

BOTANICAL INDENTITY OF 'PHUINUM' A FOLK REMEDY FOR HYPERTENSION

B. Bordoloi and S.K. Borthakur

(Received on 16.11.92)

In the state of Mizoram in north-eastern India, the tender leaves and shoots of Clerodendrum colebrookianum Walp., locally known as 'Phuinum' is used as popular leafy vegetable in their regular diet by the 'Mizos', which they claimed to control hypertension. The medicinal properties of 'Phuinum' is controlling hypertension was confirmed earlier. The plant is now widely used as a popular household remedy for hypertension in north-eastern India. However, the close external resemblance with Clerodendrum colebrookianum var. denticulata Cl. has led to confusion and as such the tender leaves and shoots of C.colebrookianum var. denticulata Cl. has also been wrongly used as true 'Phuinum' in many parts of north-eastern India. The present paper

deals with detail morphological features of both the taxa involved and since parts used are leaves and shoots of the plants, detail microscopic features of the leaf surface of both the taxa are also provided to facilitate identification of both the taxa on the basis of leaves alone.