Neem (*Azadirachtaindica*) and its phytopharmacological properties

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ABSTRACT

Therapeutic properties of Neem (*Azadirachtaindica* A. Juss) have been known to Indians since time immemorial especially in the use of Ayurveda. Each part of neem plant reportedly has various medicinal properties and has been in use in many continents for centuries including the South East Asia. Nowadays, Neem and its extracts are considered as a valuable source of unique natural products for development of medicines against various diseases and also for the development of industrial products. The major compounds isolated from all parts of Neem, including leaves, stem, bark, fruit, seed, and flower are divided into the isoprenoids and non-isoprenoids. Neem extract contains nimbidin, nimbandiol, azadirachtin and etc. as active constituents are the causes for the many beneficial uses of neem. Alcoholic extract of the leaves was found to possess a significant blood sugar lowering effect, which are very useful as antidiabetes. Neem also has shown antiviral, anti-fungal, anti-ulcer, anti-bacterial, anti-inflammatory and many other properties. Neem not only helps in curing diseases, but it also provides us with the strength of fighting diseases by enhancing our immunity.

**Key words**: Azadirachtaindica, nimbidin, antidiabetes, antiulcer and anti bacterial.

INTRODUCTION

Medicinal plants are a part and parcel of human society to combat diseases, from the dawn of civilization. *Azadirachtaindica* A. Juss (syn. *Meliaazadirachta*) which is commonly known as Neem is very famous in India and its neighboring countries for more than 2000 years as one of the most versatile medicinal plants having a wide spectrum of biological activity (Biswa, et al., 2002; Bhargava, et al., 1970).

Neem is a tree in the mahogany family Meliaceae and one of two species in the genus *Azadirachta*, that is native to India and Burma, growing in tropical and semi-tropical regions (Maithani, et al., 2011). In Indonesia, Neem tree grow wildly especially in Eastern Indonesia with a little rainfall 300-900 mm. Areas of existence is observed at present by PT. Intaran in eastern