

QUALITY EVALUATION OF THE TRADED RAW DRUG OF *TINOSPORA CORDIFOLIA* (CHITTAMRUTHU) COLLECTED FROM KERALA HERBAL MARKET

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Abstract: *Tinospora cordifolia* (Willd)Miers., is a herbaceous vine of the family Menispermaceae indigenous to tropical regions of the Indian subcontinent. Its uses and application with reference to human benefits have been written in various ayurvedic and vedic scriptures and practices long back. Its common names include Gilo, Moonseed, Chittamrithu etc. *Tinospora cordifolia* is used for diabetes, high cholesterol, allergic rhinitis (hay fever), upset stomach, gout, lymphoma and other cancers, rheumatoid arthritis, hepatitis, peptic ulcer disease, fever, gonorrhoea, syphilis, and finally to boost the immune system. It is one of the ingredients of KHADA preparation recommended by Ministry of Ayush for boosting up immunity during Covid -19 pandemic. The rising demand for this drug now has naturally may lead to adulteration in market raw drug samples. This paper presents the results of quality evaluation of the raw drug market samples of *Tinospora cordifolia* collected from different herbal markets of Kerala. In the study the thin layer chromatographic profiles of the genuine plant samples were compared with that of market samples. The TLC profile of the methanol extract of genuine plant material gave specific fingerprint which can be differentiated from spurious samples by cross matching. This method can be effectively utilized for checking of the market samples for ensuring the quality. The study revealed that out of fifty market samples analysed only forty seven were pure and three were spurious.

Keywords: Adulteration, *Tinospora*, Chittamruthu, Thin layer chromatography (TLC)

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