

## EDITORIAL

It gives me pleasure to inform all our esteemed readers that this journal is not only an 'open access online journal' but has been empowered by the online manuscript management system at <http://journalonweb.com/ijrh/>. Researchers all over the world will now be able to contribute new researches and review articles.

The Council has been undertaking research in diversified fields like standardizing and proving of homoeopathic drugs, verifying their symptoms and conducting clinical trials. This journal brings out the research outcomes of all such research works after the rigorous peer review process to present the best and most valuable articles for the profession.

*Alternanthera* species are among rarely used drugs in homoeopathic practice. The extracts from the leaves of this plant have wound-healing properties.<sup>1</sup> *Alternanthera sessilis* is one of the traditional medicinal plants of North East India, rich in tannin and palmaric acid and also inhibits the growth of *Escherichia coli*.<sup>2,3</sup> A study has been carried out to find the relation to the effect of light quality on leaf production and development of in-vitro cultured plants of *Alternanthera brasilliana* Kuntze. The plants have different response to different forms of light with respect to their morphology and high-quality growth can be achieved by culturing these plants in-vitro under the combination of blue and red light.<sup>4</sup> The change in light, climate, etc., can engender change in the morphology of plants of one species of *Alternanthera* and may also have affect on its medicinal properties. For laying down standards for quality assurance, the Council earlier published the pharmacognostical standardization study of *Alternanthera pungens* H.B.K. that describes the macroscopic and microscopic details.<sup>5</sup> In this issue, we present the comparative morphology of the two closely related species of *Alternanthera*, i.e., *Alternanthera sessilis* and *Alternanthera pungens*. The study is useful in the identification of raw drug source, distinguishing their morphological features that and providing fine differentiating reference for the advanced studies.<sup>6</sup>

*Caesalpinia bonducella* is another not so commonly used drug in homoeopathy. This drug has micro and macro-filaricidal and female-sterilizing efficacy against *L. sigmodontis* and micro-filaricidal and female-sterilizing efficacy against *Brugia malayi* in animal models. Thus, it has the potential to be one of the antifilarial drugs.<sup>7</sup> Animal models studies have shown its regional affinity for gastric mucosa producing anti-ulcer and anti-secretory effects.<sup>8</sup> It possesses anti-tumor and anti-oxidant activity in Ehrlich ascites carcinoma<sup>9</sup> and also anticonvulsant activity.<sup>10</sup> In the ancient literature of Indian traditional medicine it has been found that this drug also has hypoglycemic and anti-hyperglycemic properties.<sup>11</sup> Several in-vivo and in-vitro studies have been conducted using this medicinal plant and it has been found that it has potent hypoglycemic activity in chronic type 2 diabetic model<sup>12</sup> and also immunomodulatory activity.<sup>13</sup> Here we are presenting its drug proving, which was conducted at three centers on 50 volunteers. The pathogenic response elicited during the proving trial shows the affinity of the drug towards eyes, the external throat and back.<sup>14</sup>

We also present an interesting manuscript on 'Clinical verification of *Ichthyolum*' stating 35 clinically verified symptoms of this drug including 22 symptoms, which were elicited during drug proving and also highlighting its action on skin.<sup>15</sup> Let the profession use indications of this lesser known drug in practice and further and validate them.

One of the homoeopathic clinical trials reported the results of treatment of 300 clinically and radiologically confirmed cases of cervical spondylosis. *Calcarea fluorata* prescribed as specific in one of the groups showed improvement in good number of cases and in the other group, *Calcarea carbonica* and *Lycopodium* were prescribed constitutionally and found to be most useful.<sup>16</sup> Here we present an exploratory study focusing on the pain management of cervical spondylosis comparing the usefulness of CM and LM potencies. The individualized homoeopathic medicines prescribed in LM potency have shown statistically significant clinical success in 82% cases compared to 50% in case of CM potency with respect to the

pain management, but significant improvement has been found in the quality of life in both the groups. The drugs most frequently prescribed were *Lycopodium*, *Sulphur*, *Bryonia alba*, *Phosphorus*, *Calcarea carbonica* and *Nux vomica*, of these two (*Calcarea carbonica* and *Lycopodium*) are common to the earlier study.<sup>17</sup>

Our aim is to raise the standards of research in homoeopathy and also improve the quality of our journal and make it of international repute. This won't be possible until and unless we obtain support from our ardent readers, researchers and professionals in this field. It is my earnest request to them to contribute in whatever form possible for our journal.

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