



**Ethnopharmacological Note**

***Tylophora indica* (Burm.f.) Merr. (Apocynaceae): a plant for treatment of asthma, respiratory disorders, and pruritus**

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*Tylophora indica* or Indian Ipecac (Bengali: Antomul) is a climbing plant found in Bangladesh in the wild. It is considered an Ayurvedic plant. In Ayurveda, the plant is used for the treatment of asthma (Rani et al., 2012). In Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh, India, the plant is also used to treat asthma (Kumari et al., 2014). The tribals of Boudh District, Odisha, India, use the plant for the same purpose (Sahu et al., 2013). The plant has been reported to be used in some parts of Bangladesh to treat rheumatoid arthritis (Mollik et al., 2009). Leaves of the plant are used to treat coughs, bronchitis, asthma, and blood dysentery by folk medicinal practitioners in Khulna City, Bangladesh (Akber et al., 2011). We describe in this note a novel use of leaves of the plant to treat pruritus (severe itching). Pruritus can be caused by a number of conditions but is most commonly associated with a primary skin disorder. Atopic dermatitis is widely present in Bangladesh and which can lead to severe pruritus (Karim et al., 2013). The information was obtained from a folk medicinal practitioner, who practiced in Gachkulkara village, Jhenidah district, Bangladesh. The practitioner was named Gani Master and was male and 65 years of age. In his formulation, leaves of the plant were made into a paste and then applied topically to affected areas. A few days were necessary (according to him) for complete cure.

**Key words:** *Tylophora indica*, asthma, pruritus

**Declaration of conflict of interest**

We have no conflict of interest to declare.

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Figure 1. *Tylophora indica*