



JOURNAL OF BIODIVERSITY AND CONSERVATION

Medicinal uses of *Pennisetum pedicellatum* (Desho grass)

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ARTICLE INFO

Article History

Received: 15 September 2019

Keywords: *Pennisetum*, ethnomedicinal grass, Odisha

Received in revised form: 09 October 2019

Accepted: 21 November 2019

ABSTRACT

Grasses makes natural homogenous group of plant. They are widely distributed and found everywhere. Grasses play an important role in Urban and Sub urban areas. All grasses belong to family Poaceae and commonly known as “True grasses”. *Pennisetum pedicellatum* is a perennial grass commonly called as “Deenath” or “Desho grass”. It acts as traditional medicine. The present study is carried out in Odisha. The aim of the study is to know the medicinal values of *Pennisetum pedicellatum*. The study reveals that the plant contains flavonoids, alkaloids and steroids. Hence, the plant can be used as traditional medicine. Stems and leaves of *Pennisetum pedicellatum* is used to cure wounds, eye problem, parasitic infections etc. for which the plant needs to conserve.

INTRODUCTION

From the beginning of human civilization people depends on plants as a source of medicine (Bukhah et al. 2007). Medicinal plants are mainly the bio sources of traditional system of medicine, modern medicine and chemical entities for derivation of drugs (Ncube et al. 2008). In the era of modern science 80% of population of developing countries of world

depend upon medicinal plants for their health care (Bigham 1994). Medicinal plants are easily available and less expensive also don't have any side effect like synthetic medicine for which it is widely accepted (Gimba et al. 2019). In Odisha, tribal people depend on plant sources for their healthcare. Grasses are common to everywhere mainly include in Poaceae which is one of the largest family of monocotyledonous