

## ETHNOBOTANICAL STUDIES ON *Curculigo orchioides* FROM SONEBHADRA DISTRICT OF UTTAR PRADESH

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken in order to get details of the ethno-medicinal importance of *Curculigo orchioides* by the tribals living in different areas of district Sonebhadra. Botanical name, common name, family and ethno-medicinal usages of the plant are mentioned in this paper. The plant is aphrodisiac in nature. Various alkaloids, flavanoides and acids are extracted from it. All the medicinal properties lies in the rhizome of the plant.

**KEYWORDS:** Ethnobotanical, *Curculigo Orchioides*, Sonebhadra

The paper describes some ethnobotanical aspects of *Curculigo orchioides* (Kali Musli) in Sonebhadra. An ethnobotanical survey was conducted in Sonebhadra during 2013-2014. The study areas include Berpan, Balwadeh, Siddhawa, Kunda bati, Pati, Madaiya, Anpara, Renukoot, Chopan which is situated in South- West of Sonebhadra district. The tribals, non-tribals, rurals and folks for the treatment of different kinds of ailments mainly depend on their self prepared traditional system. It is effective, acceptable, natural herb and easily available in the local areas and have no side effects.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The ethnobotanical data furnished here are based on first information gathered from tribals of Sonebhadra. The information collected was verified by cross checking with the tribals living in different localities. Literature scanning was done to collect the information if the genus is used by other tribals from other areas of India. Many drugs are reported in Ayurvedic system of medicine based on plant sources.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

*Curculigo orchioides* is a tuberous perennial plant common in low jungles almost throughout the places in Sonebhadra. It grows in natural forest, it requires well fertile loamy soil with well decayed manure, moderate watering and moist atmosphere. Indians are using this herb since a long time as a folk medicine to increase libido and physical strength in men but is facing a risk of extinction due to its over exploitation. In the CAMP workshop at IIFM (June 1999) *Curculigo orchioides* was included in the IUCN

category of "LOWER RISK, near threatened" (Joy et al., 2004). Survey was conducted in the year 2013-2014 in different places of District Sonebhadra and medicinal values of the plant was studied.

Figure 1, shows the plant *Curculigo orchioides* (Kali Musli) belonging to the family Amaryllidaceae is a perennial herb about 30 cm in height with a short or elongated root stock bearing several fleshy and lateral root which are blackish brown externally and cream internally.

Leaves are simple 15-45 cm long crowded on the short stem, sessile or short petiolate with sheathing leaf base. Inflorescences umbel-like racemes.

Flowers are bright yellow in colour and the upper few are male flower which are smaller in size, while the lower ones are bigger and may be female., 46-flowered. Anther 23 mm; ovary narrowly oblong in shape and of 7 mm, pilose; stigma lobes longer than style.

Fruit is capsule, oblong glabrescent with a slender beak and spongy septa, 1.5-2cm long and 8mm broad. It contains 8 seeds which are globose, size 1-2mm, black, deeply grooved in wavy lines. (Anonymous, 1999; Xian, 2000; Irshad et al., 2006; Kritkar and Basu, 1988; Nadkarni KM 2002)

### Chemical Constituents

*Curculigo orchioides* contains glycoside, flavon, curculigo saponins, alkaloid lycorine, 2-methoxy-4-acetyl-5-methyltriacontane, behenic acid, starch, tannins, enzymes.

### Medicinal uses of *Curculigo orchioides*

The plant is aphrodisiac in nature and part of medicinal use is rhizome.

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**Figure 1: Plant *Curculigo orchioides* (Kali Musli)  
Family Amaryllidaceae**

**Paste** It is used in applying on the skin disorders and wherever there is itching on the skin.

It is used in applying on the pile mass to give instant relief from the pain and burning sensation.

**Smoke** Inhalation of smoke of Kali Musli helps to cure respiratory diseases like cough, cold and asthma

**Powder** is recommended in various ailments like decreased sperm count, impotence, general body weakness, loss of stamina and vigor. Besides this it is also used in digestive disorders like indigestion, constipation and loss of appetite. It is very much effective in liver ailments especially in jaundice.

It also helps to gain weight and lose weight.

From this study it may be concluded that *Curculigo orchioides* have great medicinal importance. Thus by these important medicinal properties this plant has to be protected and conserved for human welfare.

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