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Review Paper

## A comprehensive review on traditional uses, chemical compositions and pharmacology properties of *Achyranthes aspera* (Amaranthaceae)

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### Abstract

*Achyranthes aspera* plant is very useful for the cure and treatment of various diseases of human beings. Different parts of the plants is used to cure various diseases like leprosy, asthma, arthritis, wound, snakebite, dermatological diseases, cardiac disease, kidney stone, gynecological disorder, malaria, gonorrhea, pneumonia, dysentery, rabies, toothache, etc. Phytochemistry, pharmacological activities, diseases, traditional uses of the *Achyranthes aspera* may explain briefly in review articles with in-vivo and in-vitro studies. This article provided the complete latest information on the *Achyranthes aspera* which may include Phytochemistry, pharmacological activities, diseases, traditional uses, etc. Some extensions regarding Phytochemistry, pharmacological activities, diseases, traditional uses may explain in this review. Data may have the info about different activities of various diseases such as hepatoprotective, anticancer, anti-inflammatory, antiarthritic, thyroid-stimulating, antiperoxidative, abortifacient, antilaprotic, immunomodulators, contraceptives, etc. It may have many chemical constituents Glycosides, saponins, carbohydrates, alkaloids, cardiac glycosides, amino acid, ecdysterone, hentriacontane. Some chemical constituents which are Glycosides, saponins, carbohydrates, alkaloids, cardiac glycosides, amino acid, ecdysterone, and hentriacontane of the *Achyranthes aspera* used in high range throughout the world. There should be many investigations for these further clinical trials. This plant may be investigated on the next level for a novel drug system.

**Keywords:** Pharmacological activities, traditional uses, phytochemical constituents, clinical trials.

## INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda is most used system from ancient time, as a medicinal purpose. Ayurveda is maximum known throughout the worldwide for cure and treatment of various diseases of human beings. It may provide a healthy and safest life. Nature gives many of medicinal plants which may be used in higher scale and most effective against any of diseases. There are many medicinal agents in nature which may be used from thousands of years. Natural medicinal plant may isolate and new property of the plant has been used for further medicinal investigation. From Ayurveda medicine was got achievements of ancient Indian civilization. Ayurveda may give importance to medicinal drugs and secondly to the physician which may give treatment to humans.

In Present years, interest in Ayurvedic system of the people increasing day by day because of its good effects and no side effects against the disease. By increasing population the demand of herbal drugs also increasing. All the herbal may formulate according to the Indian Pharmacopeia of Ayurvedic system. Maximum of herbal plants formulations used for their accuracy and efficacy, or easily available throughout the world. Focus on the plant is increasing per day. Green plant may use from the ancient times. These are

healthier than that of the synthetic products with less toxic effects. Plants are safe, new and biodegradable drugs.

Herbal plants may use from the ancient time and also used for the antibacterial activity. All plants may have the medicinal properties. Antioxidative properties are involved in *A. aspera* plant. With presence of phenolic and flavonoids constituents it may antioxidative properties in it<sup>1</sup>. Natural antioxidants may protect the human from free radicals, and all the harmful disease like cancer, infections, cardiovascular diseases, and all chronic diseases etc<sup>2</sup>. Natural antioxidants may be good effective and have the less toxic effect than that of other components<sup>3,4</sup>. Synthetic antioxidants are only effective for the outsources oxidative products and used in pharmaceutical companies. This activity may have the good effect on human than of synthetic antioxidants and cure for all diseases on health care of the human<sup>5,6</sup>.

*Achyranthes aspera* belonging to family Amaranthaceae is an herb which may grows all over the worldwide. Traditionally known as Apamarga. It is an annually based plant. An erect herb which may have height around 2.0m and 1000m in height<sup>7</sup>. This plant is found in world Ceylon, Tropical Asia, Africa, Australia, America, and India. *Achyranthes aspera* is used for its medicinal property throughout the world<sup>8,9</sup>. Leaves of the plant elliptic ovate and 22 cm long and

2.5 in broad, Stems are square in shape, around 30 cm long florescence with white or red flowers 7 mm broad. The flowers having growth in summer.

*Name of Achyranthes aspera in various languages:*

Arabic	Atkumah
Bengali	Apang
English	Rough Chaff
Guajarati	Aghedo
Hindi	Latjira
Kannada	Uttatane
Malayalam	Kadaladi
Punjabi	Kutri
Sanskrit	Apamarga <sup>10</sup>

*Achyranthes aspera* shows different activities of various diseases such as hepatoprotective<sup>11</sup>, anticancer<sup>12</sup>, anti-inflammatory, anti-arthritis<sup>13</sup>, thyroid stimulating, antiperoxidative, abortifacient, anti laprotic, immunomodulators<sup>14</sup>, contraceptives<sup>15</sup> etc. Different parts of the plants is used to cure various diseases like leprosy, asthma, arthritis, wound, snake bite, dermatological diseases, cardiac disease, kidney stone, gynecological disorder, malaria, gonorrhea, pneumonia, dysentery, rabies, toothache etc. There are many phytochemicals constituents present in *Achyranthes aspera* which may use to cure various ailments. The constituents are alkaloids, saponins, glycosides, ecdysterone, cardiac glycosides etc.

## MORPHOLOGY

*Achyranthes aspera* is an annual herb which may use for this medicinal property throughout the world. Leaves are simple 1-3 feet from stem<sup>16</sup>, Stamens are double in shapes<sup>17</sup>, Stomata are anisocytic<sup>18</sup>, embryology is seen, indorse type of anther, many covering structures. Vascular and medullary bundles also founds, and cambium<sup>19,20</sup>.

Root - Cylindrical Shape 1.0cm in diameter. Divided into two parts secondary and tertiary roots.

Leaves - Simple and ovate, Opposite, velvety, Elliptical.

Flowers - Bracteolate, green or red, bracteates, spikes shape.

Petals - 2 petals in spikes green or white coloured.

Fruits - fruits stored in utricle and dry.

Seeds - smoothed and curved embryo, Aluminous.

Androecium - 5 stamens with corolla lobes.

Gynoecium- ovary is superior and having 2 syncarpous<sup>21</sup>.



## DISTRIBUTION

Apamarga found in whole world in different regions. Mostly found in tropical and warmer regions of the world<sup>22</sup>. This plant is mainly found in world Ceylon, Tropical Asia, Africa,

Australia, America, and India<sup>23</sup>. It is found in India state Himachal Pradesh as a Shivbari sacred grove<sup>24,25</sup>. Medicinal plant used in Ayurveda system. A vegetation of Apamarga also found in Karachi and Pakistan<sup>26</sup>.

## Taxonomical Classification

Botanical Name	<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>
Kingdom	Plantae
Divisions	Mangoliopsida
Family	Amaranthaceae
Genus	Achyranthus
Species	Aspera

## USES

*Achyranthes aspera* has been used for ayurvedic medicines. Used for diuretics, dermatological disorders, gynecological disorders<sup>27</sup>, induce labor pain, genitalia<sup>28</sup>, etc. Mainly used for the renal leprosy, cough<sup>29</sup>, scrofula, fistula, skin rash, nasal infection<sup>30</sup>, chronic malaria, fever, asthma<sup>31</sup>, piles, snake bites, diarrhea, cold, menstrual disorders<sup>32</sup>, astringent for wound healing, cancer<sup>33</sup>, etc. All parts of the plant may useful for the diseases, Leaves, stem, bark, all have medical properties<sup>34</sup>. For kidney stone and skin eruptions, allergy<sup>35</sup>, snake bite, diabetes, renal failure. Many of the formulations are made for different diseases juices also treat ophthalmic and dysentery<sup>36</sup>. Also used for the antifertility, induced the abortion, bleeding, renal complications, scorpion bite, boils, hemorrhoids, rheumatism, itches, toothache, nervous problems, hysteria etc.<sup>37</sup> From ancient times it may be used for the temple worship For Ganesh Chaturthi, In Shiva puja leaves are used and known to be good sign for luck<sup>38</sup>. Plant have ash used to treat ulceritis<sup>39</sup>. Roots used for vomiting. Also used to cure pneumonia by boiled the leaves of the plant<sup>40</sup>. Tranquilizing properties also occurs<sup>41</sup>. Used in different formulations like soaps, perfumes, dental products, prepared food and beverages etc.<sup>42</sup>

## PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING

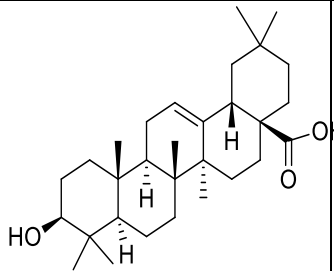
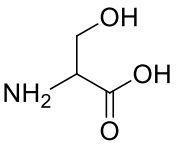
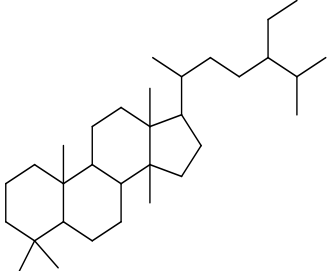
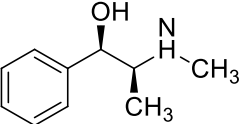
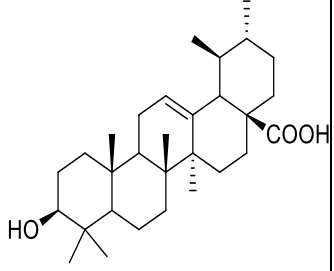
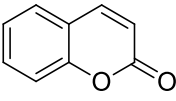
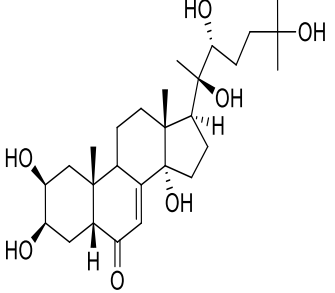
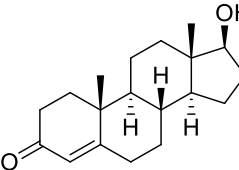
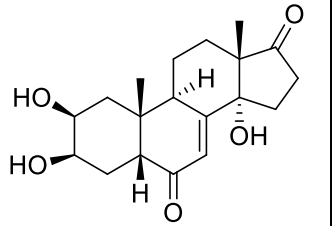
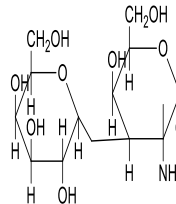
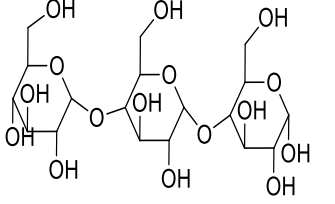
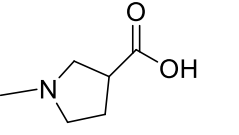
Medicinal plants may used for various disease which may have different constituents involved. They constituents are responsible for curing the diseases either that is chronic or short term. Some of secondary metabolites present alkaloids, phenols, glycosides, tannins, saponins, terpenoids, flavonoids etc. Some of essential oils which have therapeutic agents. Most of the constituents may present and used for the diuretic, purgative, laxative, hepatoprotective, antiasthmatic, cough, diarrhea, ulcers, piles etc.

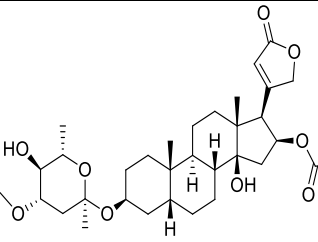
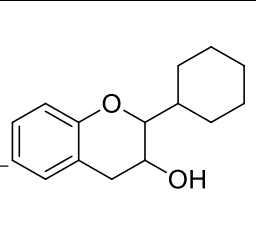
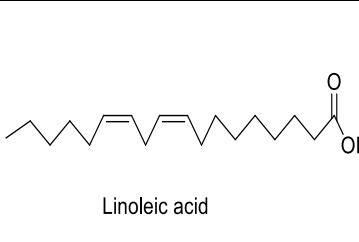
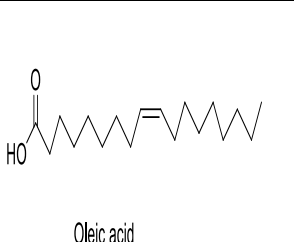
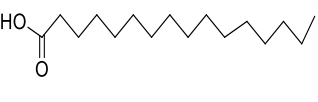


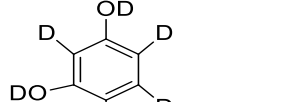
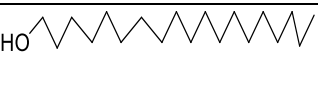
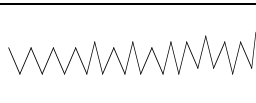
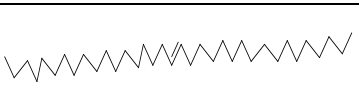
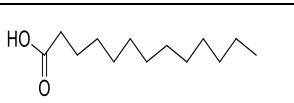
*Achyranthes aspera* may have many chemical constituents which may responsible for many diseases. Glycosides, saponins, carbohydrates, alkaloids, cardiac glycosides, amino acid, ecdysterone, hentriacontane may present in the plant<sup>9</sup>. It may have saponin A and B. Oleonic acid extracted from the roots of the plant. Some of sugars compound also present such as L-rhamnose, D-glucose etc.<sup>43</sup>. Amino acid, ecdysterone, hentriacontane etc. may extract or isolated from the seeds of the plant. All the parts of the plant may have many of constituents known as dihydroxyketone, 36,37-dihydroxypentacontan-4-on and tricontanol, 27-cyclohexylheptaconsane-7-ol and 16-hydrox-26-methyl heptacosane-2-on are extracted from the shoots of the Apamarga<sup>44</sup>. Yellow semi solid formulation may extract from the petrol extract of shoots by this the aliphatic alcohol that is 17-pentatriacontanol may contain<sup>45</sup>. Methanol extract of the plant may Ecdysterone and phytoecdysone may contain and show the reaction by its colour<sup>46</sup>.

Plant Parts	Chemical Constituents
Roots	Oleanolic Acid, Amino acid, Steroids, Alkaloids, Triterpenoids, Coumarins, Ecdysterone, Ionokosterone, Rubrosterone, Oligosaccharides, Polysaccharides, Achyranthine, Glycosides, Tannins
Seeds	Linoleic acid, Oleic acid, Palmitic acid, Stearic acid, Behenic
Shoots	Dihydroxyhenpenta Triaccontanol, 27-cyclohexyl heptacosane 7-ol 17-penta-triancontanol, 16-hydroxy-26-Methyl heptacosane-2-1. <sup>21</sup>

Apamarga is also a good source of minerals and vitamins. It may also contains magnesium, sodium, phosphorous, potassium, chloride etc. In Vitamins Vitamin-B and Vitamin-C are present in heavy amount. Generally minerals, vitamins, proteins, fibers, carbohydrates etc. may found. Rich source of fibers and flavonoids also present which give antioxidant properties. Anti-cancerous compounds may present and listed in USDA for this cancer activity. Essential oils may found in less amount and harmful for pregnant lady<sup>47</sup>. It may contain volatile oil such as tritricontane, betane, achyranthene and long chain alcohols. Apamarga seeds may contains oils that shows presence of fatty acids<sup>48</sup>.The

essentials which may found in the plant are 3-acetoxy-6 benzoyloxyapangamide,  $\beta$ sterol, trans-13-doxynoeic acid, n-hexacos-14-enoic, tetracontanol, strigmasta, tricosanone. Bisdesmosidic saponins also present in the plant  $\beta$ -d-glucopyranosyl,  $3\beta$ -[O- $\alpha$ -l-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 3)-O- $\beta$ -d-glucopyranuronosyloxy] $\beta$ -d-glucopyranosyl $3\beta$ -[O- $\beta$ -d-galactopyranosyl-(1 $\rightarrow$ 2) $\alpha$ -d-glucopyranuronosyloxy] machaerinate,  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl ester of  $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl (1 $\rightarrow$ 4)- $\beta$ -D-glucuronopyranosyl (1 $\rightarrow$ 3)-oleanolic acid and  $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl ester of  $\alpha$ -L-rhamnopyranosyl (1 $\rightarrow$ 4)- $\beta$ -D-glucopyranosyl (1 $\rightarrow$ 4)  $\beta$ -D-glucuronopyranosyl (1 $\rightarrow$ 3)oleanolic, sapogenin,etc<sup>49</sup>.

 Oleanolic Acid	 Amino Acid	 Steroids	 Alkaloids
 Triterpenoids	 Coumarin	 Ecdysterone	 Ionokosterone
 Rubrosterone	 Oligosaccharides	 Polysaccharides	 Achranthine

 Glycoside	 Tannins	 Linoleic acid	 Oleic acid
 Palmitic acid	 Stearic acid	 Behenic acid	 Dihydroxyphenpenta
 Triacontanol	 27-cyclohexyl heptacosane 7-ol	 17-penta-triancontanol	 Myristic Acid

## PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

**Anticancer Activities-** Various investigation of *Achyranthes aspera* show effect against cancerous activities. This investigation may test on Swiss albino mice which may treated with the mineral oils. Flowers and leaves part were tested for antitumor activities. The crude extract of the plant doses may give to the mice at different concentration. The ether extract may give the positive effects against tumors more than other extracts<sup>50</sup>.

**Antimicrobial Activities-** For antimicrobial activity the plant may extract out from the petroleum ether, methanol etc. and treated with dimethyl sulphoxide at different concentrations. The root extract of the plant may show the less effect on gram positive bacteria and show high effect against the gram negative bacteria. At different concentration or different extracts may give antimicrobial activity and antifungal activity also<sup>51</sup>.

**Anti-diabetic Activities-**<sup>52</sup> Ethanolic extract may be formed to check the diabetes mellitus and tested on albino mice which may have diabetes. By checking random sugar it may have the high glucose level of the albino rat. The ethanol extract may give to mice and it may show effect against the diabetes<sup>51</sup>.

**Diuretic Activities-** Albino rats may be used for this activity, they were treated with the extract at different doses 10, 30 and 50 mg by intraperitoneal routes. And the results found that extract of the plant may give the effects against the diuretic and also increase the flow of the urine<sup>53</sup>.

**Hepatoprotective activity-** Ethanolic extract of the seed of the plant may be tested in rats. Carbon tetrachloride doses may induce the liver administered to rats. Serum level may be tested of rats and some of the inhibition takes place then the ethanolic extract administered to rats with standard drug silymerin. This may result in the good effects hepatoprotective activity<sup>54</sup>.

**Antioxidant activities-** Apamarga may have many of constituents which may have antioxidant properties. By all these constituents the plant may have antioxidant effects. It may be investigated by methanolic extract of the plant including DPPH methods for antioxidant. Some of the flavonoids may be present in the constituents of the flower and leaves part of the Apamarga which gives effect of antioxidants<sup>55</sup>.

**Anti-inflammatory activities-** This plant may also have the inflammation inhibiting properties by the presence of some constituents in it. In this ethanolic extract of the plant may be induced in the rats model at different concentrations which have inflammation. After some days the inflammation of rats may decrease then the results may show that the plant may have also anti-inflammatory effects<sup>56</sup>.

**Antiarthritic activity-** Ethanolic extract of the plant with standard drug diclofenac sodium may be used in this investigation. The flower part may be used. Different concentration of ethanolic extract and standard drug of diclofenac may induce the arthritic effect. Constituents which may be used for this are tannins and flavonoids<sup>57</sup>.

**Cardiovascular activities-** This plant may also be investigated for the cardiac diseases. By the presence of the Achyranthine, saponins, alkaloids may lead to cure the heart rate, lowering blood pressure, depression of heart, increasing rate of respiration in dogs. Hence the results may show the cardiovascular activities of *Achyranthes aspera*<sup>58</sup>.

**Prothyroidic activity-** Rats may be used for investigation for this activity. The plant extract of the plant may decrease the thyroid in rats due to tannins and saponins. It also decreases lipid peroxidation<sup>59</sup>.

**Immuno Modulatory activity-** From many investigations immuno modulatory activities may be found in Apamarga. Increase of induction of OVA-specific antibody response in a dose. An hydro alcoholic extract reported to stimulate the immune system and increase the phagocytic. Then it shows the immuno modulatory effects<sup>60</sup>.



**Anthelmintic Activities**-This study may test on earthworm. By using ethyl acetate, ethanol and crude extract of the plant at various concentration. Albendazole may be used as a standard. Ethanolic extract may show the good effects against the anthelmintic activity<sup>61</sup>.

**Antiviral Activities**- *Invitro* methods investigated for antiviral activities. Methanolic extract of leaves may inhibit the virus Epstein-Barr by antigen which may induce the tumor. Non polar compounds may exist in this which may lead to inhibitory activity<sup>12</sup>.

**Antiamoebic and Anti fertility**-Decoction procedure may lead to test the antifertility activity. Root part of the plant may be used for these activities, buttermilk as antifertility drug<sup>62</sup>. And it also shows anti-spermicidal activity<sup>63</sup>.

**Blood Pressure**- Root part of the plant may lead to decrease B.P. while the higher B.P. takes place due to chloroform extract<sup>64</sup>.

**Post Coital antifertility activity**- This investigation may test on rats, ethanolic extract of the drug may be used which may show the implantation and didn't deliver litters. Anlaparotomy may be applied on rat at 25<sup>th</sup> day which may show the implantation and reabsorption. It proved that ethanolic extract of the plant may have antifertility activity<sup>7</sup>.

**Estrogenic Activity**-The *invitro* method on immature rats was investigated by the ethanol extract of the plant. It may increase the effect uterine weight in rats. The weight of uterus is high checked by the uterotrophic potency, than ethinylestradiol. The potency of uterotrophic may increase and decrease of uterus in control rats. Uteri may be inflated in estrous uterus. Rats which may treat with the extract may open vagina<sup>7</sup>.

**Larvicidal Activity**- Root extract may be used to show more larvicidal activity on *Boophilismicroplust*. Saponins may be tested against *Aedesegyptii*. The ethyl extraction may be shown positive against *Aedes pictus* mosquito larvae. Essential oil of leaf of *A.aspera* may be extracted out where showed the larvicidal activity and the extract of the plant may show positive effect against *Aedesegyptii*<sup>65</sup>.

**Hypolipidemic Activity**-Extract of *aspera* may show effects against rats. Diseases lower cholesterol, phospholipids, Serum cholesterol, triglycerides, total lipids etc. may be cured by the alcoholic extraction of the plant. Rats which may have the hyperlipidemia were tested for this procedure. Sesame oil which may be present may show the lipid peroxidation. Rats may be used for this till 30 days by TC, PL, and CG etc. Extract administered to rats at different concentration and show the effect against the lipids. Excretion from feces and chloric acid increases by these doses. By low absorption it may show the action against cholesterol<sup>66</sup>.

**Analgesic and Antipyretic Activity**-This may be investigated by brewers induced methods by using aspirin as a standard drug. Ethanolic extract of *A. aspera* may be studied. Leaves and Seeds extract may have analgesic activities. Roots also have the analgesic activities which may show in the albino rats by using the aspirin as a standard drug. The different doses may be administered to the rats which showed the more effect of analgesics<sup>67</sup>.

**Wound Healing Activity**- Some of the wounds may be treated with methanol extract ointment. Ethanolic extract of *A. aspera* may also have the wound healing activity. Excision and incision wound model may be studied for the effect of the drug against Wound Healing Activity<sup>68</sup>.

**Cardiac Activity**-Saponin may be present in the plant which gives cardiac activity. When the heart may increase the contraction and intact hypodynamic, then the leaf part of the plant may be investigated for Cardiac activity. Achyranthine may show the increasing and decreasing rate of the heart rate, contraction of the heart, depression of heart etc. Saponins present in the plant may show the effect against the cardiac diseases<sup>69</sup>.

**Renal Disorders**-Calcium oxalate, calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate may be found in urinary stones. Methanolic extract of the plant may be used to inhibit this and prevent nephrotoxicity in rats. Roots of the plant may be used for the urine stones and it may show the good effects against calcium oxalate, calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate etc<sup>70</sup>.

**Spermicidal Activity**- Roots of the plant may be used to report activity of spermicidal in humans and rats too. Chloroform extracts, hydroethanolic extracts show effect against the spermicidal. Sperm vitality, sperm immobilization, acrosome status, nuclear chromatin may be involved in this study<sup>71</sup>.

**Antidandruff Activity**-Coumarins a constituent may be present in this plant which may give the property of antidandruff. It may have polyherbal oil by the methanolic extract of the plant. Constituent also acts against the growth of *Pityrosorumovale* and reduces the dandruff<sup>68</sup>.

**Antidepressant Activity**- Rats administered by the various dose concentrations of Methanolic extract of the plant. Oral dose of the extract may be effective to reduce the depression and immobility time<sup>72</sup>.

#### Miscellaneous pharmacological activities-

*Achyranthes aspera* is used traditionally for medicinal uses all over the world. This plant may treat many disorders like fever, malarial, asthma, dysentery, diabetes etc<sup>73</sup>. It may be used for many pharmacological activities. All the parts of the plant may be used to treat various diseases<sup>74</sup>. Many of the phytoconstituents may be present in the leaf, root, leaves, flower extract of the plant<sup>75</sup>. All the extracts may give effects on the different activities such as, antioxidants, anthelmintic, antiviral, antifertility, blood pressure, cardiac, diuretics etc<sup>8</sup>. This medicinal plant may be used in food and beverages, perfumes, soap preparation etc<sup>76</sup>. Many of the constituents responsible for these activities. Tannins, Saponins, Flavonoids, proteins, sugars, triterpenoids etc<sup>77</sup> used for antioxidants<sup>78</sup>. This antioxidant activity is affected through the methanolic extract of the *A. aspera*<sup>79</sup>. DPPH assay may be used to investigate the antioxidant property<sup>80</sup>. Phenolic compounds give the antioxidant properties for the plant<sup>81</sup>. Ovulation may be blocked through the estrogenic property which may affect the pituitary by FH and LSH<sup>82</sup>. Anti estrogenic activity may take place which is responsible for the formation of ovum. *A. aspera* may also be used in gynecological disorders<sup>83</sup>. Also used in leprosy, bronchial infections, cough etc. For carcinogenic diseases it may give better effects. It may help to decrease the thyroid hormones<sup>84,85</sup>.

#### CONCLUSION

Ayurveda may give importance to medicinal drugs and secondly to the physician which may give treatment to humans. *Achyranthes aspera* belonging to the family Amaranthaceae is an herb which may grow all over the world. Traditionally known as Apamarga. Complete parts of the *A. aspera* may be studied thoroughly and found that the drug is used widely as a medicinal plant. This plant is found in the world, Ceylon, Tropical Asia, Africa, Australia, America, and India. *Achyranthes aspera* shows different activities for various diseases such as hepatoprotective, anticancer, ant

inflammatory, antiarthritic, thyroid stimulating, antiperoxidative, abortifacient, anti laprotic, immunomodulators, contraceptives, Larvicidal, spermicidal, antidandruff, analgesic, hypolipidemic, hypoglycemic, cardiovascular, nephrotoxicity. Different parts of the plants is used to cure various diseases like leprosy, asthma, arthritis, wound, snake bite, dermatological diseases, cardiac disease, kidney stone, gynecological disorder, malaria, gonorrhea, pneumonia, dysentery, rabies, toothache etc. There are many phytochemicals constituents present in *Achyranthes aspera* which may be used to cure various ailments. The constituents are alkaloids, saponins, glycosides, ecdysterone, cardiac glycosides, fatty acids like Myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, arachidic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid. All investigation of the plant may have clinical trials and research more things about this. This plant may be investigated on the next level for a novel drug system.

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