

## FLAVERIA TRINERVIA (SPRENGEL) C. MOHR (COMPOSITAE) A NEW HERB TO CURE JAUNDICE.

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A perusal of literature of some of the plants used for Jaundice (Nadkarni 1908, & 1976, Anonymous 1918, Chopra *et al* 1956 Kirtikar & Basu 1935; Anonymous 1956; Nadkarni and Nadkarni 1976, Moideen Sheriff 1978, Mathew 1983, Abstr. from Jour. Medicinal & Aromatic plants 1982 – 84) have revealed surprisingly that no – where in the literature references pertaining to the use of *Flaveria trinervia* (Sprengel) C. Mohr for Jaundice has been mentioned. The present paper reports for the first time the use of *Flaveria trinervia* to cure Jaundice.

*Flaveria trinervia* Sprengel C. Mohr. (U. S. Dept. Agric. Contrid. Nat. Herb. 6 : 810, 1901) *Oedera trinervia* Sprengel. (Bot. Gart. Halle 63. 1800. *Flaveria australasica* Hool. (T. L. Mich J. Exped. Trop. Austral. 118. 1848 : Fl. Pres. Madras 2 : 711. 1921 ; Fl. T. N. Carnatic. 789. 1983) “Baraganagale” (Kannada).

An erect annual herb, branching profusely. Leaves opposite or whorled, obovate to lanceolate, margin dentate, slightly acute at apex, has characteristic three nerves, base connate in lower leaves, broad and truncate in upper leaves; upper leaves sessile. Glomerules of one flowered capitula, aggregate in cymes and subtended by floral leaves, solitary terminal or at the forks of

dichotomy. Outer capitula having female flowers and inner bisexual: flowers yellow in colour with glistening stout hairs without; pappus. Disc forests: corolla 5 – lobed, stamens 5, anthers linear oblong: ovary oblong, 8 – 13 ribbed, truncate above: style exerted. Ray florets; Corolla undivided, with glistening hairs without; ray recurved, ovary oblong, ribbed, obtuse above, style exerted, stigma truncate. Achenes compressed, black ribbed. This usually grows near marshy and wet places. It is a native of Australia and distributed in U. S. A., Mexico, W. Indies, South America, tropical Africa, tropical Asia and India as a weed. Flowers and fruits : July – August.

*Medicinal properties;* The leaves are used medicinally by the tribal people of Billigirirangan Hills about 80 Kms from Mysore city. About 2 to 3 table spoons of the pounded leaf paste along with thick curds prepared from cow's milk is given internally for 3 days in the morning with an empty stomach. It was interesting to note that one dose of the medicine could definitely bring down the disease. So far nearly 150 patients have been subjected to the treatment by this medicine and the diseases was cured with positive success. In many instances of relapse cases the treatment with this extract has given a

profound result. Investigation as to the effect of the extract at different stages of the diseases is presently being conducted. It has been found that invariably *Flaveria trinervia* is more effective than *Phyllanthus fraternus Webster* which is a common use for the treatment of jaundice.

Preliminary investigations on the *in vitro* culture of leaf explant of *Flaveria trinervia* has been takne (John Staba 1982) Segments of leaf from youngest plant having 1 – 7 leaves were incubated on a solid M. S. medicum supplemented with auzins, 2, 4 –

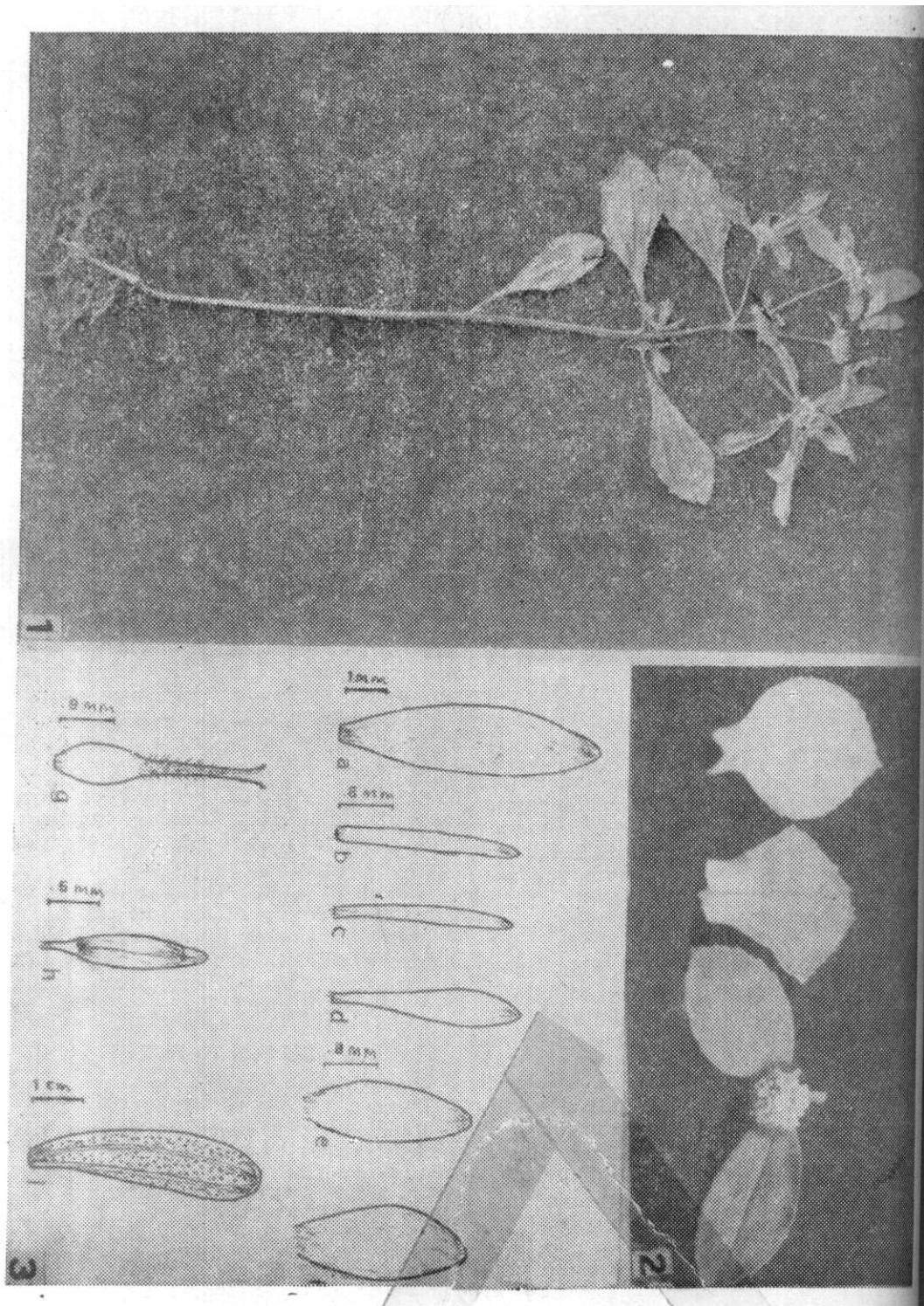
D, IAA, GA3 and BAP. At 2 ppm 2, 4 – D the induction of callus was rapid. The callus was soft, translucent, yellowish and juicy. On transfer to M S medium with 2 ppm IAA and 0.4 ppm GA 3 produced hard and modular callus, subsequently only roots regenerated.

Experimental works as to the effect of the extract of the callus and the leaf extract on guinea pigs is in progress. Furthermore, studies on the induction of shooting and establishment of the whole plantlet is being carried out.

## EXPLANATION TO FIGURES

Figures 1 – 3

1. Plant
2. Leaves with 3 prominent nerves and inflorescence x 1.6
3. a. Disc floret  
b, c, d, e, f, Corolla  
g. Gynoecium  
h. Anther  
i. Seed



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