

A REVIEW ON PHYTOMEDICINES USED IN TREATMENT OF MOST COMMON SKIN DISEASES

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ABSTRACT

Human skin, the outer covering of the body, is the largest organ in the body. It also constitutes the first line of defense. Skin diseases occur worldwide and amount to approximately 34% of all occupational diseases encountered. Skin diseases are numerous and a frequently occurring health problem affecting all ages from the neonates to the elderly and cause harm in number of ways. Skin ailments present a major health burden in both developed and undeveloped countries. Maintaining healthy skin is important for a healthy body. Many people may develop skin diseases that affect the skin, including cancer, herpes, eczema, psoriasis and cellulitis. Some wild plants and their parts are frequently used to treat these diseases. Traditional medicinal resources, especially plants have been found to play a major role in managing skin disorders. They have been employed in the treatment of skin ailments in many countries around the world where they contribute significantly in the primary health care of the population. In spite of the great advances observed in modern medicine in recent decades, plants still make an important contribution to health care. Natural products have been our single most successful source of medicines. Various herbal plants are used in the treatment of most skin diseases. Various molecules have been isolated, characterized and tested for their related pharmacological activities. Natural treatment is cheap and claimed to be safe. Some medicinal plants are reported as very potent which either completely remove or lessen the dermatological infections and diseases. This review will provide aid in the search of plants which are used in the treatment of Skin related problems.

Keywords

Phytomedicines, Skin, Herbal, Dermarpphytosis.

INTRODUCTION

Many plants have been used in traditional medicine for several thousand years. During the last few decades there has been an increasing interest in the study of medicinal plants and their traditional use in different parts of India. A vast knowledge of how to use the plants against different illnesses may be expected to have accumulated in areas where the use of plants is still of great importance. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) about 65-80% of the world's population in developing countries depends essentially on plants for their primary healthcare due to poverty and lack of access to modern medicine¹. In recent years, use of ethnobotanical information in medicinal plant research has gained considerable attention in segments of the scientific community². Interest in medicinal plants has been fuelled by the rising costs of prescription

drugs in the maintenance of personal health and well-being and the bio-prospecting of new plant derived drugs³. Historically all medicinal preparations were derived from plants, whether in the simple form of plant parts or in the more complex form of crude extracts, mixtures, etc. The primary benefits of using plant derived medicines are that they are relatively safer than synthetic alternatives, offering profound therapeutic benefits and more affordable treatment⁴. About 200 years ago our pharmacopoeia was dominated by herbal medicines⁵ and almost 25% of the drugs prescribed worldwide came from plants. Of the 252 drugs considered as basic and essential by the WHO, 11% are exclusively of plant origin and a significant number are synthetic drugs obtained from natural precursors. Indigenous knowledge on natural resources, utilization of medicinal plants not exceeding the resilience of the surrounding environment is regarded as an important measure of sustainable plants biodiversity conservation⁶. Many of the plant materials used in traditional medicine are readily available in rural areas at relatively cheaper than modern medicine⁷. Plant derived substances which are used for drug preparation could be found in various parts like roots, leaves, shoots and bark of plants^{8,9}. The modern drugs used today are based on natural compounds. Due to excessive use of synthetic antibiotics, microorganisms are developing resistance towards them. Recently, Margaret Chan, director general of the WHO, warned that bacteria were starting to become so resistant to common antibiotics that it could bring "the end of modern medicine as we know it"¹⁰. Keeping in view all these above reasons and facts, many researchers are exploring different plants sources for natural drug development which can overcome side effects of synthetic drugs. The demand for herbal medicines is increasing rapidly all over the country due to their lack of side effects and low cost¹¹. Traditional medicinal resources, especially plants have been found to play a major role in managing skin disorders. They have been employed in the treatment of skin ailments in many countries around the world where they contribute significantly in the primary health care of the population. Furthermore, the use of medicinal plants to treat dermatological conditions is extensive¹². Traditional herbal medicines have played an important role in the management of dermatological conditions. Hundreds of medicinal plants worldwide are used in the traditional medicine for treatment of skin diseases caused by bacteria, fungi and viruses¹³.

Common Skin Problems:

Skin disease is a common ailment and it affects all ages from the neonate to the elderly and cause harm in number of ways¹⁴. There are more than a thousand conditions that may affect the skin but most skin diseases can be categorized into nine common types listed as follows¹⁵.

Rashes

A rash is an area of red, inflamed skin or a group of individual spots. These can be caused by irritation, allergy, infection, an underlying disease, as well as by structural defects for example, blocked pores or malfunctioning oil glands. Examples of rashes include acne, dermatitis, eczema, hives, pityriasis rosea and psoriasis.

Viral infections

These occur when a virus penetrates the stratum corneum and infects the inner layers of the skin. Examples of viral skin infections include herpes simplex, shingles (herpes zoster) and warts. Some systemic viral infections, such as chicken pox and measles, may also affect the skin. Viral infections cannot be cured with antibiotics.

Bacterial infections

Such infections are caused by a variety of bacteria, the most common types being staphylococci and streptococci. Bacteria may infect the topmost layers of skin, the follicles, or the deeper layers of skin. If not treated correctly, these infections may spread throughout the body. Examples include impetigo, folliculitis, cellulitis and lyme disease. Bacterial infections are better treated with antibiotics.

Fungal infections

Harmless fungi are always present on surface of the skin. Infection occurs when these organisms enter into the body. These infections are usually superficial, affecting the skin, hair, nails and include athlete's foot, lock itch and ringworm. However, in people with suppressed immune system or who have been taking antibiotics for long period, the fungi may spread to deep within the body, causing more serious disease.

Dermatophytosis

Dermatophytosis is a dermatologic problem with zoonotic risk. On the basis of primary habits there are three classes of dermatophytes, geophilic, zoophilic and anthropophilic. Dermatophytosis has world wide distribution and the causative agents are *Microsporum*, *Trichophyton* and *epidermaphyton* spp. *Microsporum canis*(*M.canis*) is the most common cause of dermatophytosis in animals and human^{16,17,18}.

Parasitic infections

These infections occur after exposure to parasites such as lice and scabies.

Pigmentation disorders

The amount of pigment in the skin is determined by the amount of melanin being produced by the body. Loss of pigment (hypo pigmentation) can be caused by absence of melanocytes, malfunctioning cells, exposure to cold or chemicals, or some types of infection. An increase in pigment (hyperpigmentation) may be caused by skin irritation, hormonal changes, aging, a metabolic disorder, or any other underlying problem. Age spots, freckles and melasma are examples of hyper pigmentation. Vitiligo is an example of hypo pigmentation.

Tumors and cancers

These growths arise when skin cells begin to multiply faster than normal. Not every skin growth is cancerous. Some tumors are harmless and will not spread. Skin cancer is the most common of all the cancers, affecting 800,000 Americans each year. It is caused, in 90% of cases, by sun exposure. The three types of skin cancers are basal cell cancer (the most curable), squamous cell cancer (which may grow and spread) and malignant melanoma (the most deadly form). Prevention involves protecting the skin against damaging ultraviolet rays. Early detection helps to improve the chances of a cure.

Trauma

Trauma describes an injury to the skin caused by a blow, a cut, or a burn. Whenever the surface of the skin is broken, the body becomes more susceptible to infection and disease.

Other conditions

Wrinkles, rosacea, spider veins and varicose veins are among those conditions that cannot be neatly categorized. Wrinkles are caused by a breakdown of the collagen and elastin within the dermis, which results in sagging skin. Rosacea is a chronic disorder in which the skin of the face becomes red and develops pimples, lesions and more rarely enlargement of the nose.

Table 1. Clinical Features of Common Skin Infections.

INFECTION	SPECIFIC CONDITION	CLINICAL FEATURES
Fungal infections	Tinea capitis	Often presents as gray, scaly patches accompanied by mild hair loss (Figure A) ^{19,20} . Presents with a well-defined, round, erythematous, scaly plaque with raised borders; however, tinea corporis gladiatorium (tinea corporis in wrestlers) frequently presents with a more irregular lesion (Figure B) ^{19,20,21} .
	Tinea corporis	
Viral infections	Herpes simplex	Lesions are typically found on the head, face, neck, or upper extremities and present as clustered, tense vesicles on an erythematous base (Figure C) ^{19,20,22-31} . Typically presents as umbilicated, or delled, flesh-colored to light-pink pearly papules, measuring 1–10 mm in diameter (Figure D) ³²⁻³⁶ .
	Molluscum contagiosum	
Bacterial infections	Impetigo	Bullous impetigo presents on the trunk or the extremities with raised blisters that rupture easily, resulting in moist erosions surrounded by a scaly rim. Nonbullous impetigo presents with thin walled vesicles that rupture into a honey-colored crust (Figure E) ^{19,37} . Presents as papules and pustules at the base of hair follicles, especially in areas that have been shaved, taped, or abraded (Figure F). Furuncles present as tender areas that, over several days, develop a reddened nodular swelling (Figure G); carbuncles present as the coalescence of multiple furuncles in deep, communicating, purulent mass ^{19,38,39} . CA-MRSA initially presents similarly to other bacterial infections. Furuncles, carbuncles, and abscesses are the most frequent clinical manifestations. (Figure G) ^{30,40,41} . Often CA MRSA lesions are confused with spider bites ^{40,42,43} . Lesions may begin as small pustules that develop into larger pustules or abscesses with areas of erythema and some tissue necrosis (Figure H and I) ^{42,44} .
	Folliculitis	
	Furuncles, carbuncle MRSA	

**Figure 1.** Clinical Features of Common Skin Infections.

The Traditional Medicine Forms From Herbal Medicaments:

i) Herbal teas (Species): One differentiates between teas from single drugs and tea mixtures. Tea mixtures, species, are mixtures of whole or appropriately cut herbal drugs. As these ones are applicable only to drugs with large therapeutic width, the dosing exactness is comparatively small. Teas used for the production of decocta, infusa or macerata. Cup finished teas or instant teas are not teas in the close sense. The quality to these products is different.

ii) Tinctures (Tinturae): are extracts from drugs. Which are usually manufactured with ethanol of different concentration, so that 1 part drug with five or ten parts extracting agents is extracted. The pharmacopoeias permit also ethyl ethers as extracting agents and other conditions. Tinctures can be designated also as solutions of dry extracts in ethanol of different concentration. Many finished vegetable medicaments, which are offered as solutions or drops represent tinctures in the sense mentioned fluid extracts (extracta fluida) are made in such a way with ethanol or with mixtures or ethanol and water that from 1 part drug at the most 2 parts fluid extracts are obtained. Thus fluid extracts can be regarded as more highly concentrated tinctures.

iii) Dry extracts (extracta sicca) are excerpts, which are restricted liquid extracts to whole to dry ones, that are more exact up to remaining moisture from approximately 2%, to be maintained. The dry extracts of the pharmacopoeia are stopped, if required, by additive of inert auxiliary materials such as lactose or dextrin to a prescribed active substances. Manufactured dry extracts of the plant medicinal single substance herbal drug, which is manufactured to finished medicaments such as dragees capsules or tablets.

Phytomedicine For Treatment Of Skin Diseases:

Herbal medicine, also called botanical medicine or phytomedicine, refers to the use of any plant's seeds, berries, roots, leaves, bark, or flowers for medicinal purposes. Long practiced outside of conventional medicine, herbalism is becoming more main stream as up-to-date analysis and research show their value in the treatment and prevention of disease. Recently, the World Health Organization estimated that 80% of people worldwide rely on herbal medicines for some aspect of their primary healthcare⁴⁵.

Traditional medicine is an important source of potentially useful new compounds for the development of chemotherapeutic agents. The first step towards this goal is the screening of plants used in popular medicine. Thus antimicrobial research is geared towards the discovery and development of novel antibacterial and antifungal agents. Plant drugs are frequently considered to be less toxic and freer from side effects than the synthetic ones⁴⁶.

Medicinal plants have been reported to be very beneficial in wound care, promoting the rate of wound healing with minimal pain, discomfort, and scarring to the patient⁴⁷.

Table 2. Ethnomedicinal Plants Used for the Treatment of Skin-Related problem.

Botanical Name	Family	Vernacular Name	Part(s) Used	Mode of Preparation of Medicine and Mode of Administration
<i>Abrus precatorius L.</i>	Fabaceae	Kunnimuthu	Seed	The seed powder mixed with coconut oil is applied topically as a remedy for itching and common skin infections.

<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Amaranthaceae	Prickly chaff flower, Devil's horsewhip	leaves	The extract applied on boils, scabies and eruptions of skin and other skin diseases ⁴⁸ .
<i>Aloe barbadensis Mill</i>	Liliaceae	Chothukattalai	Leaf	The gel obtained from the leaf is used to treat acne, boils (furuncles) and prickly heat rashes (miliaria).
<i>Allium cepa</i>	Liliacea	Onion	bulb	The extract applied on seborrheic keratoses ⁴⁹ .
<i>Alstonia scholaris (L.) R.</i>	Apocynaceae	Mukkampalai	Stem	The latex of stem is applied to treat common warts.
<i>Anamirta cocculus (L.)</i>	Menispermacea	Kakkilikai	Fruit	The fruit paste is applied topically to treat dermatophytosis (tinea/ringworm) and scabies
<i>Aristolochia bracteolata Lam.</i>	Aristolochiaceae	Aduthinnapalai	Leaf	The leaf paste is applied topically to treat scabies and eczema (atopic dermatitis)
<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Meliaceae	Neem	leaf	Leaf extract is applied externally on boils and blisters ⁵⁰ .
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	Fabaceae	Kachanar, Orchid tree	bark	The bark is internally administered for treating skin diseases also applied externally for skin ulcers ⁵¹ .
<i>Begonia malabarica Lam.</i>	Begoniaceae	Narayanasanjeevi	Leaf	The leaf paste is applied topically to treat dermatophytosis (tinea/ringworm).
<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	Brassicaceae	Beetroot	root	beet root extract to prevent cancer ⁵² .
<i>Brassica oleraceae</i>	Brassicaceae	Red Cabbage	fruit	aqueous extract applied for skin cancer ⁵³ .
<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	Asteraceae	Marigold	flowers	decoctions and tinctures from the flowers. for burns (including sunburns) and bruises ⁵⁴ .
<i>Calotropis gigantea (L.) R.</i>	Asclepiadaceae	Erukku	stem	As a natural wart remedy, the latex of stem is applied directly on the warts several times a day. The leaves are gently heated in sesame oil and applied as a lukewarm bandage on the boils (furuncles) to heal.
<i>Camellia sinensis</i>	Theaceae	Green tea	leaves	Leave extract in treatment of skin tumours and cancer ⁵⁵ .

<i>Canarium strictum</i> Roxb.	Burseraceae	Kungilium	Stem Bark	Coconut oil in which resin (dammer) produced in the stem bark is boiled and applied liberally over the skin as a remedy for itching and common skin infections.
<i>Cannabis sativus</i>	Cannabinaceae	Charas, Ganja	leaves	The powder of the leaves serves as a dressing for wounds and sores ⁵⁶ .
<i>Canthium parviflorum</i> Lam.	Rubiaceae	Karai	Leaf	The leaf paste is applied topically to treat dermatophytosis (tinea/ringworm) and scabies
<i>Cassia alata</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Anathavarai	Leaf	The leaf paste is applied topically to treat freckles and dermatophytosis(tinea/ringworm).
<i>Cassia kleinii</i> Wight & Arn.	Caesalpiniaceae	Mulluillathottali	All Parts of the Plant (Entire Plant)	Coconut oil in which a handful of entire plants, crushed roots of <i>Diplisia glaucescens</i> , <i>Vernonia cineria</i> and <i>Hemidesmus indicus</i> and few petals of <i>Ixora coccinea</i> are boiled is applied topically to treat boils (furuncles) and scabies.
<i>Cassia occidentalis</i> L.	Caesalpiniaceae	Pethavarai	Leaf	The leaf paste is applied topically to treat dermatophytosis (tinea/ringworm) and scabies.
<i>Chlorophytum heynei</i> Rottl. ex. Baker	Liliaceae	Agathurunji	Bulb	A paste of bulbs is used as a topical cream to treat carbuncles.
<i>Costus speciosus</i> (Koen.) J. E. Smith	Costaceae	Costum	Rhizome	The rhizome paste is applied topically to treat itchy skin rashes and common skin infections.
<i>Crocus sativus</i>	Iridaceae	Saffron	Entire plant	Extract of saffron for treatment of psoriasis ⁵⁷ .
<i>Crotalaria retusa</i> L.	Fabaceae	Kilukilupai	Seed	The seed paste is applied topically to treat leprosy (Hansen's disease).
<i>Croton bonplandianum</i> Baill.	Euphorbiaceae	Milakaipoondu	Leaf	The leaf paste is applied topically to treat common skin infections.

<i>Croton sparsiflorus</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Bana tulsi	leaf	The leaves of the <i>C. sparsiflorus</i> have been exhibited antibacterial activity ⁵⁸ .
<i>Croton tiglum L.</i>	Euphorbiaceae	Neervalam	Leaf	Oil obtained from the seeds pre-soaked in limewater for two days is applied topically to treat eczema (atopic dermatitis). The leaf paste is applied topically to treat dermatophytosis (tinea/ringworm) and scabies.
<i>Curcuma longa</i>	Zingiberaceae	Turmeric;	rhizome s	rhizomes of <i>C. longa</i> prevent tumors in mouse ⁵⁹ .
<i>Cyclea peltata</i> (Lam.) Hook.	Menispermacea e	Padathali	Root	The root paste (about the size of a gooseberry) is taken with buttermilk twice a day to lessen the severity of chickenpox (varicella) symptoms.
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Apiaceae	Carrot	root	extract of <i>D. carota</i> revealed significant reduction in tumor ⁶⁰ .
<i>Diploclisia glaucescens</i> (Blume) Diels	Menispermacea e	Erumathirankodi	Leaf	Coconut oil in which leaves and betel leaves (<i>Piper betle</i>) are boiled is applied over the skin to get rid of scabies and contagious itch naturally.
<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>	Asteraceae	Purple flower cone	leaf	Extract of leaves applied to treat skin problems such as skin boils, wounds, ulcers, burns, herpes, hemorrhoids psoriasis and warts ⁶¹ .
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Myrtaceae)	Blue gum, Camphor oil	leaf	Extract of leaves applied to cured zoonotic scabies with concentrations of 100%, 75% and 50% within 5-10 days ^{62,63} .
<i>Euphorbia hirta</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Ammanpacharisi	All Parts of the Plant (Entire Plant)	As a natural wart remedy, the latex obtained from all parts of the plant is applied directly on the warts several times a day.
<i>Euphorbia nivulia</i> Buch-Ham.	Euphorbiaceae	Ilaikalli	Stem	As a natural wart remedy, the latex of stem is applied directly on the warts several times a day.
<i>Euphorbia walachii</i> ,	Euphorbiaceae	Wallich spurge	stem	Juice of <i>E. walachii</i> is used to treat warts and skin infections ⁶⁴ .

<i>Evolvulus alsinoides</i> (L.) L.	Convolvulaceae	Vishnukiranthi	All Parts of the Plant (Entire Plant)	Coconut oil in which few entire plants and the leaves of <i>Indigofera tinctoria</i> are boiled is applied topically to treat leprosy (Hansen's disease) and scabies.
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Moraceae	<i>Ficus racemosa</i> , <i>Ficus bengalensis</i>	stem	the treatment of warts comprises the use of fig tree (<i>F. carica</i>) latex. L., bark powder pimples, itches and scabies ^{65,66} .
<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i> L.	Fabaceae	Neelamari	Leaf	A fine paste of leaf prepared together with the leaves of <i>Ocimum basilicum</i> is used as a topical cream to heal sores and wounds.
<i>Jasminum angustifolium</i> (L.) Willd.	Oleaceae	Kattupichi	Root	The root paste is applied topically to treat dermatophytosis (tinea/ringworm) and leprosy (Hansen's disease).
<i>Jatropha curcus</i> L.	Euphorbiaceae	Citramanaku	Leaf	The leaf paste is applied topically to treat eczema (atopic dermatitis), dermatophytosis (tinea/ringworm) and scabies.
<i>Jatropha glandulifera</i> Roxb.	Euphorbiaceae	Kaatuamanakku	Seed	The seed oil is applied topically to treat dermatophytosis (tinea/ringworm).
<i>Kalanchoe pinnata</i> (Lam.) Pers	Crassulaceae	Sodakuchedi	Leaf	The leaf paste is applied topically to treat dermatophytosis (tinea/ringworm).
<i>Lavendula officinalis</i>	Labiatae	Lavender	leaf	Lavender oil inhibits immediate-type allergic reactions by inhibition of mast cell degranulation <i>in vivo</i> and <i>in vitro</i> when tested on mice and rats ⁶⁷ .
<i>Lawsonia inermis</i> L.	Lythraceae	Maruthani	Leaf	The infusion obtained by soaking the leaves along with the flowers of <i>Saraca asoca</i> in coconut oil is used to treat dermatophytosis (tinea/ringworm).
<i>Leucas biflora</i> (Vahl) R. Br.	Lamiaceae	Perunthumbai	Leaf	The leaf paste mixed with coconut oil is applied topically to treat common skin infections.

<i>Limonia acidissima</i> L.	Rutaceae	Vila	Tender Leaf	A paste of tender leaves is applied topically to treat prickly heat rashes (miliaria).
<i>Morinda pubescens</i> J. E. Smith	Rubiaceae	Manjanathi	Root	The root paste is used as an ointment for carbuncles.
<i>Myxopyrum serratulum</i> A.W. Hill	Oleaceae	Sathuramullai	Leaf	The leaves are boiled in sesame oil until the oil turns blue in colour and the concentrate is applied all over the body to get relief from itching.
<i>Pergularia daemia</i> (Forssk.) Chiov.	Asclepiadaceae	Vaeliparuthi	Leaf	The leaf paste is applied topically to treat freckles.
<i>Phyla nodiflora</i> (L. Greene)	Verbenaceae	Poduthalai	Leaf	Coconut oil in which leaves are boiled is applied all over the scalp to get rid of dandruff (seborrhea).
<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i> L.	Plumbaginaceae	Venkoduveli	Leaf	The leaf paste is applied topically to treat scabies.
<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.)	Papilionaceae	Pungai	Stem Bark	Sesame oil in which crushed stem bark is boiled is applied topically to treat itchy skin rashes.
<i>Rauvolfia serpentina</i> (L.) Benth. ex Kurz	Apocynaceae	Amalpori	Root	The root paste is applied topically to treat eczema (atopic dermatitis).
<i>Rhinacanthus nasutus</i> (L.) Kurz	Acanthaceae	Nagamalli	Leaf	A paste of leaves prepared with coconut milk is applied topically to treat itchy skin rashes.
<i>Santalum album</i> L.	Santalaceae	Sandanam	Fragrant wood	A fine paste of wood is applied topically as a remedy for itching and to treat pimples on chin.
<i>Saraca asoca</i> (Roxb.) Willd	Caesalpiniaceae	Asoka	Flower	Coconut oil in which flowers are boiled is applied topically to treat eczema (atopic dermatitis) and scabies.
<i>Thespesia lampas</i> (Cav.) Dalz.	Malvaceae	Kattuparuthi	Leaf	The leaf paste is applied topically to treat dermatophytosis (tinea/ringworm).
<i>Thuja orientalis</i>	Cupressaceae	Morpankhi	Leaf	The leaf paste is applied topically to treat scabies and contagious itch and psoriasis ⁶⁸ .

<i>Vetiveria zizanioides</i> (L.) Nash	Poaceae	Vettiver	Root	A pot of water with a handful of roots is boiled and then cooled to take shower as treatment for prickly heat rashes (miliaria).
<i>Withania somnifera</i> (L.) Dunal	Solanaceae	Amukara	Root Tuber	A paste of root tubers prepared with saliva is used as an ointment for carbuncles.
<i>Wrightia tinctoria</i> (Roxb.) R. Br.	Apocynaceae	Vetpalai	Leaf	The leaves are soaked in coconut oil in a jar and left out under the direct rays of the sun until the oil turns blue in color, and the infusion obtained is applied topically to treat scabies and contagious itch.
<i>Zizyphus rugosa</i> Lam.	Rhamnaceae	Thodali	Leaf	The leaf paste is applied topically to treat scabies and contagious itch.

CONCLUSION

In general, many herbs are found in Indian region and some are found in worldwide having good topical potential for treatment of most skin diseases. Acne, dermatitis, eczema, hives, pityriasis rosea and psoriasis are the most common disorder in day to day life which effects and has great influence on human physiology. This review compiled different herbal drugs which have shown most significant result as the topical agent. Mostly herbal species have been used traditionally as a medicine for antimicrobial activity for the treatment of skin diseases. The success has been attained to isolate various single chemical entities responsible for antimicrobial activity against skin diseases. The antimicrobial properties of the medicinal plants are reported from all over world and used in the treatment of most skin diseases. Medicinal plants are the best source to obtain a variety of newer herbal drugs. This review helps the researchers working on skin problems to screen out the efficient or to find out the new approach in reported plants and to find out for related lead molecules in other plants which may be a step ahead in the drug discovery process.

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