

PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING OF CRUDE POWDER AND EXTRACTS OF MUSSAENDA FRONDOSA

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Preliminary phytochemical screening of crude powder, petroleum ether, chloroform and methanolic extracts were done in *Mussaenda frondosa* (Family Rubiaceae) and it indicated the presence of alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins, and tannins.

INTRODUCTION

Traditional and folklore medicines play an important role in health services around the globe. About three quarters of the world's population relies on plants and its extracts for health care (Premanathan *et al*, 2000; Gabhe *et al*, 2006). *Mussaenda frondosa* belongs to the kingdom plantae of Family Rubiaceae commonly known as Bedina, found throughout India.

It is a handsome erect or scandent shrub with grey bark, leaves simple and the caylax lobes becomes enlarged into white, pink or orange foliaceous structure which makes it a common garden plant. It is useful in cough, asthma and flatulence (Nadakarni AK and Nadakarni K.R., 1976). The plant is astringent, sweet, expectorant, febrifuge, anti-inflammatory, vulnerary, demulcent, ophthalmic and cardiotoxic (Varier's SP, 1996). Till date only the antimicrobiological activity has been reported (Jaya singhe ULB *et al*, 2002)

The present study was done to determine the presence of alkaloids, flavonoids, saponins and tannins in the crude powder and different extracts which may be responsible for the various pharmacological properties.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The different parts of the plant, *Mussaenda frondosa*, were collected in and around, Rourkela, Orissa. The plants material were identified and authenticated. The fresh plant material was air-dried at room temperature to constant weight for a period of two weeks and pulverized in an electric grinder. The powder sample was stored at room temperature in tightly closed containers prior to analysis.

EXTRACTION AND PREPARATION OF EXTRACTS

About 50 gm of crude dried powder sample was weighed and packed into the soxhlet

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