

Gloriosa superba L., an important medicinal plant

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SUMMARY

Present paper deals with the study of one of the rare, poisonous, ethnomedicinally and therapeutically important plant *Gloriosa superba* L. At present the plant is on the way of extinction due to its misuse, over exploitation and unscientific collection. It is listed in the red data book. Tubers are used by the tribals of Akola taluka, Ahmednagar district (M.S.) in the treatment of cancer, malaria, stomachaches, piles and leprosy. Tubers are also employed in abortion (60mg) and as an antidote for snakebites and scorpion-stings. Leaves are used in the treatment of asthma. Though the plant is supposed to have definite medicinal properties, it also confirms some lethal substances that are unsafe to the patient. Therefore, there is a need for finding the actual chemical compound present in the plant that is therapeutically important so as to avoid the unsafe chemicals like gloriosine and colchicine.

Key words : *Gloriosa*, Rare, Red data book, Tribals, Colchicine