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HARITAMANNAJARI (ACALYPHA INDICA LINN) -A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT :

The Ayurvedic system of medicine is prevalent in India since the Vedic period, as early as the dawn of civilization. Though Ayurveda has undergone many changes in course of its long history, it remains the main stay relief to a large number of populations of nation. As Ayurveda mainly depends on the Chatushpada, Dravya is one of this which is essential in treatment procedure. According to Ayurveda every dravya which is available on the earth is Panchabhoutik and of medicinal value.The life process of a cell is altered by external means like trauma, infection or micro-organisms. The condition can be brought to normal by application of specially designed substances called drugs. In this world no plant is devoid of pharmacological action and can be used for the benefit of living organisms on the basis of their properties. Thus learned Acharyas have stated that – "a drug that is not understood perfectly is comparable to poison and weapon while the understood one is comparable to nectar".

Key words: Haritamanjari**,**Acalypha indica Linn

INTRODUCTION: In India nearly 15000 plant species are available, among these nearly 2000 plants are being used in Ayurveda and some of them are used in folk medicine and as well as home remedies in the rural area of country.In the ancient period Vaidyas were collecting the plants from the natural habitat by themselves or by skilled assistant. For the correct identification of plant, Acharya advises to take help of local folk such as cowherds, tribals etc.Samhitas are authenticated sources for detailed description of Ayurveda where in maximum medicinal plants have been explained. Only Nighantu adarsha(uttarrardha) has given synonyms of Haritamanjari.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

Review of classical and recent literatures regarding the drug Haritamanjari

Review of Literature:

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: [1]

History of any particular subject enables us to understand the origin, progress and other aspects of subject. Man always struggled with present and aims for better tomorrow. This can be achieved with a better perspective when the error of the past and difficulties of present experiences are overcome, checked and planned at the proper time. The knowledge of ancient science helps in having a better future.

The historical glimpses of Indian medicines chiefly on medicinal plants are in general available from Vedic period for total coverage of historical aspect. it has been divided into 4 sections namely-

Veda kala

Purana kala

Samhita kala

Nighantu kala

a) Veda kala: Vedas are rich source for Ayurveda, a detailed description about the Ayurveda is seen in Vedas, but no

description about Haritamanjari is available.

b) **Purana kala:** In Garuda purana, Ayurveda related subjects are described in detail. In this treatise, a separate chapter is available for medicinal plants, but no description about Haritamanjari is available.

c) **Samhita kala:** Samhitas are authenticated sources for detailed description of Ayurveda. In these almost all medicinal plants have been explained. But in Brihtrayee and Laghutrayee no any references of Haritamanjari is found

d) **Nighantu kala:** When we go through nighantu period firstly references of Haritamanjari is found in Bhava prakasha nighantu, where Dr. Chunekar has briefly explained the drug Haritamanjari in parishista.

SYNONYMS [4,5,8] : The medicine in olden days is described through various synonyms which are indicative of its physical characters, properties, actions, habitat, therapeutic uses, and specific natural characteristics etc.

Dadara, Muktavarcha, Aristhamanjari, Rudra, Kuppi, Haritamanjari, Arittamunjariye,

Dadara:Which is used for dadru vikaras

Kuppi: Which is useful in Kaphavikaras.

Haritamanjari Inflorescence of this plant is green in colour.

BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION:[6,7,9]

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Malpinghials
Family: Euphorbiaceae
Genus: *Acalypha*
Species: *Acalypha indica*

VERNACULAR NAMES:

Bengali: Muktajhuri,Shweta Busunta, Murkunta.
English: Indian Acalypha.
French: Boisguede de rat.
Gujarati: Dadano, Vanchhi kanto
Hindi: Khokali, Khokla, Kuppi.
Kannada: Kuppigida, Tuppakire, Chalamari.
Marathi: Khajoti, Khokla
Malayalam: Kuppamani.
Oriya: Indramaris.
Simhalese: Kuppamenya.
Tamil: Kuppaimeni, Kuppamani, Poonamayakki.
Telugu: Kuppichettu, Moorkondachettu, Kupintaku.

MORPHOLOGY:[7]

Plant type: It is an annual herb, erect,grows upto 30-100cms height. Branches are numerous, long ascending, angular, finely pubescent. Its stem is thin, straight and angulated, green coloured.

Phyllotaxy: Alternate.

Leaf: Simple, long petiolated, 2.5- 7.5 cm long, ovate or Rhomboid – Ovate shape. Acute or sub obtuse, crenate or serrate margin, glabrous surface. It is thin, cuneate based, three nerved, petioles usually longer than blade, slender, Stipules minute, upper part of leaf is dark green and lower part is light green in colour.

Inflorescence: Terminal and Axillary racemose type of inflorescence is seen.

Flowers: Flowers are numerous, elongated, unisexual, monoecious in axillary spikes

Perianth: Mostly one whorl, green coloured, pointed apex, caudate or obovate shape. It differs from male to female

flowers. Male flowers:

Minute, clustered near the summing of spikes. Numerous tiny maroon colored flowers are found on several pendulous stalks, hence common name is “Cat tail”.

Female flowers:

Scattered, accrescent, 3-5, a shortly pedunculated, large leafy dentate,

cuneiform, many nerved bract 6-8mm diameter, ovary hispid.

Fruit:

Capsular, small, hispid, quite concealed by the bract, often only one seeded.

Seeds:

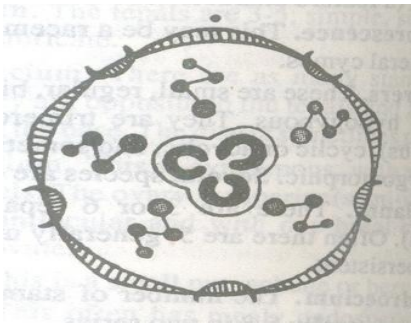
Ovoid, smooth, pale brown, 1-2mm long, oftenly one in number.

Floral formula:

Male flower: ☿ ♂ P (3-5) or O, A1-ά, G0

Female flower: ⊕ ♀ P (3-5) or (3+3) or (5), A0, G3

Floral diagram :



HABITAT:[7]

In India it is found in Bengal, Andhrapradesh, Tamilnadu, Karnataka and Kerala. In Karnataka it is found in Bangalore, Bellary, Bijapur, Chikkamangaluru, Chitradurga, Coorg, Dharwad, Mysore, Raichur. It is mainly seen as weed in gardens waste places and along road sides throughout India.

It is found throughout the hotter parts of India. Tropical areas like Africa, Philippines, Brazil, Indo Malaysia, South America

Table no.1 **RASA PANCHAKA AND PANCHABHOUTIKA COMPOSITION**

SL NO	RASA PANCHAKA	PANCHABHOUTIKA COMPOSTION
1	Rasa-Tikta Katu	Vayu , Akasha Vayu , Agni
2	Guna- Laghu, Ruksha	Vayu, Agni,Akasha Prithvi, Agni, VAyu
3	Virya-Ushna	Agni.
4	Vipaka-Katu	---
5	Doshaghnata-Pitta Kaphashamaka	----

PROPERTIES AND ACTIONS [5]

Acharya Charaka stated that some dravya act in accordance with their Rasa, other in accordance with their Guna, Vipaka, Virya and yet other through Prabhava.Rasa and Vipaka indicate the chemical structure while Guna and Virya indicate physico-pharmacological properties of drugs.

RASA : Tikta Katu
GUNA : Laghu, Ruksha
VIRYA : Ushna
VIPAKA : Katu
DOSHA KARMA: Pitta Kaphashamaka
DHATU KARMA : Rasa, Rakta, Meda.
MALA KARMA : Mutrala.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION: [7]

The plant contains a cyanogenetic glucoside and two alkaloids, viz Acalyphine and triacetamine, possibly a degradation product of glucoside.

The other constituents are n- octacosonol, β- sitosterol, Kaempferol, Quebrachitol, Tannin, Resin, and an Essential oil. In addition to Hydrocyanic acid the herb contains other substances which cause intense dark chocolate- brown

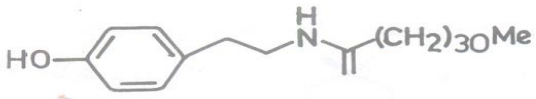
discolouration of blood and gastrointestinal irritation in rabbits.

Analysis of edible portion of plant showed Moisture 80.5, Protein 6.7, Fat 1.4, Carbohydrates 6.0, Fibre 2.3, Minerals 31mg/ 100gm, Calcium 66.7, Phosphorus 99, Iron 17.3, Vit- C 147 mg/ 100gm, Energy 64Kcal.

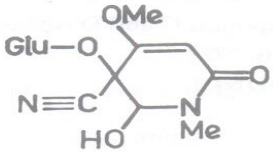
The plant is fairly rich in Nitrogen and can be used as a source of nitrifying material. Root and leaves contain Stegmosterol. Leaves and twigs contain Amide acalyphamide, Tri-o- methyllellergic acid, 2- methyl Anthroquinone, Succinimide, β-sitosterol

NEW COMPOUNDS:

NEW COMPOUNDS



Acalyphamide



Acalyphin

PART USED

Patra,
Moola,
Panchanga.

DOSE

Swarasa – 10 to 20ml
Kalka – 10gm

Dose according to age:

Adults- 4-5 cups a day.

Children - For 10-15 yrs 3 to 4 cups a day,
6-9 yrs 2cups a day,
2-5 yrs - 1 cup a day,
Below 2 yrs ½ cup a day
Below 1yr ¼ or less cups a day.

YOGA: Punarnavadi churna.

Therapeutic Indications:

It is mainly used in Pitta Kaphavikaras.

Bahya:

- Its leaf application is applied externally in insect bite, wounds and ulcers.
- Its swarasa with oil made as liniment used in Sandhivata and Gudarogas.
- Its patra swarasa is used in Dadru vikaras, so called as Dadara.
- Its leaf is used in Krimirogas.
- Its leaf juice and lime is used in Skin diseases.
- Its patra churna with little salt used in Itching.
- Its patra churna used for Bedsores and Maggot infested wounds.
- Its patra kwatha is used in vibandha.
- Its juice dipped in nostrils and ears cures headache and earache respectively.
- It removes pulmonary secretions from lungs, so used in Whooping cough, Tuberculosis, Bronchitis, Asthma, Pneumonia, Rheumatism etc.
- Its patra kwatha is used in Krimirogas.
- In Mutragata rogas its patra kwatha is used.
- The herb is said to possess diuretic, carminative, expectorant, and emetic properties, but it causes gastro intestinal irritation. It is used as a substitute of ipeacae and senega. A decoction of the herb is used as a safe and speedy laxative; and also to cure tooth and ear ache. In Homeopathy, the herb is used a remedy for severe cough associated with bleeding form the lungs, haemoptysis and incipient phthisis. A paste of the laves is applied to burns; with lime juice it is useful in early cases of ringworm. Fresh juice of the leaves is applied with oil, salt of lime in

rheumatoid arthritis and to cure scabies and other skin infections. The powdered leaves are used for bedsores and maggot-infested wounds. The pollen is suspected of causing allergy in pondicherry area

- The powder of the dry leaves is given to children in worm cases, also a decoction prepared from the leaves with the addition of a little garlic. The juice of the same part of the plant, together with that of the tender shoots, is occasionally mixed with a small portion of margosa oil, and rubbed on the tongues of infants for the purpose of sickening them and clearing their stomachs o viscid phlegm.
- The expressed juice of the leaves is in great repute; wherever the plant grows, as an emetic for children, and is safe, certain and speedy in its action. Like Ipecacuanha, it seems to have little tendency to act of the bowels or to depress the vital powers, and it decidedly increases the secretion of the pulmonary organs.
- A decoction of the leaves is given in earache; a cataplasm of the leaves is applied as local application to syphilitic ulcers, and as a means of relieving the pain of snake-bite and the irritation caused by the bite of the centipede.

  Fresh leaves ground into a paste, made into a ball to the size of a large marble, and introduced into the rectum, are very useful in relieving the obstinate constipation of children.
- The plant is used in congestive headaches; a piece of cotton is saturated with the expressed juice and inserted into each nostril, relieving head symptoms by causing haemorrhage from the nose. The powder of the dry leaves is used in bed sores and wounds attacked by worms.
- The leaf of this plant is said to b an antiparasiticide and is applied externally ground with common salt or quick lime or lime juice. A paste of the leaves with lime was prescribed for cases of ringworm (different varieties of cutaneous taenea). In chronic cases it had no effect, but it recent cases it did some good

DISCUSSION: Haritamanjari is included in Amalakyadi varga by Bhava mishra in Bhavaprakash Nighantu. He has given the synonym of this drug as, Mukta varcha.

In Nighantu Adarsh morphology, Gunakarma & Synonyms of this drug have been explained. He has given synonyms as, Dadara, Muktavarcha, Aristamanjari, Rudra, Kuppi.Therapeutically it is used externally as twak dosha hara, krimihara, Dadrughna, Dushtavrinaghna, Kandughna & internally used in vibandha karna shoola, shirashoola, respiratory disorders like whooping cough, bronchitis, Asthma etc.

The rasapanchakas of Haritamanjari are,

Guna - Laghu, Ruksha
Rasa - Tikta
Vipaka - Katu
Virya - Ushna
Useful parts - Panchanga
Dose - Swarasa - 10-20ml
Kalka - 10gm

Harita manjari is an annual erect herb grows all over India.

Botanical Name: ***Acalypha indica*** Linn.

Family: Euphorbiaceae.

Euphorbiaceae is the 4th largest family of all Angiosperm families. It has 283 genera & 7300 species. Haritamanjari has simple leaf, alternate phyllotaxy, racemose type of inflorescence, unisexual & regular flower, hypogonous, perianth one to two whorls, dissimilar in male & female flowers, free or monadelphous stamens, trilocular ovary, bifid stigma, male flower - clustered, minute, female flower - Scattered, Accrescent.

Small capsular fruits & ovoid, smooth pale

brown seeds.

Floral formula

Male - Θ ♂ p (3-5) or 0, A 1-α, G_o

Female - Θ ♀ p (3-5) or (3+3) or (s), A_o, G_3

CONCLUSION

1.Harita Manjari is a drug with Botanical name Acalypha Indica Linn

2. it is used externally as twak dosha hara, krimihara, Dadrughna, Dushtavrinaghna, Kandughna

3. Internally used in vibandha karna shoola, shirashoola, respiratory disorders like whooping cough, bronchitis, Asthma

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