

**FINAL REPORT**

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Title of the Project : Phytochemical, analytical and agronomical studies on some common medicinal plants of Sri Lanka

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**ABSTRACT**

*Gloriosa superba* is a potential commercial source of colchicine. The total alkaloids of leaves, tubers and seeds were determined by extracting with ethanol followed by sodium sulphate and ether treatment and final chloroform extraction. The highest content of alkaloids was observed in the seeds (0.6%). The alkaloids in the tubers varied from 0.2 - 0.4% and leaves from 0.05 - 0.2%. The densitometric estimation of colchicine was carried out by scanning the plates at  $\lambda$  350 mu. The highest colchicine content was found in the seeds. In the tubers it varied from 0.05 - 0.2%. The colchicine content in the leaves was low.