



JOURNAL OF BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Status of some species of *Euphorbia* genus and their pharmacological characterization and antimicrobial significance

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History

Received: 8 September 2019

Received in revised form: 24 October 2019

Accepted: 25 November 2019

Keywords: Ethnomedicine, Latex, *Euphorbia* sp., Medicinal values, Pharmacology

ABSTRACT

A number of immunity booster plant groups are included in traditional system of medicine since the Vedic period. Research in the field of Ethno medicine has gained new dimensions in India. This chapter aims to provide an update overview of traditional uses, phytochemistry and antimicrobial activity of few species of Euphorbia. Literature data proved that these plants are used to cure various ailments viz. menstruation problems, diarrhea, cold and fever, skin disease, wounds. The chapter provides insight for future research suggesting the ethno pharmacological validation and exploration as a new source of herbal drugs. In this article data from about 60 native and invasive species of Euphorbia were gathered.

INTRODUCTION

India is a multi-depository of medicinal plants, one of richest countries having highest storage of genetic resources of herbal plants (Parekh & Chand 2007). *Euphorbia* genus having rich morphological variability is the third largest genus of flowering plant with almost 2026 species. The plants are woody shrubs, annual or perennial herbs with poisonous milky latex

which are most often used to cure skin diseases, digestive disorders, wounds and hemorrhages (Pascal et al. 2017). Several species of *Euphorbia* genus (*Euphorbiaceae*) act as antiherpetic and antitumor agents against polio, rhino viruses, coxsackie after tested in vitro (Betancur-Galvis et al. 2002). Studies indicate that phytochemical as a good