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Phytochemistry and phytoconstituents of *Cassia fistula* Linn. – “The golden shower”

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Cassia fistula Linn. commonly known as the Golden Shower belongs to the family Fabaceae. It is a medium size tree which is native of tropical Asia. It is widely cultivated in South Africa, East Africa, Brazil, India, West Indies, China, Mexico, etc. All parts of the plant have medicinal properties so it is a very valuable medicinal plant which is utilized in the traditional system of medicine. Phytochemical analysis showed the presence of important classes of phytoconstituents like anthraquinone glycosides, cardiac glycosides, flavonoids, phenolic compounds, carbohydrate, protein, fats, alkaloids, tannins, saponins, steroids, terpenoids and phlobatannins, linoleic acid, oleic acid, stearic acid, volatile compounds, etc. Leaves contain free rhein, sennosides A and B. Fruit contains anthraquinones, flavonoid-ol-derivatives, rhein, sennosides A and B, fistulic acids, potassium, calcium, iron and manganese. Flower contains ceryl alcohol, rhein, bianthraquinone glycoside, fistulin and kaempferol. Root contains betulinic acid, 7-methylphyscion and β -sitosterol. Stem bark contains lupeol, β -sitosterol and hexacosanol. Seeds are rich in glycerides with linoleic, oleic, stearic and palmitic acids as major fatty acids together with traces of caprylic and myristic acids. The plant has been reported to possess anti-bacterial, anti-fungal, anti-ulcer, anti-tussive, anti-diabetic, anti-pyretic, anti-itching, anti-parasitic, anti-oxidant, wound healing, laxative, hypolipidemic, protease-inhibitory and hepatoprotective activities.

Biography

Sneha Vinodkumar Rathi is a student and she is studying in final year of B. Pharmacy, at Hi-tech College of Pharmacy, Chandrapur from Gondwana University. She has participated in Avishkar 2013 and also 2014 and has presented poster in the 8th Maharashtra State Inter-University Research Convection which was organized in North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon (M.S.). She has also presented a poster in the National Conference on Developmental Challenges of Carbon Nanotubes as a Vaccine Delivery which was organized in Sagar (M.P.).

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