

Ethnomedicinal, phytochemical, and pharmacological profile of the genus *Dalbergia* L. (Fabaceae)

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Abstract

Dalbergia is a large genus of trees, shrubs, lianas, and woody climbers in the pea family, the Fabaceae, consisting of approximately 274 accepted species widely distributed in the tropical and subtropical regions of the world. Members of the genus enjoy a number of traditional uses all over the world. Various species are widely used in the treatment of different ailments like aphthae, bleeding piles, cough, diarrhea, dysentery, dyspepsia, epigastria, epistaxis, gonorrhea, haemorrhages, leprosy, malaria, rheumatism, scabies, scalding urine, stomach ache, syphilis, traumatic injuries, and ulcers, etc. Species are also used for their analgesic, anthelmintic, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, antipyretic, anti-spermicidal, anti-ulcerogenic, aphrodisiac, astringent, expectorant, and larvicidal activities in traditional medicine. Some species are already validated through different pharmacological investigations, and others require scientific investigations to rationalize their traditional uses. Phytochemical investigations of this genus have isolated different groups of compounds including isoflavonoids, neoflavonoids, glycosides, cinnamylphenols, quinones, furans, and other miscellaneous compounds. This comprehensive review is a compilation of information regarding the ethnomedicinal, phytochemical, and pharmacological data of the genus *Dalbergia*.

Keywords: *Dalbergia*; ethnomedicinal; phytochemical; pharmacological

Introduction

The family Fabaceae (alternatively known as the Leguminosae) is one of the largest families of flowering plants, consisting of 730 genera and over 19,400 species (Stevens, 2008). The genus *Dalbergia* is placed under the subfamily Faboideae containing 274 International Legume Database & Information Service (ILDIS) accepted species distributed all over the world, especially in the tropical and subtropical regions. Most *Dalbergia* species are widely used timber trees, and are valuable because of their decorative and fragrant wood (Chopra