

***Catharanthusroseus* and *carthamustinctorius* as Anti-Cancerous Drug Sources**

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Abstract

Catharanthusroseus also known as Madagascar periwinkle or *vincarosea* is a popular ornamental plant found in warmer parts of the world. It can be found in garden, homes or in forests. *Catharanthusroseus* belongs to the family Apocynaceae. It has alkaloid properties like vinblastine and vincristine which are mainly found in this plant. The two alkaloids are used for treatment of various human cancer (Schmeller and wink, 1998, Mukherjee et al.). The alkaloids have anticancer, anti-oxidant and ant-diarrheal properties. Stems and leaves of *catharanthusroseus* are poisonous though they have large amount of phytochemicals and therefore the species is endangered. *Carthamustinctorius* also known as safflower is a traditional Chinese medicine mostly used to improve blood circulation. It is found in most parts of the world such as Kenya. It is a herbaceous plant and is commercially cultivated for vegetable oils. The plant has ant-cancer properties and is therefore used to treat breast cancer. Its used as a traditional medicine like antipyret, analgesic and anti-diabetic. The two plant species are endangered because of their medicinal functions and therefore there is a need for conservation in order to create a cancer free world.

Key words: *Catharanthusroseus*, *carthamustinctorius*, anti-cancerous drugs, alkaloids