

## HITHERTO UNREPORTED MEDICINAL USES OF PLANTS FROM KOLLI HILLS

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**Received: 22 November, 1993**

**Accepted: 12 January, 1994**

**ABSTRACT:** *The unreported medicinal uses of these plants from kolli hills, Salem District of Tamil Nadu are presented in this paper.*

Salem District of Tamilnadu is one of the most botanised areas of Southern India. While working on the flora of Kolli hills, Salem District, the author (PD) collected some folk medicinal uses of plants from the old folks, herbal practitioners and headmen. The author collected more than 1000 flowering plants for his floristic work. Voucher specimens are to be deposited at Herbarium Presidency College, Madras (PCM). Total 300 plants were found to be of medicinal value based on existing literature (Kirtikar & Basu, 1933; Nadkarni, 1954; Chopra et al 1956, 1969), it was found that some of the plants which are commonly used by the local tribes of Kolli Hills as medicine have not been reported so far. These plants are described below because of their potential value as therapy for certain ailments.

**COELOGYNE BREVISCAPA LINDL.  
(ORCHIDACEAE)**

A small pseudobulbous herbs on rocks. Rare in forest borders, on rocks and trees. **PD 614.**

**Vernacular name :** *Paraiottu*

**Therapeutic uses :** Pseudobulbs are made into paste and are topically applied for insect bites and also for swellings.

**VISCUM HEYNEANUM DC.  
(VISCACEAE)**

Herbs, dichotomously branched. Occasionally on the tree trunks (parasitic on *Albizia* spp.). **PD 407.**

**Vernacular name :** *Ottucheddi*

**Therapeutic uses:** The plant juice is given to relieve the ear pain. This plant is also boiled in oil and then applied into ear to relieve the pain.

**ZANTHOXYLUM TETRASPERMUM  
WIGHT & ARN. (RUTACEAE)**

Woody stragglers with prickly spines all over the trunk and branches. Common in ever green forests. **PD 245.**

**Vernacular name :** *Virasingampattai*

**Therapeutic uses :** A highly exploited medicinal plant. The corky ash coloured bark is used for treating cold cough. They are highly sour and pungent.

## **DISCUSSION**

The inhabitants of Kolli Hills still use some of the common traditional medicinal plants in their day to day life and in the present

paper three folk uses for treating cold cough, insect bites and also for pain reliever have been reported showing their medicinal values.

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