PREFACE

Arthritis is the disease which has been plaguing mankind form ancient times. It was found that Rheumatoid arthritis was a prevalent disease among Egyptians. In Indian literature, *Charaka Samhitha* also described a condition of pain, joint swelling and loss of mobility and function. In ancient system of Indian Medicine – Ayurveda also considered arthritis as one of the vata. By 1932, the International Committee on rheumatism was formed which later became American Rheumatism Association and then American College of Rheumatology.

In olden days the treatment for Rheumatoid Arthritis includes bloodletting and leeching. In Far East developed practices it is by acupuncture, acupressure, moxibustion, cupping etc., were used. After several failed treatments that which doesn’t improve the condition of patients, came the use of heavy metals. Gold is the metal which had shown success over years of use and it is a part of DMARDs (Disease Modifying Antirheumatic Drugs). DMARDs are the widely used in treatment of Rheumatoid arthritis. After several other NSAIDS came into being.

In Rheumatoid arthritis, untolerable pain exists. The pain relief in Rheumatoid arthritis was achieved by using plant extracts of willow bark and leaves which contain Salicin, widely Hippocrates and Galen were made used to relieve pain in arthritis. Further 1929 Leroux identifies Salicylic acid, an active substance that eased pain. In 1853, Acetyl Salicylic acid by Gerhardt followed by thereafter Phenylbutazone in 1949.

The usage of NSAIDS results in risk some of the instances except Aspirin, increases the risk of heart attack or stroke, potential skin reactions etc., DMARDS also results in several side effects like bleeding, symptoms of infection etc., Apart from these therapies hydrotherapy, physiotherapy and podiatry where in all cases the recovery is not permanent and also included with many drawbacks.

Medicinal plants are rich sources of chemical constituents, have a role in treatment of human diseases and WHO also encourages, recommends and traditional cure for arthritis. This made to brought up the current thesis entitled “Evaluation of antiarthritic activity of *Myxopyrum smilacifolium* Blume and *Pamburus missionis Swingle*” to investigate on plants to find out lead molecule in order to treat in aspects of cure for arthritis at the phytochemical level.