

ANDROGRAPHIS PANICULATA: A REVIEW ON ETHNOMEDICINAL POTENTIAL AND BIOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

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Abstract: *Andrographis paniculata* Nees (Acanthaceae) the 'Kalmegh' of Ayurveda is an erect annual herb extremely bitter in taste. It is also known as 'BhuiNeem', since the plant though much smaller in size shows similar appearance and has bitter taste as that of Neem. Present review reflects its ethnomedicinal uses. Since ancient times, *A. paniculata* is used as a wonder drug in traditional Siddha, ayurvedic systems of medicine as well as in tribal medicine in India. The plant extract exhibits antityphoid and antifungal activities. Kalmegh is also reported to possess antihepatotoxic, antibiotic, antimalarial, antithrombogenic, antiinflammatory, antisnakevenom and antipyretic, anti HIV activity. As the dependence on herbal medication is increasing day by day, this review may be helpful for further research on this wonderful medicinal plant.

Keywords: *Andrographis*, Kalmegh, Antihepatotoxic, Antithrombogenic, Antiinflammatory

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