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INAUGURAL ADDRESSES
and
ABSTRACTS OF

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Effect of an indigenous drug formulation (churna) on clotting of mammalian blood

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Traditional practitioners of Wedage Samaratunga tradition of Medadumbara, Kandy, Sri Lanka uses a traditional drug formulation (churna) consisting of ten plant ingredients (Aralu) Terminalia chebula Retz. Combretaceae, (Butu) Terminalia bellaicia Roxb. Combretaceae, (Nelli) Emblica officinalis Geerth. Euphorbiaceae, (Puvak) Areca catechu Linn. Palmae, (Idda) Wrightia zeylanica Br. Apocynaceae, (Suduru) Cuminum cumminum Linn. Umbelliferae, (Gam-miris) Piper nigrum Linn. Piperaceae, (Karabu) Eugenia caryophyllus Thunb. Myrtaceae, (Kaippu) Acacia catechu Willd. Leguminosea and (Iramusu) Hemidesmus indicus R.Br. Aselepiadiaceae) for the treatment of bleeding gum disorders. However, the effect of this churna on clotting of mammalian blood has not been scientifically investigated. Therefore, this study was undertaken to examine the effect of this churna on clotting of mammalian blood in vitro. Several concentrations of the extract (100%, 50%, 25%, 12.5%, 6.25%, 3.12%, and 1.56%) were added to citrated goat's blood and clotting time was determined by Lee & White method. The result showed that all concentrations of the churna tested except the highest (100%) significantly shorten the clotting time (P<0.0001). In contrast, the highest concentration significantly and markedly prolonged the clotting time. In conclusion, the results of this study lend support for the use of this churna in low concentrations as a clotting agent in the treatment of bleeding gums.