



## Medicinal uses of *Coscinium fenestratum* in Local Health Traditions of Karnataka, India.

*D. Roopa\* and B.B. Hosetti*

*Department of P.G. Studies and Research in Wildlife & Management*

*Kuvempu University, Jnana Sahyadri*

*Shankaraghatta – 577 451, Shivamogga, Karnataka, India.*

\*Corresponding author:

### ABSTRACT

*Local health tradition (LHT) is a saviour of life to many populations, who lack modern health care facilities and are economically backward. LHT has also proved to be a precursor to many life saving modern medicines. LHTs use the local biodiversity, especially plants, animals and other natural resources for healing. Therefore there is an intrinsic link between local health knowledge and biodiversity. Loss of any one would naturally lead to the loss of the other. The present paper aims to elucidate the utility value of *Coscinium fenestratum* an endangered medicinal plant by preparing an inventory of uses of the plant by documentation of the local health traditions of Traditional Practitioners (TPs) of Karnataka state. *Coscinium fenestratum* (Gaertn.) Colebr. is an useful medicinal plant traditionally used in southern India, Srilanka and many South Asian countries. The restricted distribution of this plant coupled with its inherent reproductive limitation and high volume trade have threatened the survival of the plant in wild. Considering the links between high utility value (health care) of the resource and conservation, this paper is an attempt to document the traditional knowledge about *Coscinium fenestratum* to reiterate the need for conservation of the plant resource.*

**Key words:** *Local Health Tradition, *Coscinium fenestratum*, traditional uses, endangered, high volume trade and traditional practitioners.*