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“ETHNOMEDICINAL USES OF DESMODIUM TRIANGULARE (Retz.) Merr.”

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ABSTRACT:

Traditional and folklore medicines play an important role in health services around the globe. The plant *Desmodium triangulare* (Retz.) Merr. has been used in folklore medicine in the treatment of various ailments but not mentioned in Ayurvedic classical text. The information regarding Ethnomedicinal uses of *Desmodium triangulare*(Retz.) Merr. in various books on ethno-botany, published research and review articles, it is found that the drug *Desmodium triangulare* (Retz.) Merr.

is used in different state like; Gujarat, Bihar, Kerala, Karnataka etc. Whole plant is used in different diseases like Rheumatism, Cataract, Stomach pain, Diarrhoea, Eyes diseases are treated by this drug.

KEYWORDS: *Desmodium* species, *Desmodium triangulare*(Retz.) Merr.,

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INTRODUCTION:

Desmodium triangulare (Retz.) Merr. is a synonym of *Dendrolobium triangulare* (Retz.) Schindl.¹ *Desmodium triangulare* (Retz.) Merr. belongs to the family Fabaceae and subfamily Papilionaceae. It is known by the name *Lapoti* in Gujarati, *Triangulare* horse bush, *Triangulare*- stemmed horse bush in English, Chetanda, Cittenta in Telugu, *Lapoti* in Urdu, *Antarike gida* in Karnataka,² *Karabija* (s)³ in Zharkhand, *Chipate* in Marathi, *Kattu moovila* in Malayalam, *Kaadu moovile*, *Naaga thagare* in Kannada.⁴ *Dendrolobium* is a genus of flowering plants in the legume family, *Fabaceae*. It belongs to the subfamily *Faboideae*. The genus included 18 accepted species and 8 unresolved species.⁵ *Dendrolobium triangulare* (Retz.) Merr. is found in Taiwan, China, Cambodia, India, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and few African countries. Leaves are trifoliate, where blade narrowly obovate-elliptic. Flowers are white or pale yellow. Seeds are elliptic. Roots of the plant are widely used for medicinal purposes to

strengthen bones and build muscle.⁶

MATERIAL AND METHODS: Various books on ethno-botany, published research articles, journals and webpages were reviewed to collect the information related to ethnomedicinal uses of *Desmodium triangulare* (Retz.) Merr.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

Desmodium triangulare (Retz.) Merr. observed to be used in 19 different disease conditions. It is exclusively used in Rheumatism, Snake bite and Bowel disorders. Thus, it is observed that it has a vast range of therapeutic claims and is used in Rheumatism, Stomach pain, Diarrhoea, Snake bite, Flatulence, Blindness. It is observed that leaf, root, and whole plant of *Desmodium triangulare* (Retz.) Merr. are used in 2 dosage form. There were variations observed in the total number of claims and the external and internal applications as in some claims the mode of administration was not clearly explained.

Table 1. Ethnomedicinal claims of different useful parts of *Desmodium triangulare* (Retz.) Merr.⁷⁻¹⁶

Sr. No.	Name of disease	Part used	Dosages form	Int /Ext.
1.	Rheumatism	Root	-	Ext
2.	Cataract	Whole part	-	-
3.	Stomach pain	Whole part	-	-
4.	Diarrhoea	Whole part	-	-
5.	Diarrhoea	Leaves	-	-
6.	Eyes diseases	Whole part	-	-
7.	Antibacterial	Leaves	-	-
8.	Anti-inflammatory	Leaves	-	Int
9.	Bacillary dysentery	leaves	-	-
10.	Snake bite	leaf	Juice and poultice	Int / Ext
11.	Snake bite	root	-	-
12.	Blindness	Whole part	-	-
13.	Flatulence	Root	-	-
14.	Bowel disorders	Root	-	-
15.	Dysentery	Leaves	-	-

16.	Coughs	Leaves	decoction	-
17.	Leucorrhoea	Whole part	-	-
18.	Aphrodisiac	Roots	-	-
19.	To strengthen the bones and to build muscle	Roots	-	-

Table 2. Use of *Desmodium triangulare* (Retz.) Merr. in different state of india. ¹⁷⁻²⁶

Sr.no	Part used	Disease	State
1.	Whole plant	Rheumatism	Gujarat
		Cataract	
		Stomach pain	
		Diarrhoea	
		Eye disease	
2.	Whole plant	Blindness	Assam
		Cataract	
		Diarrhoea	
		Stomach pain	
3.	Roots	Rheumatism	Santhal pargana (Jharkhand)
		Flatulence	
		Bowel disorder	

Method of administration of *Desmodium triangulare* (Retz.) Merr.

1.Snake-bite is treated with finely punded fresh leaves, the juice being extracted pro-oral administration and the residue used for a poultice.²⁷

2.Root of the plant along with bark of 'Kendwar' (*Garuga pinnata*) is powdered, mixed in mustard oil and rubbed over the body in rheumatism, flatulence and bowel disorder.²⁸

3. For the treatment of snake bites, the fresh sap of the leaves is drunk, and squeezed leaves applied as a poultice.²⁹

CONCLUSION:

It is observed that, various parts of *Desmodium triangulare* (Retz.) Merr. were used by tribes of India, to treat 19 different disease conditions. Tough classical text didn't mention about the use of this plant for clinical use, in ethno medicinal practice, different parts like leaf, seed and whole parts were also used with root. *Desmodium*

triangulare (Retz.) Merr. Are used to treat conditions like Rheumatism, Cataract, Stomach pain, Diarrhoea, Eye disease, Bowel disorder etc. It is also used in different state like Gujarat, Assam, Zharkhand etc. Thus, the leaf, stem, root etc all the parts are having medicinal value. This plant is used in various ailments in old time. Its use as medicine is found in all over India even though not found in classical Ayurvedic books.

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