

## Pharmacognostical Evaluation of Roots of *Curcuma Angustifolia* Roxb

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### ABSTRACT

*Curcuma angustifolia roxb* is also known as East Indian Arrowroot "Koova powder" in Malayalam and "Koova podi" in Tamilnadu. East Indian arrowroot is also used for medicinal purposes by the local herbalists. *Curcuma angustifolia roxb* is one of over 80 species belonging to the genus *curcuma* and family "Zingiberaceae". This species is native to the Indian subcontinent and is more commonly known as East Indian Arrowroot. The plant grows from 9 to 12 cm in height. *Curcuma angustifolia roxb* (Zingiberaceae) is traditionally used in the treatment of leprosy, asthma, fever, jaundice, anaemia, ulcers etc. The leaves are used as antifungal, antibacterial. The rhizomes are used in bone fracture, inflammation and intestinal disease. Since no pharmacognostical work has been carried on the roots of this plant, the present study is aimed at carrying out the pharmacognostical standardization on the roots of *curcuma angustifolia roxb*. The fresh roots of *curcuma angustifolia roxb* was collected from Kerala and authenticated by prof. p. Jayaraman, Botanist, Director of plant anatomy research Centre, Tambaram. The pharmacognostical standardization of roots which includes macroscopy, microscopy as well as WHO recommended physicochemical parameters the ash values, extractive values, loss on drying and foaming index, swelling index were performed according to the official methods prescribed in Indian pharmacopoeia and WHO guidelines on quality control methods for medicinal plant materials. The results of this standardization may be helpful for identification and judging the quality and purity of the plant. This will be useful to differentiate the plant from its other species and detect the adulterants.