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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, antilipotropic, immunomodulators, contraceptives, etc. It may have many chemical constituents Glycosides, saponins, carbohydrates, alkaloids, cardiac glycosides, amino acid, ecdysterone, hemi-iacontane. Some chemical constituents which are Glycosides, saponins, carbohydrates, alkaloids, cardiac glycosides, amino acid, ecdysterone, and hemi-iacontane 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 it¹. Natural antioxidants may protect the human from free radicals, and all the harmful disease like cancer, infections, cardiovascular diseases, and all chronic diseases etc². Natural antioxidants may be good effective and have the less toxic effect than that of other components^{3,4}. 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^{5,6}.

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 height⁷. 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^{8,9}. 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
Gujarati	Aghedo
Hindi	Latjira
Kannada	Uttatane
Malayalam	Kadaladi
Punjabi	Kutri
Sanskrit	Apamarga ¹⁰

Achyranthes aspera shows different activities of various diseases such as hepatoprotective¹¹, anticancer¹², anti-inflammatory, anti-arthritis¹³, thyroid stimulating, antiperoxidative, abortifacient, anti-laprotic, immunomodulators¹⁴, contraceptives¹⁵ 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 stem¹⁶. Stamens are double in shapes¹⁷. Stomata are anomiosities¹⁸, embryology is seen, indorse type of anther, many covering structures. Vascular and medullar bundles also founds, and cambium^{19,20}.

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, Alnuminous.

Androecium - 5 stamens with corolla lobes.

Gynoecium- ovary is superior and having 2 syncarpous²¹.



DISTRIBUTION

Apamarga found in whole world in different regions. Mostly found in tropical and warmer regions of the world²². This plant is mainly found in world Ceylon, Tropical Asia, Africa,

Australia, America, and India²³. It is found in India state Himachal Pradesh as a Shivbari sacred grove^{24,25}. Medicinal plant used in Ayurveda system. A vegetation of Apamarga also found in Karachi and Pakistan²⁶.

TAXONOMICAL CLASSIFICATION

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

USES

Achyranthes aspera has been used for ayurvedic medicines. Used for diuretics, dermatological disorders, gynecological disorders²⁷, induce labor pain, genitalia²⁸, etc. Mainly used for the renal leprosy, cough²⁹, scrofula, fistula, skin rash, nasal infection³⁰, chronic malaria, fever, asthma³¹, piles, snake bites, diarrhea, cold, menstrual disorders³², astringent for wound healing, cancer³³, etc. All parts of the plant may be useful for the diseases, Leaves, stem, bark, all have medical properties³⁴. For kidney stone and skin eruptions, allergy³⁵, snake bite, diabetes, renal failure. Many of the formulations are made for different diseases juices also treat ophthalmic and dysentery³⁶. Also used for the antifertility, induced the abortion, bleeding, renal complications, scorpion bite, boils, hemorrhoids, rheumatism, itches, toothache, nervous problems, hysteria etc.³⁷ From ancients times it may be used for the temple worship For Ganesh Chathurathi, In Shiva pujan leaves are used and known to be good sign for luck³⁸. Plant have ash used to treat ulceritis³⁹. Roots used for vomiting. Also used to cure pneumonia by boiled the leaves of the plant⁴⁰. Tranquilizing properties also occurs⁴¹. Used in different formulations like soaps, perfumes, dental products, prepared food and beverages etc.⁴²

PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING

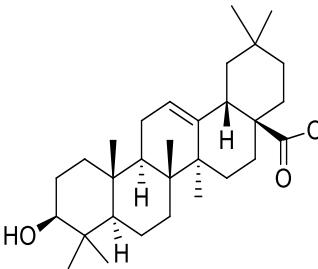
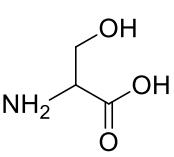
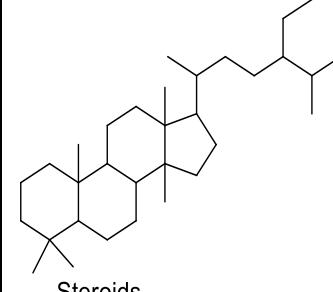
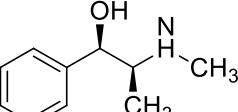
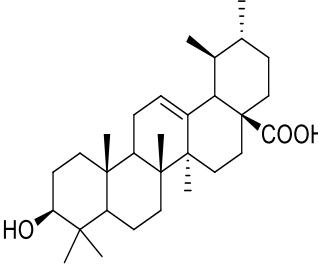
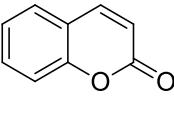
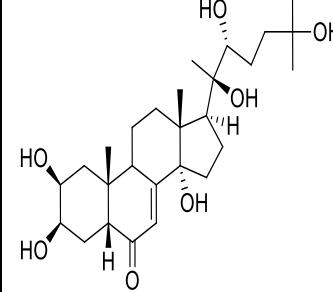
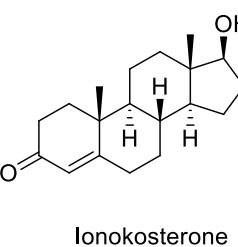
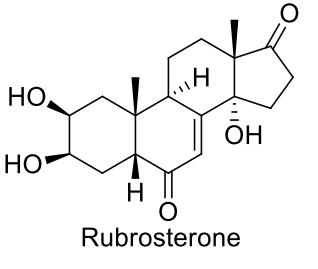
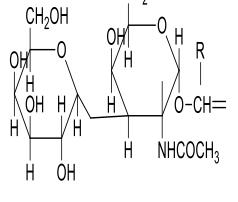
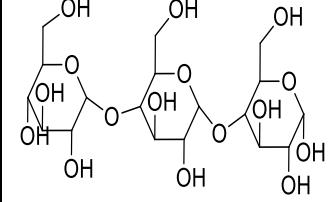
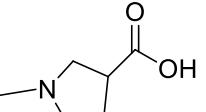
Medicinal plants may be used for various disease which may have different constituents involved. They constituents are responsible for curing the diseases either that is chronic or short term. Some of secondary metabolites present alkaloids, phenols, glycosides, tannins, saponins, terpenoids, flavonoids 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.

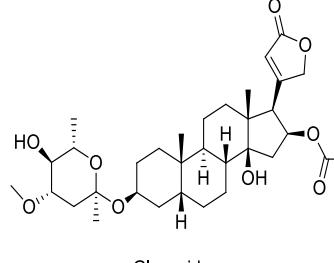
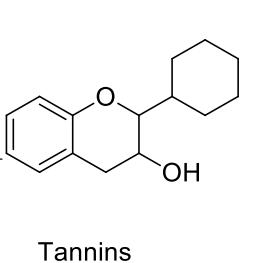
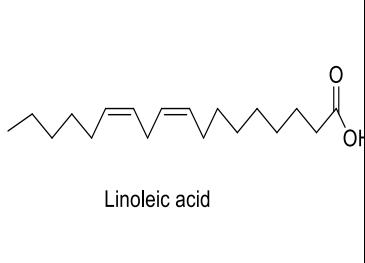
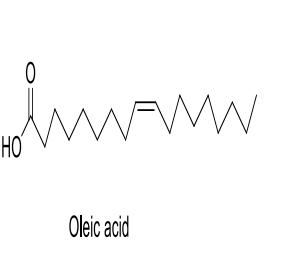
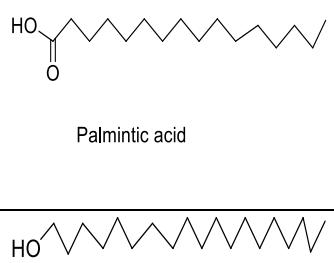
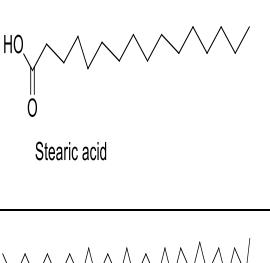
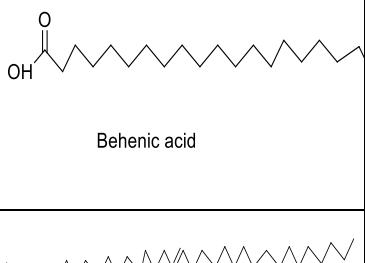
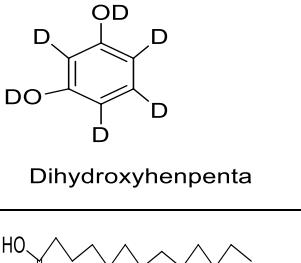
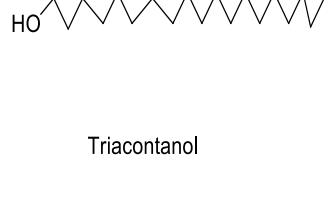
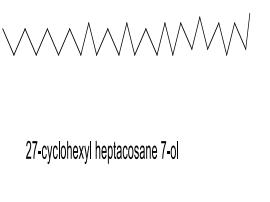
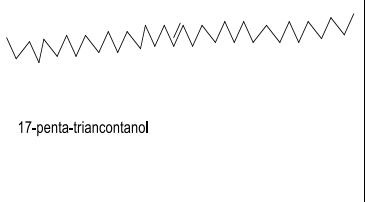
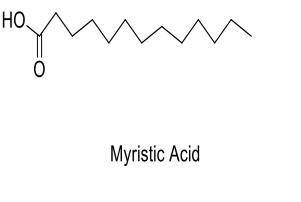
Achyranthes aspera may have many chemical constituents which may be responsible for many diseases. Glycosides, saponins, carbohydrates, alkaloids, cardiac glycosides, amino acid, ecdysterone, hentriacontane may present in the plant⁹. It may have saponin A and B. Oleonic acid extracted from the roots of the plant. Some of sugars compound also present such as L-rhamnose, D-glucose etc.⁴³. Amino acid, ecdysterone, hentriacontane etc. may extract or isolated from the seeds of the plant. All the parts of the plant may have many constituents known as dihydroxyketone, 36,37-dihydroxydihydroxyketone, 36,37-dihydroxydihydroxyketone-4-on and tricontanol, 27-cyclohexylheptaconsane-7-ol and 16-hydroxy-26-methyl heptacosane-2-on are extracted from the shoots of the Apamarga⁴⁴. Yellow semi solid formulation may extract from the petrol extract of shoots by this the aliphatic alcohol that is 17-pentatriacontanol may contain⁴⁵. Methanol extract of the plant may Ecdysterone and phytoecdysone may contain and show the reaction by its colour⁴⁶.

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, Palminitic acid, Stearic acid, Behenic
Shoots	Dihydroxyphenpenta Triacontanol, 27-cyclohexyl heptacosane 7-ol 17-penta-triancontanol, 16-hydroxy-26-Methyl heptacosane-2-1. ²¹

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 lady⁴⁷. It may contain volatile oil such as triticontane, betane, achyranthene and long chain alcohols. Apamarga seeds may contains oils that shows presence of fatty acids⁴⁸. The

essentials which may found in the plant are 3-acetoxy-6-benzoyloxyapangamide, β -sterol, trans-13-doxynoic acid, n-hexacos-14-enoic, tetracontanol, strigmasta, tricosanone. Bisdesmosidic saponins also present in the plant β -D-glucopyranosyl, 3 β -[O- α -l-rhamnopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 3)-O- β -D-glucopyranuronosyloxy] β -D-glucopyranosyl3 β -[O- β -D-galactopyranosyl-(1 \rightarrow 2) α -D-glucopyranuronosyloxy] machaerinate, β -D-glucopyranosyl ester of α -L-rhamnopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 4)- β -D-glucuronopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 3)-oleanolic acid and β -D-glucopyranosyl ester of α -L-rhamnopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 4)- β -D-glucopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 4) β -D-glucuronopyranosyl (1 \rightarrow 3) oleanolic, sapogenin, etc⁴⁹.

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

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES

Anticancer Activities- Various investigation of *Achyranthes aspera* show effect against cancerous activities. This investigation may test on Swiss albino mice which may be 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 extracts⁵⁰.

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 also⁵¹.

Anti-diabetic Activities-⁵² 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 diabetes⁵¹.

Diuretic Activities- Albino rats may be used for this activity, they treated with the extract at different doses 10,30 and 50mg 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 urine⁵³.

Hepatoprotective activity- Ethanolic extract of the seed of the plant may test in rats. Carbon tetrachloride doses may induce the liver administered to rats. Serum level may test of rats and some of inhibition takes place then the ethanolic extract administered to rats with standard drug silymarin. This may results the good effects hepatoprotective activity⁵⁴.

Antioxidant activities- Apamarga may have many of constituents which may have antioxidants properties. By all these constituents the plant may have antioxidant effects. It may investigate by methanolic extract of the plant including DPPH methods for antioxidant. Some of flavonoids may present in constituents of the flower and leaves part of the Apamarga which gives effect of antioxidants⁵⁵.

Anti-inflammatory activities- This plant may also have the inflammation inhibiting properties by presence of some constituents in it. In this ethanolic extract of the plant may induced to the rats model at different concentrations which have inflammation. After some days the inflammation of rats may decreases then the results may shows that the plant may have also anti-inflammatory effects⁵⁶.

Antiarthritic activity- Ethanolic extract of the plant with standard drug diclofenac sodium may use in this investigation. The flower part may use. Different concentration of ethanolic extract and standard drug of diclofenac may induce the arthritics effect. Constituents which may use for this are tannins and flavonoids⁵⁷.

Cardiovascular activities- This plant may also investigate the cardiac diseases. By presence of the Achyranthine, saponins, alkaloids may leads 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*⁵⁸.

Prothyroic activity- Rats may used to 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 peroxidation⁵⁹.

Immuno Modulatory activity- From many investigation Immuno Modulatory activities may 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 its shows the Immuno Modulatory effects⁶⁰.

Anthelmintic Activities-This study may test on earthworm. By using ethyl acetate, ethanol and crude extract of the plant at various concentration. Albendazole may used as a standard. Ethanolic extract may show the good effects against the anthelmintic activity⁶¹.

Antiviral Activities- *Invitro* methods investigated for antiviral activities. Methanolic extract of leaves may inhibits the virus Epstein-Barr by antigen which may induced the tumor. Non polar compounds may exist in this which may leads inhibitory activity¹².

Antiamoebic and Anti fertility-Decoction procedure may lead to test the antifertility activity. Root part of the plant may use to these activities, buttermilk as antifertility drug⁶². And it also shows anti-spermicidal activity⁶³.

Blood Pressure- Root part of the plant may leads to decrease B.P. while the higher B.P. takes place due to chloroform extract⁶⁴.

Post Coital antifertility activity- This investigation may test on rats, ethanolic extract of the drug may be used which may showed the implantation and didn't deliver litters. Anlaparotomy may apply on rat at 25th day which may show the implantation and reabsorption. It proved that ethanolic extract of the plant may have antifertility activity⁷.

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 inflated in estrous uterus. Rats which may treat with the extract may open vagina⁷.

Larvicidal Activity- Root extract may used to show more larvicidal activity on *Boophilismicroplust*. Saponins may tested against *Aedesegyptii*. The ethyl extraction may be show positive against *Aedespictusmosquitolarvae*. Essential oil of leaf of *A.aspera* may extract out were showed the larvicidal activity and the extract of the plant may positive effect against *Aedesegyptii*⁶⁵.

Hypolipidemic Activity-Extract of *aspera* may shows effects against rats. Diseases lower cholesterol, phospholipids, Serum cholesterol, triglycerides, total lipids etc. may cure by the alcoholic extraction of the plant. Rats which may have the hyperlipidemia was tested for this procedure. Sesame oil which may 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 faces and chloric acid increases by these doses. By low absorption it may show the action against cholesterol⁶⁶.

Analgesic and Antipyretic Activity-This may be investigate by brewers induced methods by using aspirin as a standard drug. Ethanolic extract of *A. aspera* may study. 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 administer to the rats which showed the more effect of analgesics⁶⁷.

Wound Healing Activity- Some of wounds may treat with methanol extract ointment. Ethanolic extract of *A. aspera* may also have the wound healing activity. Excision and incision wound model may was studied for effect of the drug against Wound Healing Activity⁶⁸.

Cardiac Activity-Saponin may present into the plant which give cardiac activity. When the heart may increase the contraction and intact hypodynamic, then the leaf part of the plant may investigate to Cardiac activity. Achyranthine may show the increasing and decreasing the 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 diseases⁶⁹.

Renal Disorders-Calcium oxalate, calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate may found in urinary stones. Methanolic extract of the plant may use for inhibit this and prevent nephrotoxicity in rats. Roots of the plant may used for the urine stones and it may show the good effects against calcium oxalate, calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate etc⁷⁰.

Spermicidal Activity- Roots of the plant may 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 involved into this studied⁷¹.

Antidandruff Activity-Coumarins a constituent may present into this plant may give the property of antidandruff. It may have polyherbal oil by the methanolic extract of the plant. Constituent also act against the growth of *Pityrosorumovale* and reduce the dandruff⁶⁸.

Antidepressants Activity- Rats administered by the various dose concentrations of Methanolic extract of the plant. Oral dose of the extract may effective to reduce the depression and immobility time⁷².

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, asthma, diabetes etc⁷³. It may used for many pharmacological activities. All the parts of the plant may used to treat various diseases⁷⁴. Many of Phytoconstituents may present in the leaf, root, leaves, flower extract of the plant⁷⁵. All the extracts may give effects on the different activities such as, antioxidants, anthelmintic, antiviral, antifertility, blood pressure, cardiac, diuretics etc⁸. This medicinal plant may used to food and beverages, perfumes, soap preparation etc⁷⁶. Many of constituents responsible for these activities. Tannins, Saponins, Flavonoids, proteins, sugars, triterpenoidsetc⁷⁷ used for antioxidants⁷⁸. This antioxidant activity is affected through the methanolic extract of the *A. aspera*⁷⁹. DPPH assay may use to investigate the antioxidant property⁸⁰. Phenolic compounds give the antioxidant properties for the plant⁸¹. Ovulation may block through the estrogenic property which may affects pituitary by FH and LSH⁸². Ant estrogenic activity may takes place which is responsible formation of ovum. *A. aspera* may also use in gynecological disorders⁸³. Also used in leprosy, bronchial infections, cough etc. For carcinogenic diseases it may give better effects. It may helps to decrease the thyroid hormones^{84,85}.

CONCLUSION

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