



A REVIEW ON THE TAXONOMY, ETHNOBOTANY AND CHEMISTRY OF *Oroxylum indicum* VENT.

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ABSTRACT: The herb *Oroxylum indicum* (Bignoniaceae), also known as Sonapatha or Shyonaka, is a staple of Ayurvedic treatment. In the Indian Ayurvedic medical system, the roots, leaves, and stems of *Oroxylum indicum* have been employed as a single medicament or as a component of several compound therapeutic compositions for therapy. It contains flavonoids such as chrysin, baicalein, and oroxylin-A. According to several researches, sonapatha predominantly has anticancer, antioxidant, hepatoprotective, and immunomodulatory activities. Sonapatha has also been linked to a number of other benefits, including antibacterial, analgesic, and gastroprotective qualities. It is a tree that typically grows in wet areas. An effort has been undertaken in the current review to gather and critically evaluate numerous published reports on *Oroxylum indicum*.

Keywords: Antioxidant, chrysin, immunomodulatory, *Oroxylum indicum*

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INTRODUCTION

Oroxylum indicum, also known as "Sonapatha," has been used for thousands of years in both Ayurvedic medicine and indigenous medical systems (Joshi *et al.*, 1977). In the Indian system of medicine or Ayurveda, *Oroxylum indicum* has been utilised as a single drug or as a component of specific poly-herbal drug compositions. It is an active component of popular Ayurvedic products like Chyavanprash and Dashmularistha (Kirtikar *et al.*, 2001). Both the root bark and the stem bark have anti-allergic qualities, making them useful for treating allergic disease, urticaria, jaundice, asthma, sore throat, laryngitis, hoarseness, gastralgia, diarrhoea, dysentery, infantile, erythema and measles (Paranjpe *et al.*, 2005). The recommended dose is 8 to 16 g of bark in

decoction, extract, or powder. The seeds can be used as a purgative and in doses of 5 to 10 g daily in a decoction or powder to treat chronic cough and gastralgia. For lacquer allergic dermatitis, fresh bark is externally macerated with alcohol. The fruits of *Oroxylum indicum* are bitter, sweet, stomachic, anthelmintic and beneficial for conditions such as piles, bronchitis, and heart and throat disorders. They are also used as expectorants, which increase appetite, and are helpful for leucoderma (Chopra *et al.*, 2002). *Oroxylum indicum* is commonly called as the tree of Damocles, Indian caper, Indian trumpet flower, Indian trumpet tree. The tree is named as "Tree of Damocles" after an incident depicted in an ancient story by Cicero (Nakahara *et al.*, 2002).