

The preliminary phytochemical screening of *Saraca indica* bark powder

¹Sulosana, P., ¹Thayalini, T., ²Shivatharsiny, R., ³Sailajah, S

¹Unit of Siddha Medicine, University of Jaffna

²Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna

³Siddha Teaching Hospital, Kaithady

psulosana@yahoo.com

Saraca indica known as Asoku in Tamil and Asoka in Sinhala is a small evergreen tree, belongs to the family Leguminosae. In Indigenous Medicine the bark, flowers and leaves of the plant have been used in the treatment of various diseases. Ashoka has been traditionally used as a uterine tonic and has been indicated in menstrual irregularities. Ashoka happens to be a uterine stimulant and increases uterine contractions. It also stimulates the ovarian tissues. The bark of *S. indica* was reported that it is rich in Hematoxylin, Tannins, Ketosterols, catechins and glycosides. Therefore, the aim of this study is to screen the phytochemicals of the bark of *S. indica* to find out more phytochemicals in it. The bark was collected from Chavakachcheri in 2016 of February. The collected bark was cleaned, dried under shade, ground well and kept in air tight container. Then 5g of the bark powder was taken to prepare the extract to test the presence of secondary metabolites, such as alkaloids, tannins, phlobatannins, Saponins, Flavonoids, Steroids, Terpenoids and Cardiac glycosides. The preliminary phytochemical screening showed that the powder of the bark contains tannins, Flavonoids, Steroids, Terpenoids, and Cardiac glycoside. Alkaloids, phlobatannins and saponins were absent. In conclusion the *S. indica* bark powder contains tannins, Flavonoids, Steroids, Terpenoids and Cardiac glycosides. So it may act as astringent and uterine sedative. Efficacy of the bark powder would be evaluated in clinical trial in future.

Keywords: Phytochemical, *Saraca indica*, astringent, Uterine sedative