

PHARMACOGNOSTIC STUDY OF NAGAKESHARA (*MESUA FERREA* L.) - STEM BARK AND LEAF

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Nagakeshara - Mesua ferrea L (fam. Clusiaceae) is an evergreen tree. It is a reputed drug of Ayurveda. Its leaves are used in the form of poultice which is applied to head in severe colds. Flower and stamen are used in bleeding piles (Rakatarsha) and burning feet (Paddah). Stem bark and unripe fruits are used for their sudorific effect, oleo-resin from bark is demulcent. Decoction or tincture of stem bark is bitter tonic and are useful in gastritis and bronchitis. The present communication deals with detailed pharmacognosy of Stem bark and leaf, which include mainly macroscopic, microscopic study along with important physico-chemical investigation. This helps in the standardization of this drug.

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