

Medicinal properties and uses of *Rukattana* (*Alstonia scholaris*) used in *Gediwana Wedakama* in indigenous medicine

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Abstract

The indigenous medicine has been possessed an important place among the various medical systems endemic to Sri Lanka. There was a glorious history inherited by our own ancestors. There are several aspects of indigenous medicine such as *Sarpa visha wedakama* (Treatment for snakebites), *Gediwana wedakama* (Treatment for tumours, abscesses), *Kedum bindum wedakama* (Local Orthopaedics), *As wedakama* (Local Ophthalmology) etc. Among them, *Gediwana wedakama* has been existed in very high quality level in ancient Sri Lanka. *Rukattana* medicinal plant plays specific role in most of medicinal recipes used in external modes. It is one of the widely used medicinal plants in medicinal recipes in *Gediwana wedakama*. The medicinal recipes containing *Rukattana* are used for various therapeutic actions. The study was conducted with an intention of identifying the exact medicinal action of *Rukattana* plant in medicinal recipes used in external modes in *Gediwana wedakama*. The study was designed with referring indigenous texts and other books prescribed for *Gediwana wedakama*. Then the medicinal recipes containing *Rukattana* and properties were analyzed by classifying therapeutic actions with different medicinal parts of *Rukattana*. The study reveals that 32% medicinal recipes containing the bark of *Rukattana* has been used for bursting of abscesses. It is the widely used medicinal part of *Rukattana* among the prescribed recipes. Apart from that leaves, roots and milky exudates have been used in various treatments in reducible percentages. The study further reveals that the bark of *Rukattana* has special depurative activity. The findings of the study suggest further clinical studies to reach a firm conclusion.

Key words: *Rukattana*, *Alstonia scholaris*, Medicinal recipes, Medicinal plant,

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