4. **SELECTION OF HERBAL DRUGS:-**

Survey of the literature indicated the existence of about 90 herbal drugs possessing Hepatoprotective properties. Out of these, few selected herbs are found to be frequently incorporated in various hepatoprotective formulations e.g. out of 42 formulations examined, 28 are found to contain *A paniculata*, 20, *E prostrata*, 15, *S nigrum* and 10, *P amarus*. Hence these 4 frequently used top ten ranking herbs are thought worth to select for the present investigations.

These four herbs are subjected for the following evaluations.

1. Morphological and microscopical evaluation: To detect the identity and purity of the market samples of the herbs.
2. T.L.C. evaluation: To detect the quality of the herbs.
3. Chemical evaluation of the market polyherbal formulations containing herbs of *A paniculata*, *E. prostrata* and *P. amarus* by HPLC and HPTLC methods- employing known techniques reported earlier for the estimation of the active constituents of these hepatoprotective herbal drugs.
5. Pharmacological evaluation of the isolated hepatoprotective principle of *S. nigrum*.
6. Quantitative estimation of the isolated hepatoprotective compound of *S. nigrum* by HPLC method.
Eclipta prostrata (L) L.; Twig, Leaf, Inflorescence and Fruit