Accepted Manuscript

Review

Ethnomedicinal, phytochemical and pharmacological updates on *Hygrophila auriculata* (Schum.) Hiene: an overview

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PII: S2095-4964(18)30078-5
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joim.2018.07.002
Reference: JOIM 46

To appear in: *Journal of Integrative Medicine*

Received Date: 7 December 2017
Accepted Date: 28 May 2018

Please cite this article as: N.K. Sethiya, N.M. Ahmed, R.M. Shekh, V. Kumar, P. Kumar Singh, V. Kumar, Ethnomedicinal, phytochemical and pharmacological updates on *Hygrophila auriculata* (Schum.) Hiene: an overview, *Journal of Integrative Medicine* (2018), doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joim.2018.07.002

JIM-12-2017-RE-0344

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the most recent evidence-based information on ethanomedicinal, phytochemical and pharmacological understanding of *Hygrophila auriculata* for the treatment of various diseases and health conditions. Various ethanomedicinal writings suggest the use of the plant or its parts for the treatment of jaundice, edema, gastrointestinal ailments, diarrhea, dysentery, urinogenital disorder, gall stones, urinary calculi, kidney stone, leucorrhoea, rheumatism, tuberculosis, anemia, body pain, constipation and skin disease, and as an aphrodisiac. The plant has been reported to contain flavonoids (apigenin, luteolin, ellagic acid, gallic acid and quercetin), alkaloids (asteracanthine and asteracanthicine), triterpenes (lupeol, lupenone, hentricontane and betulin), sterols (stigmasterol and asterol), minerals, amino acids, fatty acids, aliphatic esters and essential oils. Extracts and bioactive compounds from the plant have been found to possess antimicrobial, anthelmintic, antitermite, nephroprotective, hepatoprotective, central nervous system protective, antitumor, antidiabetic, anticataract, antioxidant, haematopoietic, diuretic, antinociceptive, anti-inflammatory, antipyretic, antimotility, aphrodisiac, neuroprotection, anti-endotoxin and anti-urolithiatic activity. For this paper, we reviewed patents, clinical studies, analytical studies and marketed formulations from the earliest found examples from 1887 to the end of 2017. We summarized this body of knowledge based on the support for each major class of activity, plant part used and active constituents.