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Pharmacognostic analysis of authentic and market samples of *Curcuma caesia Roxb*

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India, one of the 17 identified mega-diverse countries of the world, which is home to 11.80% of plant species where practice of herbal remedies in the recognized alternative systems, i.e., Ayurveda, Siddha, Homoeopathy, Unani, etc. to treat wide range of ailments dates back to many centuries. A time of trend reversal is seen world over, to use herbal remedies to treat health problems. Plants have been one of the important aspects of the world health. *Curcuma caesia Roxb.*, an endangered plant (claimed to be useful in piles, leprosy and infertility, etc by traditional healers in India) are two such plants.

The present paper deals with the detailed pharmacognostic analysis of authentic plant material of the two above mentioned species collected from natural habitat as well as the samples obtained from traditional market (from Mumbai and adjoining area). This will also attempt to throw some light upon the malpractices followed by unscrupulous profit seekers who resort to adulteration in order to maximize profits. The paper will attempt to make a strong plea to increase awareness about the beneficial properties of *Curcuma caesia Roxb.*, so that, this plant may gain a place in the modern system of medicines.

This paper also deals with the phytochemical analysis of leaves of *Curcuma caesia Roxb.* and suggests its use as substitute of another rare medicinal and aromatic plant namely, *Kaempferia galanga L.* which is becoming rare due to over exploitation.

Keywords: Pharmacognosy, Curcuma caesia, Market sample.

Biography

Suchandra Dutta has completed her Ph.D. in Botany (Angiosperm Taxonomy) from Blatter Herbarium (BLAT), St. Xaviers' College, University of Mumbai (India) in 1997. Currently she is the Assistant Professor at the Department of Botany, R. D. National College, Mumbai, India. and actively involved in guiding undergraduate students in their research on Plant Taxonomy and applied aspects of Plant Taxonomy (the co-authors are two such students). She has published more than 10 papers in reputed journals. Besides her research in Plant Taxonomy, she has made an exhibition namely, "Chemistry in Nature" - an unique exhibition of potential plants used by the pharmaceutical, dye, aromatic industry. This exhibition gained appreciation during the last two International Industrial Green Chemistry Symposium (IGCW) organized during 2009 and 2011 in Mumbai, India.

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