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PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING OF PLANT OF ENICOSTEMMA AXILLARE

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ABSTRACT

The plant is bitter tonic, stomachic and laxative. The whole plant is dried and powdered and given with honey as
blood purifier and dropsy, rheumatism, abdominal ulcers, hernia, swellings, itchies and insect poisoning. It is used as
substitute for chiretta and reported to be effective against malaria, its administration is not accompanied by any ill
effects, such as nausea, headache, ringing in ears(tinitus). A bitter glycoside has been isolated from the plant. The
plant contains ophelic acid.

The present study summarizes the preliminary phytochemical screening study of plant of *Enicostemma axillare*

KEYWORDS: Gentianaceae, Phytochemical, *Enicostemma axillare*

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INTRODUCTION

*Enicostemma axillare* is glabrous perennial herb in high
found throughout the greater part of India up to an
altitude of 1500 ft common in coastal area. Leaves
opposite, decussate, sessile, elliptical-lanceolate, flowers
white or bluish, in whorled auxiliary clusters.

The plant is bitter tonic, stomachic and laxative. The
whole plant is dried and powdered and given with honey as
blood purifier and dropsy, rheumatism, abdominal ulcers, hernia, swellings, itchies and insect poisoning. It is used as
substitute for chiretta and reported to be effective against malaria, its administration is not accompanied by any ill
effects, such as nausea, headache, ringing in ears(tinitus). A bitter glycoside has been isolated from the plant. The
plant contains ophelic acid.

The present study summarizes the preliminary phytochemical screening study of plant of *Enicostemma axillare*

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant material and chemicals

Collection of plant was done in the month of November
2009 and August 2010 from Majalgaon dist. Beed. The
botanical identity of the plant was confirmed at the
Botany department of Dr. BAMU, Aurangabad with
Accession No. 0737. A voucher specimen has been
deposited at the Museum of the Department of Botany,
Dr. BAMU, Aurangabad. All the reagents and chemicals
used were procured from Dipa laboratory, Aurangabad
and of analytical grade.

Extraction and isolation

Plant was kept in cool place for drying to avoid direct
loss of phytoconstituents from sunlight. Dried plant were
ground into powder. This powder (50g) was ready for
extraction process. Powder was continues Soxhlet
extracted with Petroleum Ether (60-80°C) Chloroform
and then with Methanol (35 hrs, 70°C) and three extracts
were proceed separately. Petroleum ether extract:
Solvent was evaporated to give dark green material.
Chloroform extract: Solvent was evaporated to give dark
green material. Methanol extract: Solvent was evaporated to give a dark green semisolid material.

Preliminary phytochemical screening (Table 1)
Preliminary Phytochemical screening was carried out by
using standard procedures.

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RESULT AND DISCUSSION
The preliminary phytochemical test was performed on the extracts of plant of *Enicostemma axillare*. They show the presence of alkaloid, flavonoid, glycoside, tannin in extracts of Plant.

CONCLUSION
The preliminary phytochemical screening revealed the presence of Flavonoid, alkaloid, Tannin, Glycosides in extracts of *Enicostemma axillare*. Due to the presence of active phytochemicals, plants can be used medicinally in future.

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REFERENCES

Table 1: Preliminary Phytochemical Test for Extracts of *Enicostemma axillare*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Extracts</th>
<th>Tannins</th>
<th>Glycosides</th>
<th>Alkaloids</th>
<th>Flavonoids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Petroleum Ether</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chloroform</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methanol</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*+: Present  -: Absent

Source of support: Nil, Conflict of interest: None Declared