



Ethnomedicinal Uses of *Alangium salvifolium* (L. f.) Wang. (Alangiaceae)

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ABSTRACT

Alangium salvifolium (L. f.) Wang. of Alangiaceae is a high potential medicinal plant. Local herbal healers of Warud tahsil, Dist Amravati (M. S.) use this plant variously for the treatment of human ailments like dysentery, gases, indigestion, snake-bite, ascites, mad dog-bite, psoriasis, eczema and other skin diseases, arthritic joint-pain, mice-bite, agitated animal bite, blood disorders, burning sensation and wound scars. In this paper mode of uses, used by local herbal healers of Warud tahsil, are given for the treatment of above mentioned human ailments. Also, some of the proved biological activities and uses from literature are mentioned.

Introduction:

Alangium salvifolium (L. f.) Wang. of Alangiaceae is a highly medicinal plant. Local herbal healers of Warud tahsil, Dist Amravati (M. S.) use this plant variously for the treatment of human ailments like dysentery, gases, indigestion, snake-bite, ascites, mad dog-bite, psoriasis, eczema and other skin diseases, arthritic joint-pain, mice-bite, agitated animal bite, blood disorders, burning sensation and wound scars. In this paper mode of uses, used by local herbal healers of Warud tahsil, are given for the treatment of above mentioned human ailments. Also, some of the proved biological activities and uses from literature are mentioned. Different parts like root, wood, leaves, fruits and seeds are used as medicine. This plant also provide large amount of pollen mass for honeybees in the month of March-April and food for birds and monkeys in the month of May-June. However, such a potential medicinal plant species is slowly disappearing from the study area due to cutting of natural agricultural fencing, widening of the road and use as fire-wood.

Ethnomedicinal uses of the different parts of the plant were documented by direct contact with the local herbal healers and by organizing workshops for them.

Enumeration: *Alangium salvifolium* (L. f.) Wang. in Engl. Pflanzenr. 41:9, f. 2A-E. 1910. Syn. *Alangium lamarkii* Thw. Alangiaceae.

Vernacular/Local Name: Ankol, Ankul, Potya-ankol.

Description: Trees. Leaves ovate, lanceolate. Flowers cream coloured in axillary fascicles, few; pedicels pubescent; calyx turbinate. Berries ellipsoid or ovoid.

Fls. & Frts.: Feb.-April.

Occurrence: Rare along road sides, fields and on waste places.

Mode of Use:

- a) 2-3 gm root bark is made to paste in 10 ml cooked rice water (rice is cooked in excess of water, strained. Strained water is used to prepare the paste). Entire paste is given with 2 gm honey twice/day for 7-days to cure dysentery, gases, indigestion and as antidote to snake-bite
- b) 10 ml fresh root juice is given twice/day for 7-days to treat ascites.
- c) 100 gm roots are boiled in 150 ml water and 100 ml extract is prepared. 30 ml fresh root extract is given with 5 ml ghee to the victim of mad dog-bite up to 7-days.
- d) 2 gm root powder is given with 50 ml cow-milk twice/day for 7-days to treat psoriasis, eczema and other skin diseases.
- e) Wood paste is prepared by crushing 100 gm wood in 150 ml water with the help of pestle and mortar. 20 gm paste is given to victim of snake-bite for vomiting (vomiting is supposed to reduce the intensity of poison action).
- f) ½-kg leaves are crushed in pestle and mortar to prepare the paste. Paste is warmed on the pan. Warm paste is applied on arthritic joints every day till relief.
- g) Leaf poultice is applied on joints to reduce rheumatic joint-pain.
- h) ½-kg leaves are crushed in pestle and mortar to prepare the paste. Paste is warmed on the pan. Warm paste is applied on arthritic joints every day till relief.
- i) Leaf poultice is applied on joints to reduce rheumatic joint-pain.
- j) 20 gm fresh leaf juice is given to the victim of mad dog-bite, mice-bite or victim of any other agitated animal bite up to 7-days.
- k) Mature fruits are given to eat in the treatment of blood disorders and burning sensation of body.
- l) Seed oil is used for massage of arthritic joints.

m) Seed oil is applied on wound scars to remove them.

Uses from Literature: Plant is useful in the treatment of blood pressure, eye complaints, boils, menstrual and stomach disorders, cholera, dropsy, fistula, spleen complaints (Jain, 2012).

Roots and fruits are used for the treatment of rheumatism, hemorrhoid and rabbit-bite. Wood is used in snake-bite (Ekka and Ekka, 2013a).

Leaves are used in diabetes and fruits as astringent (Jain et al., 2010a; Sharma et al., 2011b; Sreekanth et al., 2011). **Root bark** is emetic, febrifuge, purgative, anthelmintic, astringent, spasmolytic, diaphoretic, antipyretic; useful in piles, leprosy, syphilitic and other skin diseases. **Leaves** are used in rheumatic pains and diabetes. **Fruits** are acidic, astringent, refrigerative, laxative, expectorant, carminative, anthelmintic, alexiteric and useful in inflammation, skin burns,

spermatorrhoea, gleet, acute fever, haemorrhages, stranguary, consumption and lumbago (Warrier et al., 1996; Khare, 2007). Seeds are used in wound scar healing (Naidu et al., 2014).

Proved Biological Activities: Root extract possesses anti-venom and blood purifying properties (Jain et al., 2011). Petroleum ether root extract showed anti-ulcer activity (Mohanty et al., 2011). Ethanolic extracts of crude powder (root, stem and leaf) showed anti-inflammatory and analgesic activities (Tanwer and Vijayvergia, 2012). Stem bark showed antifertility activity (Murugan et al., 2000) and anti-arthritis activity (Jubie et al., 2008). Stem and leaf extract showed hypoglycaemic and antidiabetic activities (Kalarani et al., 2011). Inayathulla et al., (2010) investigated wound healing potential of ethanolic extract of leaves. Ethanolic extract of leaves has shown antiulcer activity (Sreekanth et al., 2011).



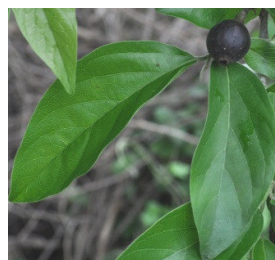
Tree



Bark



Flower



Leaves & Fruit



Yankatrao Wahane (Local Herbal Healer) preparing medicine from bark of the tree.

Conclusion: *Alangium salvifolium* (L. f.) Wang. of Alangiaceae is a high potential medicinal plant. It is becoming rare in the wild due to destructive human activities and therefore should be protected for future use. Medicinal claims of the local herbal healers need to be assessed critically through assessment of biological activities.

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