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Shaccharum spontaneum (Kasa Tandi): a medico -socio-economic grass of Odisha

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Abstract

Odisha is a land of 62 group of tribal and they rely on plant sources for their health care. *Saccharum spontaneum* L. is a perennial grass belongs to family Poaceae. It is commonly known as wild sugar cane. It occurs throughout India along with river side and Tropics of old world. It is considered as valuable medicinal herb in traditional system of medicine in India. It acts as folk medicine. This study was carried out in Odisha. The result reveals that the plant parts are used to cure abdominal disorder, diuretic, dysentery etc.

INTRODUCTION

Indian Systems of Medicine derives many of their tools from plant (Kumar et al. 2005). Uses of plant as drug often found in old literature like Sushruta Samhita, Charaka Samhita, Atharveda etc. After the development of Allopathic drug, people still relay on traditional medicine because of its cheaper cost and no side effect (Kokate et al. 2002). Some grasses also have medicinal values. Grasses mainly describe the monocotyledons. They belong to family 'Poaceae' and known as 'True grasses' (Dashora & Gosavi 2013). These are about 10,000 classified into 600 to 700 genera (Cloyton & Renvoize 1986). Grasses form an important part of Urban and Suburban landscapes. Members of this family are ecologically dominant covering approximately 20 % of earth's land surface (Shantz 1954). *Saccharum spontaneum* L. (Figure 1) is a perennial tall grass found naturally in pastoral lands in many Tropical countries (Pandey et al. 2014). It