Begonia nepalensis: An Effective Herbal Ointment against Enterobiasis

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Enterobiasis, the most common parasitic infection known, is caused by human pinworm, Enterobius vermicularis, which mainly infests infants and children. Eggs are present everywhere including upholstery and toilet seats and any unhygienic encounter may lead to infection most of whom have no symptoms apart from itching around the anus. In severe cases, weight loss, restlessness, sleeplessness, irritability, and loss of appetite may occur. Persistent itching can lead to inflammation and secondary bacterial infection of perianal area. Drugs of class Mebandazole are used against this infection but are not highly efficient with several side effects like seizures, vision problems, stomach pain, easy bruising, changes in amount of urine, acute liver failure, allergic reaction, which may be permanent. An Indian plant, Begonia Nepalensis, is traditionally used for treatment of external wounds and infections. In order to find an effective herbal solution towards this problem, we have formulated an ointment using plant extract of B. nepalensis and paraffin and emulsifying wax as base. Experiments were conducted to check reduction in infection, measure of irritancy experienced and for reoccurrence of infection. Further, Selective toxicity experiment was performed to ensure it is a safe human application product. The results obtained proved efficacy of our product against standard medication used. The study concludes that Begonia nepalensis has potential to be developed into a commercial ointment for Enterobiasis and may replace traditionally harmful drugs as it is natural, effective and pocket friendly.

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