

PHARMACOGNOSTIC STUDIES ON GMELINA ARBOREA (VERBENACEA)

A. Hewagama and K.T.D. de Silva
Dept. of Chemistry, University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

Gmelina arborea is a medicinal plant occurring in Sri Lanka, India, Burma and Philippine Islands. Leaves of G.arborea are used to remove foetid discharges and worms from ulcers while the root and stem bark are used in the treatment of fracture and rheumatic ailments in Ayurvedic Medicine.

The macroscopy and the microscopy of the parts used in Ayurvedic medicine (bark, roots, and leaves) of G. arborea were studied. The diagnostic features of these could be used for identification and authentication of the different parts.

The powder microscopy of the bark, leaves and roots were also studied. The difference in these could be used to detect and distinguish different parts of G. arborea incorporated into a preparation.

Suitable TLC profiles for different parts of G. arborea were developed. These profiles can also be used to distinguish the different parts of G.arborea and to detect their presence in a preparation.

(The grant given by NARESA for this project is acknowledged).

References:

- Jayaweera D.M.A., Medicinal Plants Used in Sri Lanka.
- Jackson B.P. and Stanley Thornes (Publishers) Ltd. London.
- Stahl E., (1973) Drug Analysis by Chromatography and Microscopy, Ann Arton Science Publishers Inc. Michigan.