

**ETHNOMEICINAL USES OF *FLEMINGIA STROBILIFERA* (L).W.T.AITON**Dr.Shreedevi<sup>1</sup>, Vd. B.R.Patel<sup>2</sup>

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**ABSTRACT**

The drug *Flemingia strobilifera*(L).W.Aiton is one among many used medicine in India even though not mentioned in Ayurvedic classical texts. The study is conducted to know the ethnomedicinal uses of *Flemingia strobilifera*(L). Various books on ethno-botany, published research and review articles, journals and webpages were reviewed to collect the information regarding Ethnomedicinal uses of *Flemingia strobilifera*(L). It is found that the drug *Flemingia strobilifera*(L). is being used in 17 different states of India like Gujarat, Assam, Bihar etc. Root, Leaf, Seed, Flower, Whole plant is used in the treatment of different ailments. Almost 24 diseases are treated by this drug. Diseases like epilepsy, hysteria, rheumatism, tuberculosis etc are treated by this drug. Countries like Burma, Malaya, Java, Nepal etc are also using *Flemingia strobilifera*(L). in the treatment of different diseases. Other than medicinal usage, the drug is used as host for lac, ornamental plant, in agroforestry, as firewood, green manure etc.

**KEY WORDS:** *Flemingia strobilifera*(L).W.Aiton

**INTRODUCTION:**

*Flemingia strobilifera* (L).W.Aiton commonly known as Wild hop and luck plant belongs to the family Fabaceae and subfamily Papilionaceae. It is known by the name Kaanphoot in Hindi, Makhiyati in Assamese, Kumalu, Nari baalada honne in Kannada, Kanalam, Kumaanchedi, Kumalu, Ponthorilla, Theri in Malayalam, Bandar, Kaanphooti, Klipti in Marati, Bhatamaase, Bhatavaasi in Nepali and Nalla baddu in Telagu<sup>1</sup>. The Generic name Flemingia is assigned in the honour of John Fleming, M.D, F.R.S, Physician General and President of Bengal Medical Board<sup>2</sup>. About 35 species are known to occur mainly in tropics of Asia, 15-18 species of them have been reported from India<sup>3</sup>. *Flemingia strobilifera*(L). is an important medicinal plant. In wealth of India it has been reported that roots of *Flemingia strobilifera*(L). are used by Santal tribe in epilepsy, hysteria, insomnia and to relieve pain<sup>4</sup>.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS:**

Various books on ethno-botany, published research and review articles, journals and webpages were reviewed to collect the information related to Ethnomedicinal uses of *Flemingia strobilifera*(L).

**OBSERVATION AND RESULTS:**

It is observed that, various parts of *Flemingia strobilifera*(L). were used by tribes of India, to treat 24 different disease conditions. Though classical texts didn't mention about the use of this plant for clinical use, in ethno medicinal practice, different parts like leaf, whole plants etc were also used with root. Different parts of *Flemingia strobilifera*(L). used to treat conditions like epilepsy, hysteria, rheumatism, tuberculosis etc. It is used by various tribes of 17 different states of India i.e. Andrapradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhyapadesh, Assam etc.

Table 1: Different diseased condition where *Flemingia strobilifera*(L) W.T. Aiton is useful<sup>5-15</sup>

Sr. No	Name of disease/ condition	Part used
1.	Haemorrhage	Entire plant
2.	Bronchial Asthma	Entire plant
3.	Hysteria	Root, Leaf
4.	Fever	Root
5.	Rheumatism	Root
6.	Worm	Root
7.	Scabies	Root
8.	As contraceptive	Seed
9.	Analgesic	Leaf, Root
10.	To induce sleep	Root
11.	As tonic	Root
12.	Vermifuge	Leaf
13.	Epilepsy	Root
14.	Blood Dysentery	Root
15.	Insect sting	Leaf
16.	Veterinary skin disease	Whole plant
17.	Gastric complaints	Root
18.	Leucorrhoea	Root
19.	Oedema	Leaf
20.	Diarrhea	Root
21.	Kidney stone	Root
22.	Fly repellent	Root
23.	Cessation of menstruation born complaints	Leaf
24.	Tuberculosis	Flower, Leaf

Table 2: Use of *Flemingia strobilifera*(L) W.T.Aiton in different diseases in different states of India5-15

Sr. No.	Disease / Disease stage	Part used	Name of the State
1.	As analgesic	Root	Assam
2.	Body ache	Root	Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh
3.	Epilepsy	Root	Sikkim, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa
4.	Fever	Root	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh
5.	Gastric Complaints	Root	Sikkim, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa
6.	Hysteria	Root	Sikkim, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa
7.	Insecticidal	Plant part not specified	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh
8.	Leucorrhoea	Root	Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh
9.	Sedative	Root	Assam
10.	Vermifuge	Leaf	Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Assam
11.	As Tonic	Leaf	Uttar Pradesh

**Method of administration of *Flemingia strobilifera*(L).**<sup>16-20</sup>

- ✚ One tea spoonful of root paste is given twice daily for 3-5 days for the treatment of Epilepsy and Hysteria.
- ✚ 3-5 teaspoonful of root paste is given daily for Gastric disorder.
- ✚ Root of the plant in the form of paste is applied locally in scabies.
- ✚ In haemorrhage decoction of entire plant is administered.
- ✚ Even in Bronchial Asthma, decoction is prepared using entire plant and then given orally.
- ✚ Cut fresh leaves boiled in coconut oil till the green turns to black, allowed to cool and applied as medicated oil, half an hour before bath for problems associated with body pain.

**Medicinal use of *Flemingia strobilifera*(L). in different countries**<sup>21,22,23</sup>

- One seed a month is chewed by women as a contraceptive.

- In India, root paste applied externally to body swelling.
- Root used for epilepsy in India.
- In Malaya, decoction of leaves administered after childbirth and for bathing.
- Decoction of leaves used for rheumatism.
- In Java, decoction of leaves used internally and externally as vermifuge for children.
- In Bangladesh leaf juice used to treat worms.
- In Nepal, Root juice (fresh roots crushed in cup of water by mortar and pestle) is taken twice daily for 7 days for diarrhea and dysentery.
- In Trinidad and Tobago, used for kidney stones.
- In India leaves and flowers used for tuberculosis. Roots used for hysteria, root juice for diarrhea and dysentery.
- In India, cut fresh leaves boiled in coconut oil till the green turns to black, allowed to cool and applied as medicated oil half an hour before bath for problems associated with body pain<sup>14</sup>.
- In Burma the roots of *F. Strobilifera*(L). are used to treat epilepsy.

- The Marma tribe uses this plant as fly repellent.
- Decoction of the leaf is taken orally by Marma tribe to cure body swelling due to cessation of menstruation; bath taken with leaf-boiled water has similar effect. The plant is also used for rheumatic fever.

#### Other than medicinal uses of *Flemingia strobilifera*(L).<sup>24</sup>

In the Philippines, dried bracts used for stuffing pillows and cushions.

Agroforestry

Boundary, barrier or support

Erosion control or dune stabilization

Land reclamation

Revegetation

Soil conservation

Soil improvement

Fuelwood

Green manure

Host for Lac

Mulches

Ornamental

#### CONCLUSION:

It is observed that, various parts of *Flemingia strobilifera*(L).W.Aiton. were used by tribes of India, to treat 24 different disease conditions. Though classical texts didn't mention about the use of this plant for clinical use, in ethno medicinal practice, different parts like leaf, seed and whole plants were also used with root. Different parts of *Flemingia strobilifera*(L). are used to treat conditions like fever, acidity, dysentery, diarrhea, epilepsy, hysteria, dermal disorders etc. It is used by various tribes of 17 different states of India i.e. Andrapradesh, Gujarat, Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh, Assam etc. It is used in different counties in the treatment of diseases. Countries like Java, Burma, Bangla, Nepal etc are using this plant in the treatment of many diseases. Thus the leaf, stem, root etc all the parts are having medicinal value. Since olden time this plant is used for various ailments. Its use as medicine is found throughout India even though not found in classical Ayurvedic texts.

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