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## Ecology & morphology of *Butomopsis latifolia*: an edible plant of Jharkhand & Odisha

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### ABSTRACT

*Aquatic plant plays a vital role in our ecosystem. It also acts as a natural filter. From varied species of aquatic plant, Butomopsis latifoila (D.Don) Kunth is a less known aquatic plant. Hence an attempt has been taken to gather information on the ecology & morphology of this plant.*

*Butomopsis* is an aquatic herb, with a short rootstock (Stant 1967). It is interesting to note that the place of occurrence of this species is less explored and the genus *Butomopsis* is already documented, but without any mention of this species. *Butomopsis latifolia* (D.Don) Kunth belongs to the family Alismataceae. Other names of this plant are Karchhul Saag in Hindi and in Jharkhand, it is called Lundi Ara. Its tender leaves are used as vegetable in Jharkhand, Northeast Chhattisgarh and Thailand (Singh and Kumar 2016; Ekka and

Ekka 2016). During the survey, it was noted that local communities of Puri, Odisha also use it as food. This plant is mostly seen in swamps or in moist sandy or loamy soils and mud around the margins (Naskar K 1993). It is distributed throughout India except in some southern states. Tropical Africa to Southeast Asia, Malaysia to North Australia. It's flowering and fruiting period in July- October and in the rainy season, it is available (Singh and Kumar 2016). It is reported that *Butomopsis latifolia* leaves and flowers possess Antitussive activity (Used

to prevent or relieve a cough) (Sakong et al 2011).

#### *Plant morphology*

Erect 20cm-60 cm high with milky juice (Naskar 1993). Leaves erect, long petioles, blade elliptic, thick, leathery: inflorescence developed from rootstock, umbellate, 8-10 flowers in each umbel, peduncle triangular, longer than the petioles, flowers bracteates, bract whorled, pedicelled, pedicel long, triangular, bisexual, white, sepals 3, green, persistent; petals 3, white deciduous: stamens 20-25, anthers sagittate, dorsifixed,

ditheous, pollen minute; apocarpous, single basal ovule. Viviparous germination. Seed are numerous, broad-oblong (Saxena and Brahmam 1995; Prameela and Venkaiah 2016) (Plate1).

#### **FUTURE ASPECTS**

After literature survey from different source, it was found that *Butomopsis latifolia* is a less known aquatic plant and has less documented. This plant needs more attention to evaluate its pharmacological and therapeutic activities for development of future drugs.



**Plate 1: A) *Butomopsis latifolia*, B) Habitat of *Butomopsis latifolia***

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