

Pharmacognostic Studies on the Fruits of Bhumyamalaki (*Phyllanthus fraternus* Web.)

G. V. R. Joseph¹

P. fraternus Web. (Bhumyamalaki) is a very important herbal drug of indigenous system of medicine. Whole plant especially aerial parts are considered to constitute the hepatoprotective drug. Fruits are used in the treatment of tubercular ulcers, wounds, scabies etc. Except the fruits all the other parts of the *P. fraternus* have been worked out. There is a lot of confusion over the authentication of *Phyllanthus* species. Proper authentication of crude drug is the basic aspect for GMP. This communication deals with the detailed macroscopic, microscopic and preliminary phytochemical studies of the *P. fraternus* Web. fruits and their morphological comparison with other species. The capsular fruits are measuring 2-2.5 cm in diameter, depressed, globose, smooth, and scarcely lobed. Perianth lobes cover 2/3rd of the fruit. Septum is made with a strip of two layers of parenchyma tissue forming

septal space. Vascular bundles are six in number and situated at the ventral side. Fruits are trilocular and each locule possesses two seeds. Preliminary phytochemical screening of the fruits has revealed the occurrence of phyllanthin and hypophyllanthin besides the other minor constituents.

1. Research Officer, Regional Research Institute (Ay.), Kothrud, Pune

This paper was presented in the Seminar on the Role of Good Manufacturing Practices in the Development of ISM Drugs held on 23rd and 24th April at CRI (Ay.) Kolkata.