RESEARCH ARTICLE

GC- MS ANALYSIS OF METHANOLIC EXTRACT OF NEEL (*INDIGOFERA TINCTORIA*) ROOT

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Abstract: *Indigofera tinctoria* L. is famous as Indian indigo plant from early periods. It belongs to the family Leguminosae and is one of the oldest colouring agents known to man. Neel leaves are used in ayurveda and it forms a major ingredient of preparations like Neelibringadi oil, Aravindasavam, Neelithulsyadi kashayam etc. The Juice of the Neel leaves mixed with honey is effectively used against enlargement of liver and spleen, epilepsy and other nervous problems. The root of the plant which was usually abandoned after harvest also has very good therapeutic potentials reported. It is being used by traditional healers and also in folk medicines. Decoction of the root is given to treat calculus. An infusion of root is given as an antidote in cases of arsenic poisoning. Root infusion is used as an antidote against snakebites and to treat insect and scorpion stings. It is an antidote against mushroom and arsenic poisoning Root preparation is used in Tanzania as a remedy against syphilis, gonorrhea and kidney stone. In the present study, phytochemical investigations were carried out in the roots of Neel. The methanol extract of root when subjected to GC-MS analysis revealed the presence of many compounds which are reported to have pharmacological activities supporting the medicinal usages of this root. The specific TLC fingerprint developed can also be made useful for authentication of Neel root when used as raw herbal drug.

Key words: *Indigofera tinctoria*, Neel, GC-MS analysis

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