

PHARMACEUTICAL STUDY OF *SEMICARPUS ANACARDIUM* LINN. ALONG WITH AYURVEDIC REVIEW

¹*Dr. Trupti Mahapatra and ²Dr. S. R. Inchulkar

¹P.G. Scholar, Department of Agad Tantra Avum Vidhi Vaidhak, Govt. Ayurvedic College,
Raipur C.G.

²Professor & HOD, Department of Agad Tantra Avum Vidhi Vaidhak, Govt. Ayurvedic
College, Raipur C.G.

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*Corresponding Author

Dr. Trupti Mahapatra

P.G. Scholar, Department of
Agad Tantra Avum Vidhi
Vaidhak, Govt. Ayurvedic
College, Raipur C.G.

ABSTRACT

Introduction: Ayurveda is that branch of science where each and every plant has special medicinal activities, various type of poisonous plants are also included under it. Acharyas of Ayurveda like Acharya Charak, Acharya Shusruta, Acharya Bagavatta etc. have described many type of poisonous plant's part in their formulations to cure many kinds of diseases. Improper purification will lead to various kind of hazardous effects on body internally as well as externally. This is by imbalancing *Doshas* as well *Dhatus* which is life threatening as well. *Semicarpus anacardium* Linn. is a well known poisonous plants. Acharya Charaka describe it as a rasayana (resuscitating drug), Acharya Shusruta

include it under Upavisha. The major focus of these current literature remains on its pharmaceutical, toxicological, as well as medicinal properties. The purpose of this review is to set a better insight in the activity of *Semicarpus anacardium* Linn.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To study the pharmacological property.
2. Toxicological properties as well as medicinal properties of *Semicarpus anacardium* Linn from Ayurvedic point of view.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

To collect different types of action and properties like pharmacological, toxicological, medicinal as well as medico-legal. Property from Different Ayurveda text book & journal

internet and other sources.

DISCUSSION

PROPERTIES

1. Botanical description: Name: Bhallataka

Botanical name: *Semicarpus anacrdium* Linn

Family: Anacardiaceae Eng. Name: Marking Nut Hindi name :vilaawa

Prats used: fruit, seed & oil are used.

2. **Toxicological:** The plant belonging to Anacardiaceae family has potential to produce allergic manifestations through contact dermatitis. Phytoconstituents: viz. alkyl catechol, phenols, quinols and resorcinol are believed to be responsible for skin reactions.

3. **Medico-legal aspects:** Accidental poisoning, abortifacient, irrational use by Quacks, for faking injuries etc.

4. Ayurvedic properties of Bhallatak are madhur, kashay ras, ushna virya, madhur vipak and laghu, snigdha, tikshna, and ushna gunas. It has several karmas like Kaphavatashamak (alleviates kapha & Vata dosha), Bhootanashan (anti-devil) Pittasanshodhak (expels out pitta dosha), Medhya(beneficial to brain), Vanhikar (improves digestive fire), Vrishya (aphrodisiac), Chedana(excisional functions), Bhedan (incisional function), Bruhan(anabolic in effect), and hence indicated for many diseases like Arsha (haemorrhoids), Udar (ascites), Grahani (inflammatory bowel diseases), Shotha (inflammation), Krumi (helminthiasis), Kushtha (skin disorders, like psoriasis), Vran (wounds), Shwitra(vitiligo), Gulma (abdominal mass), Jwar (fever), Adhman (flatulence), etc.

5. **Contraindications:** Bhallatak is usually avoided in pediatric age group, pregnant women, predominant pitta prakruti persons and also in certain diseased conditions such as bleeding diatheses, renal function disorder, history of vesications and past history of intolerance to Bhallatak.

6. **Way of use:** It is always advised to avoid substances, which would aggravate pitta while consuming Bhallata. Taking Bhallatak with Anupana of ghee, milk, sugar, rice (Shashtisali) is believed to reduce the incidence of adverse events.

- 7. Phytochemistry:** The most significant components of the *Semecarpus anacardium* Linn. oil are phenolic compounds. On exposure to air, phenolic compounds get oxidized to quinones. The oxidation process can be prevented by keeping the oil under nitrogen. Two main phenolic compounds and a glucoside are bhillavanol A (monoenepentadecyl catechol I), bhillavanol B (dienepentadecyl catechol II) and anacardoside (glucoside). Vesicant reactions of Bhallatak are possibly attributable to these phenolic compounds. Important biflavonoids such as semecarpuflavanone, jeediflavanone, galluflavanone, nallaflavanone, semecarpetin and anacarduflavanone have also been isolated. Semecarpuflavanone and galluflavanone group have potentially antioxidant activity on these flavanones. Analysis of the kernel has also shown above properties.
- 8. Ayurvedic Method of purification of Vallataka to remove its toxification is:** The sodhana procedure of Bhallataka includes soaking the fruits in Gomutra, Godugdha and rubbing it on brick gravels. After removing the thalamus portions, the fruits are kept either in Gomutra(7days) or go dugdha(7days) which are finally washed with water. The seeds are then shifted to a bag, containing brick gravels (for3days) rubbed thoroughly and dried. During the process of sodhana of Bhallataka coconut oil is applied on the exposed body parts of the person involved in the processing to reduce the chances of dermatitis.

CONCLUSION

The major focus of these current literature remains on its medicinal properties. Though it's a toxic plant having a lot of toxic effect. If it will be purified in perfect procedure as discuss above having a lot of beneficial effect. Acharya Charak, Sushrut and Vagbhat of Ayurveda elaborately described Bhallatak formulations. The important thing is to fine tune this margin of efficacy and safety. The significance of Ayurvedic pharmaceutical processing and Ayurvedic approach of clinical usage if documented through objective evidence would certainly provide a better insight in Ayurvedic concepts and fundamentals, which eventually would help in developing Ayurveda inspired evidence based natural drugs.

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