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### Chapter 13

### SUBSTITUTES OF ALBIZIA LEBBECK (L.) BENTH. IN AYURVEDA, COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PROPERTIES AND PROSPECTIVE FOR SCIENTIFIC VALIDATION: A REVIEW

## Resmi A.1, Jithesh Krishnan R. and Fouzia Hilal3

#### ABSTRACT

Herbal medicines are important constituents of the traditional system of medicine, including Ayurveda. Albizia lebbeck (L.) Benth., commonly known as Shirisha, is used in Ayurveda, Siddha, and the Yunani system of medicine. The plant is medicinally used in different countries of the world, including Africa, Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Philippines, Taiwan, and Tibet. The bark of the plant is used in the treatment of bronchitis, leprosy, paralysis, gum inflammation, and helminthic infection in Ayurveda. The anti-anaphylactic, antiasthmatic, antidiarrheal, antispermatogenic, and anxiolytic activities of the plant are scientifically proven. The bark of the plant is also studied for its antiallergic, anti-Alzheimer's, anticancer, antidiabetic, antimicrobial, antioxidant, antiparasitic, antiparkinsonian, antipyretic, antivenom, estrogenic and wound healing activities. The present scenario, in which many medicinal plants are disappearing rapidly, emphasises the need for finding plants with equal value and property. The use of substitutes ('Pratinidhi Drayvas') for the original drug is quoted in different Ayurveda classics, but the basis on which they are selected is not mentioned anywhere. Most of the drug

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