



## Ethnomedicinal Importance of *Adhatoda vasica* in the South East Asian Countries: Review and Perspectives

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**ABSTRACT** The indigenous people of South East Asian countries have been using plants for treating various ailments for thousands of years. Since knowledge on medicinal importance of plants has been passed on orally from generation to generation there have been no written documents to store this information for posterity. In addition, colonial forces have disrupted the knowledge of plants in aboriginal healthcare systems. However, despite the prevalence of these issues, human community at large has been using plants for its primary healthcare needs. This paper brings out literature on the usage of one such medicinal plant, *Adhatoda vasica* Nees, by native people and folk medicine practitioners of the South East Asian countries. To the researchers' knowledge, this is the most comprehensive review till date disclosing the ethnomedicinal use of *A. vasica* based on over seventy research reports. A sum total of thirty-three diseases for which *A. vasica* has been used as medicine along with preparation methods is described in this paper. Future research endeavours should concentrate on acquiring the vast traditional knowledge on *A. vasica* from various ethnic groups in South East Asian countries that have received very less attention so far.