

Quality improvement of wool fabric using neem extract

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Received: 22.07.2013; Revised: 20.09.2013; Accepted: 16.10.2013

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■ **ABSTRACT** : Herbal antimicrobial finish has been imparted to the wool fabric using methanolic neem extract by exhaust method. Finish was applied in tw/130 concentrations (3g/l and 5g/l) on grey as well as enzymatically scoured wool fabric and compared. The antimicrobial activity of the finish was accessed by quantitatively by AATCC-100 test method in terms of bacterial reduction. Effectiveness of finish was also accessed after washing the samples, using standard ISO: 6330-1984E with pre-determined number of washing cycles. Fabric strength and bending length was assessed using standard test method. It was observed that neem has been found effective against bacterial growth on wool fabric even after 20 washing cycles. neem treated scoured wool fabric showed very good antimicrobial activity than neem treated grey wool fabric. Tensile strength of treated sample was found to be lower than that of the untreated one. Fabric became stiffer after neem application and stiffness increased with increase in treatment concentration.

■ **KEY WORDS** : Antimicrobial, Neem, Wool, Enzymatic scouring, Bacterial reduction and treatment

■ **HOW TO CITE THIS PAPER** : Hooda, Santosh, Khambra, Krishna and Yadav, Nirmal (2013). Quality improvement of wool fabric using neem extract. *Asian J. Home Sci.*, 8 (2): 570-574.