Traditional medicinal knowledge about Cow bug *Otinotus oneratus* Walk. (Membracidae: Hemiptera) feeding on Asgandh (*Withania somnifera*) in Chhattisgarh, India. Updated Version.

Posted by Pankaj Oudhia on June 24, 2014 at 5:30

**Introduction**

Entomophagy and Entomotherapy are well known in Asia since generations. Unfortunately not much work has been done to document valuable Traditional Medicinal Knowledge about Insects. Pankaj Oudhia is documenting this knowledge since year 1990. The present note “Traditional medicinal knowledge about Cow bug *Otinotus oneratus* Walk. (Membracidae: Hemiptera) feeding on Asgandh (*Withania somnifera*) in Chhattisgarh, India.” is updated version of his previously published online research document available through pankajoudhia.com.

**Keywords:** Entomophagy; Entomotherapy; Medicinal Insects; Ayurveda; Chhattisgarh;
Asgandh (*Withania somnifera*) is a well known medicinal herb around the world. It is known as Indian Ginseng. The natives and traditional healers have in depth traditional medicinal knowledge about this herb. It grows in wild. Also it is under cultivation as medicinal crop in Chhattisgarh. All parts of Asgandh are used as medicine both internally as well as externally. Asgandh holds a reputed position as medicinal herb in reference literatures related to different systems of medicine in India. Its roots are employed for consumption, general weakness and rheumatism. The infestation of Cow bug *Otinotus oneratus* on Asgandh is common in Chhattisgarh. During the Ethno entomological surveys conducted in different parts of Chhattisgarh in recent past I have observed that many traditional healers collect the Cow bugs from wild population of Asgandh and use it as medicinal insect. The traditional healers of Nagri-Sihawa region add the Cow bug powder in popular herbal combinations as main ingredient, used in treatment of different types of fever. It is considered very useful in treatment of Malarial fever. In combination with cow urine the powder is used externally in treatment of Daad (Ring worm). The powder is applied in form of aqueous paste externally on affected parts. The use is continued till complete cure. According to the traditional healers, it is one of the promising treatments of Daad. In many parts of Chhattisgarh, the senior natives use the same combination in treatment of skin diseases common in cattle. The healers have deep faith in these traditional medicinal uses. Its popularity among them clearly indicates its efficacy. The traditional healers are not aware of other uses of this Cow bug.

In reference literatures, the Cow bug feeding on Asgandh is not mentioned as medicinal insect. I am feeling fortunate to document the important information on traditional medicinal uses of this insect.

**New Comments added on June 2014**

Through recent surveys I have collected information about over 6000 Formulations in which *Otinotus* collected from *Withania* is added as important ingredient. These Formulations are used in treatment of different diseases. *In Allium*, *Smilax* and *Tacca* based Formulations for patients with poor vitality *Otinotus* is added as secondary ingredient. In treatment of old fever the Traditional Healers use *Madhuca* and *Cassia* based Formulations. *Otinotus* is added as tertiary ingredient in these Formulations with *Curculigo* and *Tribulus*. *In Iphigenia*, *Agapanthus* and *Neem* based Formulations for skin diseases *Otinotus* is added as quaternary ingredient. *In Chlorophytum*, *Asparagus* and *Gloriosa* based Formulations for Bone cancer *Otinotus* is added as senary ingredient. These Formulations are popular among the Healers of Chhattisgarh and Odisha. *In Asphodelus*, *Urginea* and *Cyperus* based Formulations for Paralysis the Healers add *Otinotus* as quinary ingredient. *In Scilla*, *Dipcadi* and *Trichopus* based Formulations for Migraine the Healers add *Otinotus* as septenary ingredient. *In Echinochloa*, *Panicum* and *Lepidium* based Formulations for Diabetes Complications *Otinotus* is added as nonary ingredient. In case of Abrus Toxicity the Healers use *Cissus* based Formulations. *Otinotus* is added as denary ingredient in these Formulations. For information on complete Formulations and dosage please visit pankajoudhia.com

Thank you very much for reading the article.

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