

Pharmacognostic Studies on *Barleria* Linn.

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The present paper includes the pharmacognostic or detective microscopic studies on leaves, stems and roots of three species of Barleria Linn. Barleria prionitis Linn., Barleria cristata Linn. and Barleria lupulina Lindl. Siam. are extensively used in indigenous system of medicine, specially for treatment of cough and fever. Although these three species resemble in some anatomical characters of leaves, stems and roots they differ from each other in certain characters of leaf (shape and size of epidermal cells, the stomatal index, size and distribution of non-glandular hairs, size of cystoliths and areoles and presence or absence of idioblasts); stem (vessel length and diameter, arrangement of pits on vessel walls and proportion of solitary vessels to vessel aggregates) and root (vessel diameter and arrangement, and presence or absence of brownish deposition in fibres and many

vessels). These differences are sufficient to distinguish the three species from one another.

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