have been studied with folklore claims related to dreaded disease" leucorrhoea among anaemic young women. The use of above plant part as medicine gathered from rural people living in different parts of India (Nadkarni, 1954, Chopra et al., 1986 Jarald et al. 2007).

## 1. Introduction

Leucorrhoea is commonly known "White discharge". Ayurveda refers leucorrhoea to Shwetapradava which excessive white discharge. It is believed to be caused by aggravation or vitiation of kapha dosha. This commonly occurs in the patients who are weak, emaciated and anaemic. Most women experience a certain amount of vaginal secretion, which is the body's natural way of cleansing, lubrication, and guarding the vagina against infections (Joshi J et al. 1988, Miller et al,2005,Dewick pm, 2001). Alike mouth and anus, the mucous membrane of vagina constantly shed and replaces its cells, passing them out of the body in the form of mucous secretion. This secretion action of cervical and endometrial glands and also because of the activity of bacteria which, live harmlessly in a normal healthy vagina. On the other hand an abnormal vaginal discharge may be grey-white, yellow or brown or rusty. The consistency may be clumpy and thick thin and liquid. There is usually a very offensive odour, and it may cause irritation and reddening of the part (Hamman, 2008, Kaushik et al 2006). Leucorrhoea may also be noticed in female who are suffering from tuberculosis, anaemia as also in those who have a general low resistance power, maintain poor local hygiene and those who use excess of vaginal medications such as strong disinfectants. Women are constantly under stress and are anxious by nature may also complain of this leucorrhoea disease (uma et al 1999; Vieira et al 1993).

## 2. Materials and methods

The plant species under study was collected during excursion trips to different parts of our area in flowering state. The collected plant species were dried under herbarium press in exposed atmosphere for week. The dried plant species poisoned with 2% mercuric chloride solution and mounted herbarium sheet measuring 42 x 28 cm and later on compared with the type specimen placed at the herbarium of National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow (H.H. Haines 1921).

## 3. Results and discussions

The present communication deals with ethnomedicinal taxa used against the treatment of leucorrhoea. Only botanical name, family, local name origin, brief morphological account and uses of plant parts by folklore are such as:

### 1 *Aloe vera* Linn

LILIACEAE

Local name: Ghrita Kumari

Origin: Indigenous

Plant parts used: Leaf gel.

Morphological features :

A much-rigid, perennial acaulescent shrub; with persistent scars of fallen leaf bases old trunk. Leaves:

40–60 x 5-8 cm, oblong-lanceolate, succulent due to gel, armed marginal cores, acute, sheathing and man-sunken nerved at base.

Flowers: 3-merous orange-red Stamens; 6, free; anthers; ditheous, basifixed.

uses: The fresh pulp of leaves taken by affected patients to check their menstrual disorder and cure leucorrhoea.

### 2 *Phyllanthus fraternus* Linn

EUPHORBIACEAE

Local name : Bhui-amlā

Origin: Southern and Western India

Plant parts used: Entire plant

Morphological features:

An erect wild annual herb, 10-20 cm tall, with tap-root stock , Leaves: 5-10 \* 3-6 mm, oblong, entire obtuse, rounded and 1-nerved at base. Flowers: unisexual monoecious. Stamens; many-free; female flower: solitary.

Uses: The fresh extract of entire plants are taken to cure suffering women

### 3. *Saraca asoca* Roxb

CAESALPINIACEAE

Local name: Sita Asok

Origin : Sri Lanka, South Africa

Parts used: Bark

Morphological features:

A branched evergreen small-sized tree, with drooping branches; Leaves: Compound, unipinnate, paripinnate; leaflets : lanceolate 8-12 pairs downy. Flowers: 2.5-3cm across, orange-red, in racemes.

Uses: The decoction of bark is taken 10ml thrice to cure leucorrhoea.

**4. Withania semnifera Linn**

SOLANACEAE

Local name: Ashwagandha

origin: South America

Parts used : Root.

Morphological features -

A much-branched perennial, fruticose herb, 35-70 cm tall with and glandular-hairy internodes. Leaves: 5-6x2-2.5cm, ovate, entire, acute, rounded and 1-nerved at base. Flowers: 7 mm across, pale-green, in axillary/ extra-axillary, uniparous cyme of helicoid type. Berry: globose, 2-3 cm across, green when young otherwise orange-red when ripe.

Uses: The infusion of dried roots are taken during bed time with milk to give positive result in curing Leucorrhoea.

**5. Wrighatia tomentosa R.Br.**

APOCYNACEAE

Local name : Sankura

Origin: Latin America

Parts used: Root, bark.

Morphological features:

A much-branched, tall, deciduous tree, with drooping branches and persistent fruit of last year. Leaves: 15-20x7-10cm, elliptic lanceolate, entire, mucronate, cuneate and 1-nerved at base; nerves: reticulate - veined flowers: 3-4 cm.

Uses: The decoction of root and bark, from old plant, mixed with black pepper taken thrice (5ml) to cure leucorrhoea.

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