J.D.R.A.S. Vol. XXVII, No. 3-4, (2006) pp.27-32

CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS OF FLOWERS OF *CLERODENDRON SPLENDENS* G. DON.

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(Received on 02.02.2006)

Clerodendron Splendens G. Don. is an ornamental plant (Climber) with dark red flowers, it is native of tropical Africa grown in India. It belongs to the family of verbenaceae, with about four hundred species known throughout the world, only 18 grow in India. Many species like C. inerme (Kundali), C. multiflorum (Agnimantha), C. serratum (Bharangi), C. indicum (Bhargi), C. infortunatum (Barhichuda) etc. are well known in Ayurveda for their medicinal importance as febrifuge, anthelmintic, antiseptic, hypoglycemic, anti-inflammatory etc.(Anonymous, 1986, Chopra, R.N. et al, 1969, Hartwell, J.L; 1971, Iyengar, M.A., 1976, Rastogi, R.P. et.al, 1994, Chatterjee, A. et. al. 2003, Seth, A. et. al., 2005). Some species have medicinal importance against malaria, pneumonia, carcinoma etc. (Watt, J.M. et.al, 1962.). CNS depressant effect of ethanolic extract of the aerial parts of Clerodendron splendens (Dhawan, B.N. et.al. 1980) and in continuation of chemical investigations of Clerodendron species (Kotiyal, J.P. et. al, 1985 & 1989) led to detailed chemical investigation of flowers of C. splendens (Kotiyal, J.P. 1994). More pharmacological studies are required to be undertaken further, to establish its medicinal importance.

In our earlier work on C. Splendens, a new flavone glycoside, hispidulin 4'-0 galactoside was isolated from the leaves (Kotiyal, J.P., 1982, Kotiyal, J.P. et.al, 1989), in addition to hispidulin and a sterol (24-s) ethylcholesta-5, 22, 25-trien 3β-0l, which is significantly present in Clerodendron species. As there was no report of chemical investigations of flowers of C. splendens, the present study was undertaken and some findings were recorded earlier (Kotiyal ,J.P. 1994).