



PHARMACOGNOSTICAL AND PHYTOCHEMICAL STUDY OF LEAF OF *GYMNOSPORIA MONTANA* (VIKALO)

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Abstract: Ethanomedicinal plant like *Gymnosporia montana* belonging to the family *Celastraceae* commonly known as Vikalo in Gujarat. *Gymnosporia montana* is known as “VIKALO” means VI + KAMALO (jaundice in Gujarati –Kamalo) cure JAUNDICE. Ethanomedicinally fresh leaves of Vikalo are chewed in tribal regions of Gujarat to cure jaundice.. Pharmacognostical evaluation including examination of morphological and microscopical characters, determination of quality control parameters such as ash values, extractive values, moisture content, foreign matter, and microbial contamination were carried out. Phytochemical screening including qualitative chemical examinations was also carried out. Hence, the present attempt was undertaken to investigate the Phytopharmacognostical studies of leaf of *Gymnosporia montana*. The study revealed the presence of biseriate upper and lower epidermis with waxy cuticle and stomata. Mesophyll contains yellowish black colour matter. Phytochemical screening of the plant showed the presence of phytoconstituents like phenol, flavonoids, alkaloids and saponin.

Keywords: *Gymnosporia montana*, pharmacognostical, phytochemical, vikalo.

INTRODUCTION

Man, since time immemorial has been engaged in the pursuit of achieving and maintaining an optimum state of health. A number of plants have been used in traditional medicinal practices for more than 3000 years. Ayurvedic Medicines, Unani Medicines and Chinese Traditional Medicines are well established systems that have taken care of human and animal health for long before the establishment of Allopathic system. Plants have been utilized as drugs for millennia in crude form / extracts. Globally, at least 121 chemical substances of known structure are still extracted from plants for use as drugs. Lately, the chemical basis of these plant derived medicines and their therapeutic efficacies have been the centre of attention. Out of

the known 17,000 higher plants in India, 7,600 are known to become medicinal plants and are used in ayurvedic / other medicinal system for treatment from ancient times [1]. Therefore, medicinal plants have played a key role in world health. They are distributed worldwide, but they are most abundant in tropical countries. It is estimated that about 25% of all modern medicines are directly or indirectly derived from higher plants [2-4]. Herbal medicine is the oldest form of healthcare known to mankind. Herbs had been used by all cultures throughout history. According to World Health Organization, medicinal plants are the best source to obtain a variety of newer herbal drugs. About 80% of individuals from developed countries use traditional medicine, which has compounds derived