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A review on ethno-botanical, phytochemical and pharmacological activity of state plant of Odisha *Saraca asoca*

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ABSTRACT

Saraca asoca (Roxb) Willd. commonly known as “Ashoka” belongs to the family *Caesalpinaceae* is an essential primeval plant having countless conventional importance. The scientific study of indigenous or traditional cognizance of plants and their religious, medical and practical uses is called as “Ethno-botany”. Ashoka has been considered as a global panpharmacon in Ayurvedic contexts of ancient India. Almost every part of this plant is used in pharmaceuticals. It has predominantly been used for gynecological complications like leucorrhoea, dysfunctional uterine bleeding and also for bacterial infections, skin problems, cardiac and circulatory issues. Comprehensive ethno-botanical practices of *S. asoca* have instigated to accessibility of various commercial formulations. Here, we will emphasize on the ethnobotanical usage of this worthy plant of our state and explore its exceptional pharma-benefaction.

INTRODUCTION

The dependency of humankind on plants and natural resources for quotidian requirement which include health interest is a chronicle from the beginning of human civilization. India has always been

considered as medicinal garden of the world because it has been offered with broad treasure of medicinal plants. Odisha, a state in eastern India has extensive biodiversity of plant resources. Ashoka tree is one of the