PREFACE

NATURE always stands as a golden mark to exemplify the outstanding phenomenon of symbiosis. The biotic and abiotic elements of nature are all interdependent. The plants are in dispensable to man for his life. The plant kingdom supplies the three important necessities of life – food, clothing, shelter- and a host of other useful products to him. Nature has provided a complete store house of remedies to cures all ailments of mankind. The knowledge of drugs has accumulated over thousands years as a result of man’s inquisitive nature, so that today we posses many effective means of ensuring health-care.

India is being sitting on a gold mine of well-recorded and traditional well-practiced knowledge of herbal medicine. This country is perhaps the largest producer of medicinal herbs and is rightly called the botanical garden of the world. India officially recognizes over 3000 plants for their medicinal value. It is generally estimated that over 6000 plants in India are in use in traditional, folk and herbal medicine, representing about 75% of the medicinal needs of the third World countries.

During the last 60 years, the workers engaged in the field of medicinal and aromatic plants in India have increased manifold and so also the output of research data on the subject. There is a similar escalation in research development work in the growing and processing of medicinal plants in many other developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. This fact is very strongly reflected in reports of many UN agencies, which had been advocating greater attention to these crops as means of social-economic uplift in fact there is revival of interest in natural plants product as these are biologically more compatible with human systems and comparatively less toxic than the synthetic. Due to the side effect of synthetic products, herbal products are gaining popularity. Otherwise, also the cost of producing of these synthetics has increased as a result of increase in the price of petroleum products. Thus, the growing of medicinal and aromatic plants has got a great fill up during the last 60 years.

Medicinal herbs have been used in one form or another, under indigenous system of medicines like Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani. The Ayurvedic treatment involves use of either the individual part from plants or processed extracts. Although, it gives relief or
cures the disease, there might be chances of overdoses and under doses due to changes of constituents. Therefore special attention needs to be focused on the chemical composition of plant’s parts useful medicinally.

Plants belonging to genus *Clerodendrum* are used as treatment for many chronic and acute diseases and disorders. But less scientific work is reported on *Clerodendrum splendens* regarding its chemical constituent & anti-asthmatics, anti-inflammatory potential. This scientific study may become basis for investigation of Pharmacognostic, phytochemical and pharmacological potential of *Clerodendrum splendens*. Family- Verbenaceae.

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