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Ethnopharmacological Note

Use of *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L. (Asteraceae) for treatment of leucoderma

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Abstract

Eclipta prostrata (L.) L. belongs to the Asteraceae family and is known in English as ‘false daisy’ and in Bangladesh as ‘kalo keshi’. It is a common plant in Bangladesh and India and can be found in moist areas, waste places and roadsides. The plant has medicinal uses in Bangladesh and elsewhere. The Santal tribe residing in Thakurgaon district, Bangladesh, uses a mixture of leaves of *Eclipta prostrata*, *Cynodon dactylon*, and *Scoparia dulcis* to treat diabetes (Rahmatullah et al., 2009). A review on the ethnomedicinal uses of the plant indicate that the plant is used for acidity, alopecia, respiratory tract disorders, burns, body pain, gastrointestinal tract disorders, gingivitis, piles, jaundice, skin diseases, urinary tract infections, and whitlo (Khan and Khan, 2008). During a survey conducted in Pulhat village of Dinajpur district, Bangladesh, a new use of the plant was given to us by a local folk medicinal practitioner (Kaviraj), named Abdul Matin. He used juice obtained from crushed whole plant, which was applied topically to treat leucoderma. Leucoderma is the gradual loss of skin pigment melanin from the skin resulting in whitish patches. The disease is also known as vitiligo and the white patches of differently coloured skin can cause considerable embarrassment to affected persons. The disease is quite prevalent in Bangladesh (Rahman et al., 2013). The plant was photographed (Fig 1), collected, and identified at the Bangladesh National Herbarium (Accession Number: 45347).

Keywords: medicinal plants, *Eclipta prostrata*, leucoderma

Declaration of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest associated with this work.

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Figure 1. *Eclipta prostrata* (L.) L.