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Ethnopharmacological Note

An ethnomedicinal note on the use of *Pteris ensiformis* Burm.f. (Pteridaceae) for healing bone fracture

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Pteris ensiformis Burm.f. is known in Bangladesh as 'har bhanga', which in English translates to broken bone. In English, it is known as slender brake fern, silver lace fern, or sword brake fern. It is found in a number of Asian countries including Bangladesh; however, in Bangladesh it is a comparatively rare species when compared to other fern species. The plant has some reported ethnomedicinal uses. The Reang tribe of Tripura in Northeast India use paste of the fronds to treat swelling joints (Shil and Choudhury, 2009). The use of the fern to control menstruation has also been reported (Srivastava, 2007). Decoction of fresh fronds is advised to be orally taken for glandular swellings of the neck by *Meetei* healers of Manipur, India (Ningombam et al., 2014). In a recent survey in the Rema-Kalenga Sanctuary in Sylhet Division, Bangladesh, it was observed that a local folk medicinal practitioner (FMP), named Mohammad Rafiq Mia was using the plant to treat bone fractures. In his treatment mode, paste of whole plant was topically applied to fractured area after setting right the fractured bone and then tying the whole area with a tight bandage. This was repeated daily till cure. The plant was collected and identified at the Bangladesh National Herbarium (Accession Number: 43761). Interestingly, the local name of the plant, 'har bhanga', meaning 'broken bone' in English would suggest that the plant would be useful for treating bone fracture. Nevertheless, the use of the plant for healing bone fracture has not been reported before, either from Bangladesh or elsewhere as suggested by going through a number of data bases. It is to be noted in this context that the plant mostly reported to be used by FMPs in Bangladesh is *Cissus quadrangularis* L. (Vitaceae), which is known locally as 'har jora' translating into English as 'bone joining'. This plant is a perennial plant belonging to the grape family and known in English as veldt grape, devil's backbone, and adamant creeper. The plant has very few leaves and usually a paste of leaves and stems is applied topically to the fractured area for a few days (Rahmatullah et al., 2010).

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest associated with this work.

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Figure 1. *Pteris ensiformis* Burm.f.