

## Preliminary ethnomedical and phytochemical study of *Cleome viscosa* L.

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### ABSTRACT

*Cleome viscosa* Linn. Commonly known as 'Hul-Hul' is used as Anthelmintic, Rubefacient and the seeds are given occasionally in fever and diarrhoea. Powdered roots are put on the lips by santhals to restore consciousness when fainted. The smoke of the leaves is used by the local people at night to protect them from mosquito bite. Phytochemical details of methanol extract through spectroscopic analysis showed a methylenic proton of the pentet type. *Cleome viscosa* L. (capparidaceae) Syn. *Cleome icosantra* L. is a herbaceous weed, and erect glandular pubescent annual, one to three feet high. Flowers are on long pedicels, half inch long, yellow in colour, sepals ovate, petals four, two approximate and two spreading, obtuse, stamens 12-24, capsule 2-3 ½ inch, narrowed upward, striate, gland pubescent, style glabrous, seeds small, glandular and black.

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**Key words :** *Cleome viscosa*, Folk medicine, Herbaceous weed, Fever, Diarrhoea.

### INTRODUCTION

In spite of the vast scientific development in this modern age, man is still looking towards the traditional medicine-culture and way of life which has got its own origin and development. In remote places where modern science has not reached, not taught, people know much about diseases, medicine and so many things about life, health and human welfare. Traditional medicine is knowledge based on folklore, which has been growing on years and years together and from one generation to another generation.

Surveys of certain pharmacologically active phytoconstituents in wild plants which are commonly used in folk medicine have been quite important during the past few decades. The result of these studies have proven to be of much significance for their commercial exploitation. Many

reports are available now on the phytochemical screening of plant of a particular geographical region (wall *et al.*, 1954; persinos and Quimby *et al.*, 1967; Kapoor *et al.*, 1969; Bhattacharjee and Das, 1969; Smolenski *et al.*, 1975; Kapoor *et al.*, 1975). However, only few are concerned with such plants used by rural folks and tribal peoples.

In the present communication an effort has been made to screen the phytochemical details of the *Cleome viscosa* Linn of family Capparidaceae, which is used as folk medicine.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The fresh material of *Cleome viscosa* was collected in spring season in the year 2010 from the Hamirpur district of Bundelkhand region of India. The plant material collected from the study area was identified by Dr. S.K. Jain Professor of Botany S.S.L. Jain College Vidisha. The herbarium and the voucher specimen were procured in the herbarium record of pest control and Ayurvedic drug research laboratory of S.S.L. Jain College at Serial no. 40. The shade dried plant materials were powdered and extracted for 48 hours in different solvents of increasing order of polarity by soxhlate apparatus in the laboratory. The crude extracts thus obtained were vacuum evaporated under reduced pressure below 40° C. The percentage yield of the crude plant extract in different solvents has been given in Table 1. separation of the three crude extracts was done by column and thin layer chromatographic methods.

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