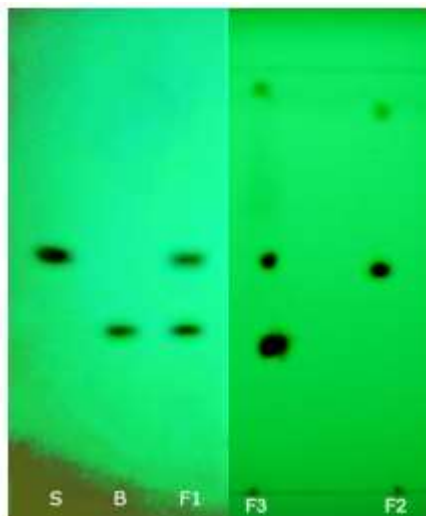




Presence of Strychnine in Herbal Medicines Sold in India

Sir,

I am Adarsha B P, Assistant professor and researcher. I am writing to bring to your notice that some herbal medicines sold in India contain strychnine. I conducted standardization of 3 marketed herbal formulations i.e., Vishtindukadi Vati and found the presence of strychnine, which is confirmed by TLC, I had used toluene: ethyl acetate: dimethylamine (70:30:10) as a solvent system and strychnine and brucine as a marker compound. Rf value of strychnine found to be 0.55. In the chromatogram of marketed formulations, I had found Rf values nearer to the marker's Rf value, 0.58, 0.57 & 0.56. For reference I had attached the photo images.



(S=Strychnine, B=Brucine, F1= F1 Marketed sample, F2= F2 Marketed sample and F3=F3 Marketed sample)

Although in India we are having regulatory guidelines to protect the consumer from toxic effects caused by herbal medicines still many companies manufacturing the herbal medicines not following these guidelines directly they are releasing the formulation to the market so ultimately the consumer is going to suffer. Owing to the seriousness of this situation, I request you to kindly highlight the issue so that the regulatory authorities are alerted about the need to look into this situation as soon as possible.

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