

## FORMULATION AND EVALUATION OF HERBAL OINTMENT OF *FICUS RELIGIOSA* LEAVES

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### ABSTRACT:-

The interest on herbal medicines and their utilization have been increasing rapidly in recent years. Plant derived substances and herbal medicines have recently attracted the interest towards their versatile application, as medicinal plants. Medicinal plants are the richest source of bioactive compounds used in traditional and modern medicines. The present work is to formulate and evaluate the ointment of *Ficus religiosa* leaves extract. The methanolic extracts were prepared by using maceration method. The ointment base was prepared and formulation of ointment was done by incorporating the extract in the base by levigation method. After completion of formulation it was evaluated for its physicochemical parameters like colour, odour, pH, spreadability, extrudability, consistency, diffusion study, solubility, washability. Also the formulation was evaluated for its stability at various temperature conditions which shows no change in the irritancy, spreadability and diffusion study. Thus it could become a media to use the medicinal properties of *Ficus religiosa* leaves effectively and easily as a simple dosage form.

**Keywords:** Maceration, Levigation, Extrudability, Spreadability.

### INTRODUCTION:-

Plant-based medicines are the root of the modern health care system and are acknowledged for their economic importance<sup>1</sup>. Traditional medicinal knowledge and plants play a vital role in biological research and drug development. Herbal products or constituents are not only used directly as curative agents, but also as API molecule in the discovery of new drug. Current research and understanding suggest that the use of crude herbs can give benefits on health when used long-term<sup>2,3</sup>. *Ficus religiosa* is commonly known as Peepal belongs to family Moraceae. Since ancient time, plants have been an exemplary source of medicine. Ayurveda and other Indian literature mentioned the use of plants in treatment of various human ailments<sup>4</sup>. The plants have been used in traditional Indian medicine for various ranges of ailments. Traditionally the bark is used as an antibacterial, antiprotozoal, antiviral, astringent, antidiarrhoeal, in the treatment of gonorrhoea, ulcers, and the leaves used for skin disorders. The leaves reported antivenom activity and regulates the menstrual cycle<sup>5,6</sup>. In Bangladesh, it has been used in the treatment of various diseases such as cancer, inflammation or infectious diseases<sup>7</sup>. In case of high fever, its tender branches are used as a toothbrush. Fruits

and fruit powder is used to treat asthma<sup>9,10</sup>. All parts of this tree are rich in phytochemicals and are used in various food and medicinal preparations. The ripe fruits of *Ficus religiosa* are edible and rich source of proteins and minerals and fruits are rich in phytochemicals

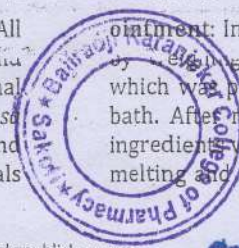
like flavonoids, terpenoids, glycosides etc. which are known to cure diseases like asthma and digestive disorders. The leaves contain phytochemicals such as flavonoids, terpenoids, tannins etc., which are effective in curing ailments like hiccups, vomiting, gonorrhoea etc. The bark contains phytochemicals like tannins, saponins, flavonoids etc. which show beneficial effects in health conditions such as diarrhea, dysentery, inflammation, bacterial infections, bleeding and paralysis<sup>11</sup>.

### MATERIALS AND METHOD:-

**Collection of Plant material:** Leaves of *Ficus religiosa* were collected from the local area of Sakoli of Bhandara district in Maharashtra and authenticated by Department of Botany, M. B. Patel College, Sakoli.

**Preparation of extract:** The fresh leaves of *Ficus religiosa* were collected and allow shading and drying. The dried leaves were grind with the help of grinder to convert into the powder form and allow for cold maceration with methanol for ten days. The mixture was filtered with the help of muslin cloth and finally allowed for evaporation to produce semisolid mass. The extract was stored in the airtight container at cool and dark place.

**Ointment:** Initially ointment base was prepared by accurately grating hard paraffin which was placed in evaporating dish on water bath. After melting of hard paraffin remaining ingredients were added and stirred gently to aid melting and mixing homogeneously followed by



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