

Review on medicinal plants used in snake bites

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Snakebite is a very common problem worldwide. Sri Lanka also has one of the highest rates of snakebite incidence. The annual incidence of snake bites in Sri Lanka is 400 per 100,000 people corresponding to 80,000 snake bites in a 2 million people population. Sri Lankan traditional medicine, Ayurvedic medicine, and traditional medicinal systems of other countries have great treatment and management modalities for snake bites. Natural herbs are used to cure snake bites in these medicinal systems. This review discusses medicinal plants which help to cure snakebites. For this review, only the research articles published in the span of the last 15 years (2005 to 2020) with regard to medicinal plants used to treat snake bites are used as references. Data was gathered from websites like google scholar, pub med, science direct, and sci-hub. Then all medicinal plants used to treat snakebites in Sri Lanka which were mentioned in referred research articles were listed. A total of 386 medicinal plants which can be used to treat snakebites were found in this review. These medicinal plants belong to 114 plant families. The highest number of medicinal plants which can cure snakebites were found to belong in the family Fabaceae (41 plants). In addition, the Apocynaceae family has 17 medicinal plants, the Euphorbaceae family has 16 medicinal plants, the Malvaceae family has 15 medicinal plants, and the Cucurbitaceae family has 14 medicinal plants. Different parts such as leaf, root, fruit, flower, bark, latex, and rhizome of medicinal plants were found to be used to cure snake bites. The method of administration of medicinal plants used for snakebites is 3 types. They are both external and internal (34%), external (33%), and internal (25%). These medicinal plants have *tikta rasa*, *lagu guna*, *ushna virya*, *katuka vipaka*. Medicinal plants used for the snake bite review article can be used as the basis of more experimental approaches toward further expanding the knowledge on the use of plants in snake bite treatment.

Keywords: Snake bite, Medicinal plants, Ayurveda, Traditional medicine