

Studies on the Ayurvedic drug *Shankhapushpi* from Western Maharashtra : Medico-Botanical Aspect

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'Shankhapushpi' is a reputed drug of Ayurveda, extensively used as brain tonic. In the Pune and Bombay crude drug markets, the species Evolvulus alsinoides has been said as 'Shankhapushpi'. During literature survey it is found that other nine botanically different species are also named as 'Shankhapushpi'. Out of these, four species are described as 'Shankhapushpi' in the area of Western Maharashtra (15°36' to 20°52' N and 72°54' to 75°50' E).

Botanical details of all these plant species and their recorded medicinal virtues are narrated in the paper. An artificial key is given to separate all the above mentioned species exomorphically.

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