

SHORT RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

Some Unknown Narcotic Folk Claims from Orissa

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Orissa State with its vast natural resources offers much scope of study in the field of ethnobotany. Nearly 45% of the total area of the State is covered with forests and about 23% of the total population, are the tribes. There are about 60 tribes inhabiting remote areas surrounded by thick forests. These tribal people depend for their food, shelter, medicines and other requirements mostly on the plant wealth surrounding their inhabitation.

The present communication deals with six plants being used as narcotics by the folk people of Orissa. The information being given hereunder was collected during the medico-ethno-botanical explorations of different localities of the State. The species are arranged alphabetically with details of local names, mode of use and the name of the locality from where the notes were recorded. A comparison with the important published literature on the medicinal and economic plants shows that the uses as mentioned here in are new.

Anthocephalus chinensis (Lamk.) A. Rich. ex. Walp.

Syn. *A. cadamba* Mig. (Rubiaceae).

Local Name : Kadamba

Place of collection : Khandagiri

A small hole is made in the bark of the tree, a clove is inserted with its head left exposed. It is left like this for a couple of hours. It is stated that this swollen clove, if eaten, is much stronger than any other narcotic in action. It is claimed that such a clove can even prove to be fatal. One of the authors was told about the death of a person who ate a clove that was kept overnight in the tree in the old Town area of Bhubaneswar.

Ardisia solanacea Roxb. (Myrsinaceae)

Local Name : Tinkoli

Place of collection : Sarangada (Kondh tribe).

The Leaves, while preparing 'Mahuli' (the alcohol distilled from the flowers of *Madhuca longifolia* (Linn.) Macbride); are added to increase the intoxicating property of the brew.