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Pharmacognostic studies on the leaves of *Hemidesmus indicus* (L) R Br ecotypes

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Hemidesmus indicus (L) R Br (Syn: *Periploca indica* (L)) belongs to the family Asclepiadaceae. It is also known as “Indian Sarasaparilla”. Its leaves are widely recognized in traditional systems of medicine. The leaves are used in diarrhea, jaundice, rheumatism, and redness & burning of eyes. Leaves are simple very variable from ovate to linear-elliptic. The epidermal cells are polygonal-anisodiametric to polygonal linear and few isodiametric; the sides on abaxial are straight to curved and wavy to sinuate in ecotypes. In surface, the cuticle shows straight to wavy striations. Leaves are amphistomatic with paracytic and tetracytic stomata. Trichomes are unicellular, uniseriate conical and uniseriate macroform conical hairs also observed on abaxial surface of few ecotypes. Epidermis is 1 layered, interrupted by stomata. Mesophyll and ground-tissue of midvein are interspersed with prismatic, sphaero and rhomboidal shape of calcium oxalate crystals and tanniferous idioblast cells. The midvein consists of a single arc shaped vascular bundle. The powder microscopic and organoleptic characters are provided. Preliminary phytochemical, HPLC analysis and UV studies were under taken.

Biography

D Kavitha is currently pursuing PhD in Botany under the supervision of Professor P Ramachandra Reddy, Plant Anatomy and Taxonomy Laboratory, Department of Botany, Osmania University, Hyderabad.

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