

SHORT RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

## On the Identity of Market Samples of the Drug *Kakadshingi*

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'Kakadshingi' is a reputed Ayurvedic drug. It is used in compound Ayurvedic preparations, as also by local medicopractioners and sold in crude drug market. Literature survey reveals that galls harbouring species *Pistacia integrrema* and *Terminalia chebula* are known as 'Kakadshingi'. One more source viz. *Garuga pinnata* (Kakad) has been pointed out by local practioner as source of Kakadshingi. The drug samples of this drug were also collected from Pune crude drug market. Comparative macroscopic and microseopic study of all species is presented in this short communication.

'Kakadshingi' (Sans. Kakadashringi) is a well known anti-dysenteric drug used to treat children. Samples of 'Kakadshingi' were collected from Pune crude drug market. It consisted of two types of

specimens, one being yellowish-green, fan-shaped (No. 1) and the other reddish-black, isolated (No. 2). Both of them were intermixed and sold in market as 'Kakadshingi'.

To identify the botanical source of 'Kakadshingi' search through literature and field was carried out. Literature survey revealed that the drug is an insect-gall attached to the lower lamina of a leaf and the host plant of the gall has been described as *Pistacia integerrima* (Dymock *et al.*, 1890; Nadkarni, 1976; Kirtikar and Basu, 1984). Another host mentioned by Desai (1927) is Hirda plant i.e. *Terminalia chebula* Retz.

During routine ethnobotanical field tours in Western Maharashtra efforts were made to collect the samples of the crude drug 'Kakadshingi'. Local inhabitants