

Economic Importance of Pteridophyte

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In comparison to Gymnosperms with the higher flowering plants pteridophytes are economically less important. In the carboniferous period, some dominant pteridophytes viz. *Lepidodendron*, *Sigillaria* that remains as fossil contributed to the coal deposits of the world. Apart from these pteridophytes show a good number of economic value as follows —

- ① Used as Food : The young leaf tip (circinate) of fern some fern species are used as vegetable ~~etc~~ (*Ampelopteris proliferica*). The sporocarp of *Marsilea* is rich in starch which are eaten as cake in Australia. The rhizome of some fern (viz. *Pteris*) rich in starch is used as food. The coon of ~~isolate~~ *Isaetes* is used as food by pigs, ducks and other animals.

② Used as fodder : Fronds of some ferns are used as fodder of animals. *Marsilea* has been used as fodder of animals as a

① *Marsilea drummondii*
M. salutaris

Substituti of clover .

3. Used as medicine : Pteridophytes are widely used for medicinal purposes. The spores of *Lycopodium* have been used as protective dust against tender skin and water repellent. Foliage of *Lycopodium* is used as ~~fracture~~, powder, ointment and ~~and~~ against stomachic and diuretic. The foliage decoction is a homeopathic medicine against diarrhoea, rheumatism, constipation, fevers etc. *Equisetum* is rich in potassium, aluminium, manganese, silicates etc. The flavonoids and saponins are assumed to cause diuretic effect. silica is believed to connect with anti-arthritis action. The rhizome of *Dryopteris* is used against tapeworm, liver flukes and other parasites present in digestive tract. The decoction of *Asplenium* is used for cough and hair wash. *Polypodium* is an expectorant and a tonic for dyspepsia. Root decoction of *Asmunda* is used against Jundice.

4. used as Horticultural plants :

Many species of Pteridophytes are cultivated for their aesthetic value. Psilotum are grown in green houses know as 'whisk fern'. ~~Dycopodit~~ Some species of dycopodium and Selaginella are used by florists for decorative purposes during puja festival. Dycopodium pblegmaria are grown as hanging basket. Selaginella willdenorvii, S. uncinata etc are used as ground cover. ~~for their~~ Some species of Angiopteris, Asplenium, Microsporium etc are horticulturally important for their beautiful habit, leaves, social arrangements etc.

5. As Biofertiliser : The water fern Azolla is cultivated commercially, since the plant have symbiotic cyanobacteria that fix atmospheric nitrogen. the Biofertilizer.

6. As Indicator plant : some pteridophytes are recognised as indicator plant. Equisetum accumulate minerals, specially gold. So, it can be used as indicator of the availability of gold of that region. Asplenium adullerianum is an indicator plant

✓ Nickel and Actinopteris australis is a cobalt indicator plant.

④ used for various application :

In Equisetum, large quantities of silica are accumulated in on epidermal cell. So, Equisetum stem are used for polishing wood and utensils.

Root and stems of osmunds are used to make beds for growing orchids.

Lycopodium clavatum is used for dyeing woollen clothes.

Some pteridophyte causes havoc and destructive to the ~~human~~ nature as well as human society.

Pteridium aquilinum is a Carcinogenic plant. Eichornia, Salvinia are free floating Fern and behave as a weed plants.

From the above discussion it is revealed that though pteridophyte cause some destructive effect the it economic has a high value from the economic point of view.

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