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## PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENINGS OF *ALBIZIA ODORATISSIMA* STEM BARK

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Plant derived substances have recently become of great interest owing to their versatile applications as rich bio-resource of drugs of traditional systems of medicine, modern medicine, nutraceuticals, food supplements, folk medicines, pharmaceutical intermediates and chemical entities for synthetic drugs. *A. odoratissima* (L.F) Benth (vern: Huri Mara or Suriya Mara) is a, large tree distributed throughout India, Sri Lanka and Nepal, belongs to sub family Mimosoidae of family Fabaceae. It is recorded in Ayurveda Pharmacopea as an ingredient in many therapeutic preparations but mostly used as a tree for timber value than its medicinal value. The flowers, inflorescence head, has been reported as having digestive, sedative, anthelmintic and diuretic activity whereas the stems are with analgesic, stimulant, swelling, injuries, abscess, diuretics and anthelmintic properties, and mostly used for the treatments for diabetes. Medicinally it is used in Sri Lanka only as an alternative source for *Albizia lebbek* (Shirisha) which has anti-inflammatory properties. However, recent questionnaire survey revealed that it is used to prepare topical application Dashangalepa in few Ayurvedic drug manufactures and Ayurvedic health centers. Qualitative phytochemical analysis was done to identify the chemical compound types present in the stem bark extracts. Powdered stem bark was subjected to sequential solvent extraction using hexane, chloroform, methanol and water. Phytochemical screening of stem bark of the different samples confirmed the presence of phytochemicals; alkaloids, flavonoids, glycosides, tannins, steroids and saponins in the extracts of the methanolic, chloroformic and water. This study draws the attention to the need of further analysis of the active principles of the various parts of the species in order to understand their mode of action in different diseases to explore the potential of using in novel drug discovery.

Keywords *Albizia odoratissima*, Phytochemical screening, Dashangalepa