

CHAPTER 7

Anthelmintic activity of selected plants of Odisha

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ABSTRACT

Eisenia fetida is a species of earthworm adapted to decaying organic material. The important sources of medicinal plants like *Andrographis paniculata*, *Melia azadiracta* and *Terminalia chebula* noted for their Anthelmintic activity against earthworm. Hence, an attempt has been taken to gather the reported information and availability of this species in the urban areas of Odisha. Survey was made during the January 2020 to March 2020 to locate the said species in the study areas. Associated species have recorded. Results revealed that plant is used to treat many diseases and disorder. It was observed that it is planted in most of the gardens and educational campuses of the study areas which showed opposite step towards the conservation of this medicinally important tree species in urban areas. Phytochemical screening and Anthelmintic activity showed its pharmacological potential.

Keywords: Anthelmintic, earthworm, *Eisenia fetida*, Odisha

7.1 INTRODUCTION

Antihelmintic is the substance which destroys or prevents the development of parasitic worms such as filarial, flukes, hookworms, pinworms, roundworms, schiostomes, tapeworms, trichinae and whipworm (Murali *et al.* 2014). Helminthic infections are very common in human beings, affecting a large proportion (Hotez *et al.* 2008). The helminthes parasites predominantly subsist in the human body in the intestinal tract (Amini *et al.* 2017). Infections with helminthes or parasites and worms affect more than two billion people worldwide. They are the most common infectious agents of humans in developing countries and produce global burden of diseases and contribute to the prevalence of malnutrition, anemia, eosinophilia and pneumonia (Schaible and Kaufmann 2007). The use of medicinal plants for various ailments is a common practice among the tribal and often passed orally from generation to