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Phytochemical and Pharmacological profiling of Aghori (Flacourtia indica (Burm.f.)Merr) –an exploration of the evidence of a potent folklore medicine

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ABSTRACT:

India is having a very rich medicinal flora. It's reported that Indian folk medicine uses, about 7500 plant species. But with the increasing demand, deforestation urbanization, etc. results in scarcity of herbal medicinal plants. This is high time when worldwide interest in herbal medicines is getting momentum and to find alternatives and introduction of the new medicinal plants with proper scientific validation is the need of the hour. Ethnobotanical knowledge contributes a lot to this issue. Aghori is one such plant with high medicinal value. The literature survey revealed that a considerable amount of pharmacological studies has been conducted in Flacourtia indica. An outsized number of researches focused on pharmacological effectiveness on this plant are addressed.A preliminary pharmacognostic and phytochemical analysis was conducted. This article dealt with preliminary pharmacognostic phytochemical and pharmacological analysis of the Aghori (Flacourtia indica). Powder microscopy of Aghori (Flacaurtia indica) showed the presence of rosette crystal, stone cells, and simple and compound starch cells. The phytochemical analysis of a methanolic extract of the root of Aghori showed the presence of tannins, flavonoids, saponins, terpenoids, alkaloids, anthraquinones, reducing sugar. A review of the pharmacological action of Aghori (Flacaurtia indica) showed its efficacy in cardioprotective, anti-oxidant, hepatoprotective, anti-malarial, anti-inflammatory, anti-asthmatic, anti-diabetic, anti-convulsant, hypolipidemic, and diuretic action. A bioassay-guided isolation of the active compounds should be done to promote the development of drugs from this medicinal plant.

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