

USE OF PLANT EXTRACTS AS DYES—A PRELIMINARY REPORT

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Several plants : Jak (*Artocarpus heterophyllus* Lam.) Satin (*Chloroxylon swietenia* DC), Nil Katarolu (*Clitoria ternatea* L.) Sepalika (*Nyctanthus arbor-tristis* L) and Bowitiya (*Osbeckia aspera* L) were extracted with water, methanol, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and rectified alcohol. Using T.L.C. and colorimetric methods, purity of extracts obtained by various extraction methods was examined and methods of obtaining colour extracts with a greater degree of purity were devised. Stability with time, effect of pH and temperature on colour were also studied. Possibilities of using some of these extracts in dyeing cotton, wool, soaps and preparation of wood stains were investigated.

The results showed that water extracts of Jak wood and Sepalika were more suitable for dyeing of cotton and wool. Sodium hydroxide extracts of Jak wood and Satin wood were used to prepare colourings for soaps and wood. Colour from Sepalika and Bowitiya were found to be usable as colouring for jellies.