



## Asian Journal of Pharmacognosy

Ethnopharmacological Note

### **Note on the use of *Blumea lacera* for treatment of measles by a folk medicinal practitioner of Bangladesh**

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#### **Abstract**

Measles is a highly contagious disease characterized by high fever and a runny nose and inflamed eyes. Complications like diarrhoea and pneumonia are common with measles. The disease is caused by the measles virus and has no cure apart from rest and increasing the patient's comfort. *Blumea lacera* (Burm.f.) DC. belongs to the Asteraceae family and is known in Bangladesh as 'bara kukshima'. This herbaceous plant is generally found in the wild or fallow lands of the country. The Santal tribe living around Susunia Hill of Bankura district, West Bengal, India, use leaves of the plant to stop bleeding from cuts and wounds (Rahaman & Karmakar, 2015). The Mog tribal community of south district of Tripura, India, use warmed up leaves to treat rheumatic pain (Debnath et al., 2014). The Kattunayakas tribe of Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Nilgiris district, Tamil Nadu, India, applies leaf paste to eyes to improve vision (Udayan et al., 2007). Whole plant is used to treat muscular pains by tribal groups residing in Jalpaiguri district, West Bengal, India (Bose et al., 2015). In villages of Sherpur district, Bangladesh, the plant is reportedly used to treat cataract (Munni et al., 2015). The tribals of Sylhet and Chittagong Divisions, Bangladesh, use the plant to treat malaria (Islam et al., 2012). In Boalia sub-district of Rajshahi district, Bangladesh, folk medicinal practitioners use leaves and flowers of the plant to treat oedema, colic, and helminthiasis (Rahmatullah et al., 2010a). A Tonchongya tribal healer in Cox's Bazar district, Bangladesh, has been reported to use roots of the plant to treat debility; leaves and stems were used to treat skin itches and infections (Datta et al., 2015). In Netrakona district of Bangladesh, leaves and roots of the plant are used to treat leprosy (Rahmatullah et al., 2010b). In Narayanganj district, Bangladesh, roots are taken for diarrhoea, while leaves are used for fever and to stop bleeding from haemorrhoids (Karim et al., 2011). In a recent survey in Comilla district, Bangladesh, we observed a folk medicinal practitioner using whole plants of *Blumea lacera* (Burm.f.) DC. to treat measles. Whole plants were crushed and squeezed to extract juice, which was then mixed with coconut oil and massaged on the whole body for 3 consecutive days. Plant specimens were collected and both identified and deposited at the Bangladesh National Herbarium (Accession Number:



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43138). To the best of our knowledge, this is a novel therapeutic use of the plant raising the possibility of isolating new anti-viral components from the plant.

### **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No conflict of interest associated with this work.

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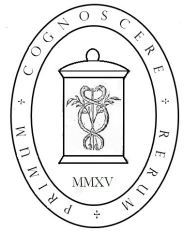
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Figure 1. *Blumea lacera* (Burm.f.) DC.