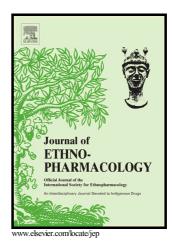
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A review on ethnomedicinally important pteridophytes of India

Jeyalatchagan Sureshkumar^a, Rajendran Silambarasan^a, Kumar Avinash Bharati^{a,b}, Jayaraj Krupa^a, Singamoorthy Amalraj^a, Muniappan Ayyanar^a*

^aDepartment of Botany and Microbiology, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi – 613 503, Thanjavur, India

^bCentral National Herbarium, Botanical Survey of India, P.O. - Botanic Garden, Howrah – 711 103, India

***Corresponding author**: Dr. Muniappan Ayyanar, Department of Botany & Microbiology, A.V.V.M. Sri Pushpam College (Autonomous), Poondi - 613503, Thanjavur, India; *Mob*.: +91 9940376005. *E-mail*: asmayyanar@yahoo.com

Abstract

Ethnopharmacological relevance: Pteridophytes have been considered an excellent source of medicine since ancient times and remain underexplored in ethnobotanical aspects when compared to other vascular plants. Hence, an attempt has been made to compile medicinally important pteridophytes used by different ethnic minorities and local people in India.

Materials and methods: Relevant information on the uses of pteridophytes was extracted from scientific journals (local, regional, and international), books, book chapters, conference proceedings, M.Sc. and Ph.D. dissertations, and other scientific databases. Recent and accepted names of plants were validated using standard nomenclature databases.

Results: In total, 283 species of pteridophytes are enumerated in this review which are used to treat 129 ailments. Ethnobotanical records from the states Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand revealed 59% of overall uses of pteridophytes from India. Pteridaceae was recorded with highest number of medicinally important species (57), followed by Polypodiaceae, Dryopteridaceae, Thelypteridaceae, and Aspleniaceae with 36, 27, 22, and 21 species respectively.

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