

Medicinal plants in Treatment of Specially infectious Diseases

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EDITORIAL

The use of medicinal plants in treatment of diseases specifically infectious diseases have been known since ancient times. This activity of medicinal plants is due to presence of bio-active chemical compounds present. It is important to carry out more research in medicinal plants in order to validate their efficacy and also their safety profiles so as to come up with more noble drugs to overcome the problem of microbial resistant.

The continuous emergence of antibiotic resistant strains has become a major problem for patients due to the fact that, Microbes especially bacteria have ability to transfer and acquire resistance to drugs utilized as therapeutic agents. Many researchers in different parts of the world have tried to search for new drugs by using natural sources especially plants which in fact since ancient times plants have been used to treat several types of diseases like infectious diseases. In the world, infectious diseases have shown to have large impacts. It's known that infectious diseases cause mortality of one quarter of the World population. Therefore, in Tanzania as in other developing countries, 70% of population incorporates herbal medicine for management of diseases. It is supported by many conventional drugs in the market which are of natural source of plants.

Dicoma sessiliflora is commonly used in West Africa for management of

diseases including fever, pain, stomach ailment and cough as reported by. Also the plant is used to control fever particularly in children.

In Senegal a decoction of the roots is taken as a cough-medicine and for stomach-pains. Traditional medicine report from Malawi revealed the plant to be used in management of stomach ailments and for pneumonia.

It is also supported with traditional uses of related specie of *Dicoma tomentosa* having antiplasmodial activity which associated with the urospermal A-15-O-acetate as the main active compound. Urospermal A-15-O-acetate was found to display a very strong anti-plasmodial activity with IC 50 < 1 µg/ml against both chloroquine-sensitive and-resistant *P. falciparum* strains. *Dicoma anomala* used for treatment of wounds, leprosy and abdominal pain the extracts from leaves show anti-ulcer activity in albino rats at 500 mg/kg plant extracts in tropical countries.

Dicoma sessiliflora is a member of composite family. The perennial herb to 1.30 m high from a woody rootstock, of wooded savanna in rocky and stony places in Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria, and extending to Sudan, E Africa, Malawi and Angola. This study evaluated the antimicrobial activity of diethyl ether extracts of *Dicoma sessiliflora* against gram negative bacteria isolates (*Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Pseudomonas auruginosa* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* gram positive Bacterium *Staphylococcus aureus*).

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