

Ethno-botanical survey on “*Wellangiriya*”

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Abstract

Many people in developing countries still rely on traditional healing practices and medicinal plant for their health care need. In Sri Lanka, medical practitioners use *Wellangiriya* plants for their treatments. *Wellangiriya* plant is used in medicinal preparations in Ayurveda and *Deshiya Cikitsa* such as *Winaraja Kayama*, *Sathwawadi* oil, *Sarwawishadi* oil etc. But there are some varieties of *Wellangiriya*. Therefore, ethno-botanical survey of “*Wellangiriya*” is essential for the society. A questionnaire was prepared to be distributed among Ayurveda medical practitioners of the Western Province, Southern Province & Sabaragamuwa Province for collecting details such as, *Capparis zeylanica*, *Capparis mooni* and *Pereskia aculeata* used for *Wellangiriya* by the medical Practitioners. According to the results they use 2 plant species for *Wellangiriya* in Capparaceae family. *Pereskia aculeata* is an introduced plant for Sri Lanka. Mainly 3 varieties of plants are used for *Wellangiriya*. They are *Capparis mooni*, *Capparis zeylanica* and *Pereskia aculeata*. It varies from the areas. Most commonly used variety for the medicinal preparations and treatments is *Capparis zeylanica*.

Keywords: *Capparis zeylanica*, *Capparis mooni*, *Wellangiriya*

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