

CSIR prevents UK company from patenting ancient hair loss formula

New Delhi: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has prevented UK-based dermatological company Pangaea Laboratories Ltd from claiming a patent for an Ayurvedic hair loss treatment, according to a statement from the ministry of science and technology on Sunday.

The patent on a medicinal composition containing turmeric, pine bark and green tea for treating hair loss was protected by Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL), a unit of CSIR. TKDL located the patent application filed by Pangaea Laboratories at the European Patent office, and registered a pre-grant opposition along with art evidence that the treatment had been used since long through Indian systems of medicines like Ayurveda and Unani.

Pangaea had filed the patent application at the European Patent office in February 2011 that was published on the website. In 2014, TKDL filed evidence material of use of the products in traditional

Indian medicine. Finally, on 29 June, the UK-based company withdrew the application.

Recently, TKDL also stepped in to prevent Colgate-Palmolive Co. from patenting a mouthwash formula containing herb extract used in Indian traditional systems of medicine to cure oral diseases, at the European Patent office.

The library gave references from ancient books stating the herb and its extracts of Myristica Fragrans were historically used for oral diseases in Indian systems of medicine.