

MINERAL ANALYSIS OF MEDICINALLY IMPORTANT FERN: *ADIANTUM PHILIPPENSE* L.

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ABSTRACT

Phytochemical study of ferns has assumed an extraordinary importance due to its immense economic value especially their vast medicinal importance. *Adiantum philippense* is one the species of *Adiantum* which is highly medicinal used in various treatment. therefore in the present investigation attempts were made to study the mineral status of species collected from different areas of Northern Western Ghats of Maharashtra where it grows luxuriantly. The minerals status shows that, it contains sufficient macronutrients but differs seasonally. This may one of the reasons that species is used by the local practitioners as a medicine to cure various diseases.

Keywords: *Adiantum*, medicinal fern, Western Ghats of Maharashtra.

INTRODUCTION

The homosporous fern genus *Adiantum* L. of family Adiantaceae is one of the most common and widely distributed species all over India. It is commonly known as maidenhairs. Phytochemical studies of pteridophytic plants are important while evaluating plant wealth of any region. Phytochemical analysis has been done on large number of Indian fern and fern allies. But the majority of the reports pertain to quantitative estimation of primary metabolites which are universal in occurrence and are highly variable with the environment. They are important in ecophysiological studies (Khanna, 2002). It is also not possible to determine the source of any economically useful materials without any phytochemical study. The phytochemistry has been studied in less number of non-flowering plants in contrast to flowering plants. According to Joseph and Manickam (1993) no practical work has been done on the phytochemistry of ferns of Western Ghats. Therefore, it was thought worthwhile to carry out its mineral studies to investigate its nutritional status through its macronutrients analysis.