

PHARMACOGNOSTICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF THE  
TWO GENERA : ADHATODA AND JUSTICIA

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Adhatoda vasica and the various species of the genus Justicia have been used for their therapeutic properties since ancient times.

A comparative study of the species belonging to two genera was undertaken as these two genera are closely related. Adhatoda vasica (syn. Justicia adhatoda) and some Justicia species (J. Betonica, J. Tranquebarensis, J. Gendarussa, J. Hookeriana, J. Royeniana and J. Procombens) have been examined from both morphological and chemical points of view.

The morphological and anatomical characters of these species were studied. The diagnostic features which could be used for the identification and differentiation of these species will be presented.

The microscopic characters of the dried powders of these plants species were also examined. This enables one to distinguish or authenticate these drugs when they are in the dried form and when they are incorporated into compound medical preparations.

To achieve a systematic identification and differentiation of the species belonging to the two genera, TLC screening for chemical constituents of these plant species was carried out. Profiles which could be used for the identification and differentiation of these species will be presented.

The volatile compounds present in these plant species were compared using Thermomicro - Separation, Transfer and Application method according to Stahl (TAS). Suitable chromatographic conditions were developed and profiles which could be used to distinguish each plant will also be presented.

References ;

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