

ANCIENT WISDOM ON DARUHARIDRA (*BERBERIS* SPP.): A REVIEW OF AYURVEDIC AND PHARMACOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES

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ABSTRACT

Daruharidra (commonly identified with *Berberis* species) holds an distinguish position in the Ayurvedic materia medica. References to this plant span from the Vedic era to later medieval texts, reflecting its continuous recognition and therapeutic importance in Indian medical traditions. This article reviews the documentation of *Daruharidra* in major Ayurvedic treatises, including the Vedas, Brihat Trayi (the three great treatises of Ayurveda), Laghu Trayi (Madhava Nidana, Sharngadhara Samhita, Bhavaprakasha) covers materia medica and therapeutics., and other classical compendia. Its repeated mention across diverse contexts, pharmacological properties, disease management, and formulation inclusion, illustrates its historical significance. By collating these references into a comprehensive master table, the study highlights the textual evidence for *Daruharidra*'s medicinal relevance, thereby providing a foundation for future pharmacological and clinical explorations.

KEYWORDS: *Daruharidra*, *Berberis*, Ayurveda, Brihat Trayi, Classical texts.

INTRODUCTION

Daruharidra (*Berberis* spp.) is one of the most revered medicinal plants in Ayurveda, frequently mentioned in classical texts for its wide spectrum of therapeutic applications. Its etymology derives from the Sanskrit terms Darvi (wood/stem) and Haridra (turmeric), suggesting “wood resembling turmeric” due to its characteristic yellow-colored stem and roots. Traditionally, it is valued for its potent Tikta Rasa (bitter taste), Katu Vipaka (pungent post-digestive effect), Ushna Virya (hot potency), and Kapha-Pitta Hara (alleviator of Kapha and Pitta doshas) properties, which make it effective in managing a broad range of disorders.

The significance of Daruharidra can be traced throughout the Brihat Trayi (the three great treatises of Ayurveda) namely, Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, and Ashtanga Hridaya as well as in Ashtanga Sangraha. Each of these texts, composed in different periods and contexts, highlight distinctive aspects of its medicinal applications. While Charaka Samhita (focused on Kayachikitsa, internal medicine) extensively recommends Daruharidra in conditions such as Kushta (skin disorders), Prameha (urinary disorders/diabetes), arsha (piles), Atisara (diarrhea), and Pandu (anemia), Sushruta Samhita (primarily surgical) emphasizes its role in Vrana (wound healing), Netra Roga (eye diseases), and Visha Chikitsa (toxicology). Similarly, Ashtanga Hridaya incorporates both internal and external therapeutic uses, whereas Ashtanga Sangraha expands its application to preventive and lifestyle regimens such as Shodhana (purificatory therapies) and Snana (bath rituals). In addition to its therapeutic versatility, Daruharidra is also notable for its numerous synonyms, including Darvi, Haridre, Katankateri, Rasanjana, Darunisha, Rajanidvaya, and Kaliyaka, which reflect regional variations in identification and usage across the Indian subcontinent. This multiplicity of references indicates the widespread acceptance of Daruharidra as a panacea-like drug in ancient India.

A comparative study of its descriptions in the Brihat-trayi and allied texts not only highlights the continuity of its use across centuries but also reveals the context-specific preferences of different schools of Ayurveda. Such an exploration provides valuable insight into the historical evolution of pharmacotherapy in Ayurveda and establishes a foundation for correlating its traditional applications with modern pharmacological investigations.

DARUHARIDRA IN Ancient Period

Daruharidra (*Berberis* spp.) holds an eminent position in Ayurveda, with extensive references across the Brihat-trayi and allied classical compendia. A critical survey of textual evidence

reveals that Charaka Samhita describes it under Arshoghna (anti-hemorrhoidal), Kandughna (anti-pruritic), Lekhaniya Mahakashaya (anti-obesity/scraping group of drugs) and Tikta Skandha (bitter group of drugs), prescribing it mainly for Kushta (skin disorders), Prameha (urinary disorders/diabetes), Arsha (piles/haemorrhoids), Atisara (diarrhoea), Pandu (anaemia), Netra Roga (eye diseases), Visha (poisoning) and Vrana (wounds/ulcers), with over ninety references.

Table 1: Review of Daruharidra in Charaka-Samhita.

Sr. No.	Preparation	Indication	Reference no.	Name used
1.	Shirovirechan Dravya	Shirovirechana	Ch. Su. 2/5	Haridre
2.	Kushthadi lepa	Kandu kushtha	Ch. Su. 3/8	Haridre
3.	Kushthadi churna	Kitibha pama	Ch. Su. 3/10	Katankateri
4.	Rasanjanadi lepa	Kushtha	Ch. Su. 3/13	Rasanjana
5.	Haridradi lepa	Kushtha	Ch. Su. 3/14	Ubhaya haridre
6.	Parshwashoola nashaka lepa	Parshwashoola	Ch. Su. 3/25	Haridre
7.	Anu taila	Tridoshnashaka	Ch. Su. 5/63	Darvi
8.	Mustadi kwatha	Kandu, kushtha	Ch. Su. 23/12	Haridre
9.	Vyoshadi saktu	Mudhavata etc.	Ch. Su. 23/19	Haridradvaya
10.	Kwatha	Asthapana vasti	Ch. Vi. 7/17	Daruharidra
11.	Vamanartha dravya	Vamana yoga	Ch. Vi. 8/135	Daruharidra
12.	Chandanadi taila	Jwara-daha	Ch. Ci. 3/258	Kaliyaka
13.	Kwatha	Prameha	Ch. Ci. 6/26	Darvi
14.	Kwatha	Prameha	Ch. Ci. 6/27	Haridre
15.	Kwatha	Prameha	Ch. Ci. 6/28	Darvi
16.	Kwatha	Pittaja Prameha	Ch. Ci. 6/31-32	Katankateri
17.	Phalatrikadi kwatha	Prameha	Ch. Ci. 6/40	Darunisha
18.	Asthapana vasti	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/46	Darvi
19.	Kalka	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/61	Darvi
20.	Triphaladi churna	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/68	Rajanidvaya
21.	Lepa	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/84	Darvi
22.	Siddharthaka snana	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/92	Darvi
23.	Lepa	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/94	Darvi
24.	Kwatha	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/97	Darvi, rasanjana
25.	Kushthadi taila	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/103	Darvi
26.	Tikta ikshavakadi taila	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/108	Haridre
27.	Kanaksheeri taila	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/114	Darvi tvaka
28.	Vipadikahara ghrita taila	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/120	Darvi
29.	Ghrita	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/135	Darvi
30.	Tiktashatpalak ghrita	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/140	Darvi
31.	Mahatiktaka ghrita	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/145	Haridre
32.	Mahakhadir ghrita	Kushtha	Ch. Ci. 7/153	Haridre dvaya
33.	Mukhavairasyanashaka yog	Rajyakshama	Ch. Ci. 8/137	Darvi
34.	Churna	Bhutonmada	Ch. Ci. 9/65	Haridre
35.	Siddharthaka agada	Unmada	Ch. Ci. 9/70	Rajanidvaya
36.	Ghrita	Kshatsheena	Ch. Ci. 11/34	Darvi

37.	Patolmooladi kwatha	Shavathu	Ch. Ci. 12/53	Darvi
38.	Pippalyadi lavana	Udara roga	Ch. Ci. 13/159	Haridre
39.	Kanakarishta	Arsha	Ch. Ci. 14/160	Daruharidra
40.	Kwatha	Arsha	Ch. Ci. 14/186	Darvi
41.	Churna	Arsha	Ch. Ci. 14/195	Darvi
42.	Churna	Arsha	Ch. Ci. 14/221	Darvi
43.	Hriberadi ghrita	Arsha	Ch. Ci. 14/231	Darvi
44.	Sunishnaka changeri ghrita	Arsha	Ch. Ci. 14/234	Darvi
45.	Vachadi churna	Grahanidosha	Ch. Ci. 15/135	Darvi
46.	Kiratadi churna	Grahanidosha	Ch. Ci. 15/137	Darvi
47.	Haridradi kshara	Mandagni	Ch. Ci. 15/182	Dviharidre
48.	Katukadi ghrita	Pandu	Ch. Ci. 16/47	Haridre
49.	Darvi ghrita	Pandu	Ch. Ci. 16/54	Darvi
50.	Kaliyaka ghrita	Pandu	Ch. Ci. 16/54	Darvi
51.	Kwatha	Pandu	Ch. Ci. 16/63	Darvi
52.	Mandoora vataka	Pandu	Ch. Ci. 16/73	Darvi
53.	Punarnavadi mandoor	Pandu	Ch. Ci. 16/94	Haridre
54.	Darvyadi lepa	Pandu	Ch. Ci. 16/97	Darvi
55.	Triphaladi yoga	Pandu	Ch. Ci. 16/99	Dviharidre
56.	Vyoshadi ghrit	Pandu	Ch. Ci. 16/111	Haridre dvaya
57.	Darvyadi ghrita	Atisara	Ch. Ci. 19/80	Daruharidra
58.	Rasanjana churna	Atisara	Ch. Ci. 19/108	Rasanjana
59.	Patoladi sheeta Kashaya	Visarpa	Ch. Ci. 21/59	Darvi
60.	Pradeha	Kaphaja Visarpa	Ch. Ci. 21/91	Darvi
61.	Churna	Vrana ropana	Ch. Ci. 21/97	Darvi
62.	Kampillakadi taila	Granthi vrana	Ch. Ci. 21/138	Darvi
63.	Mritsanjeevana agada	Visha	Ch. Ci. 23/56	Rajanidvaya
64.	Kshaaragada	Visha	Ch. Ci. 23/101	Rajanidvaya
65.	Churna	Pakvashayagata Visha	Ch. Ci. 23/185	Rajanidvaya
66.	Chandanadi yoga	Visha	Ch. Ci. 23/191	Haridradvaya
67.	Kalka	Vasuki sarpadansha	Ch. Ci. 23/198	Haridradvaya
68.	Vachadi yoga	Visha	Ch. Ci. 23/212	Rajanidavaya
69.	Lepa	Visha	Ch. Ci. 23/216	Dviharidre
70.	-	Visha peedita pashu	Ch. Ci. 23/231	Haridradvaya
71.	Vrana shodhaka Kashaya	Vranashodhana	Ch. Ci. 25/84	Darvi
72.	Pralepa	Vranashodhana	Ch. Ci. 25/85	Dviharidre
73.	Chandanadi lepa	Vrana	Ch. Ci. 25/88	Darvi
74.	Durvadi taila	Vrana ropana	Ch. Ci. 25/93	Darvi
75.	Tvakvishuddhikar lepa	Vrana	Ch. Ci. 25/114	Rajanidvaya
76.	Ervarubeejadi churna	Mutrakrichra	Ch. Ci. 26/53	Darvi
77.	Pippalyadi kawal graha	Mutraroga	Ch. Ci. 26/188	Darvi
78.	Tejohvadi churna	Manjana	Ch. Ci. 26/191	Darvi
79.	Peetaka churna	Kantharoga	Ch. Ci. 26/197	Darvi
80.	Mridvikadi churna	Kantharoga	Ch. Ci. 26/198	Darvi
81.	Pathadi churna	Kantharoga	Ch. Ci. 26/199	Rasanjana
82.	Katukadi kwatha	Kantharoga	Ch. Ci. 26/201	Darvi
83.	Darvyadi rasakriya	Mukha roga	Ch. Ci. 26/202	Darvi

84.	Ashchyotana	Pittaja netra roga	Ch. Ci. 26/238	Darvi
85.	Amritadi varti	Tridoshaja netraroga	Ch. Ci. 26/243	Darvi
86.	Kalka	Urustambha	Ch. Ci. 27/31	Dviharidre
87.	Prapaundrikadi lepa	Vatarakta	Ch. Ci. 29/134	Darvi
88.	Lepa	Vatarakta	Ch. Ci. 29/149	Rajanidvaya
89.	Rasnadi niruha	Krimi, kushtha	Ch. Si. 3/61	Darvi
90.	Vidangadi taila	Krimi, kushtha	Ch. Si. 4/20	Darvi

Sushruta Samhita emphasizes its role in surgical and ophthalmic contexts, enlisting it under Haridradi (group beginning with Haridra), Mustadi (group beginning with Musta), Lakshadi (group beginning with Laksha), Daruhaaridradi (group beginning with Daruhaaridra) and Tikta Varga (bitter group), with about sixty-one mentions, particularly in Vrana (wounds/ulcers), Kushta (skin disorders), Meha (urinary disorders), Gulma (abdominal lumps/tumors), Bhagandara (fistula-in-ano) and Netra Roga (eye diseases).

Table 2: Review of Daruhaaridra in Sushruta-Samhita.

Sr. No.	Preparation	Indication	Reference no.	Name used
1.	-	Kram-viruddha	Su. Su. 20/14	Darvi
2.	Ghrita	-	Su. Su. 36/17	Haridradvaya
3.	Ropana ghrita	Ropana	Su. Su. 36/26	Haridre
4.	Ropana taila	Ropana	Su. Su. 36/27	Haridre
5.	Asava	-	Su. Su. 40/438	Darvi
6.	Taila	Vrana ropana	Su. Ci. 2/68	Darvi
7.	Taila	Sadhyavrana	Su. Ci. 2/75	Haridre
8.	Taila	Sadhyavrana	Su. Ci. 2/90	Haridre
9.	Kwatha	Gulma, meha etc.	Su. Ci. 5/42	Darvi
10.	Kalka	Bhagandara	Su. Ci. 8/41	Haridre
11.	Taila	Bhagandara	Su. Ci. 8/44	Rajanidvaya
12.	Mahaneela ghrita	Kushtha	Su. Ci. 9/35	Darvi
13.	Lepa	Kushtha, shvitra	Su. Ci. 9/28	Haridre
14.	Churna	Kushtha	Su. Ci. 9/46	Haridre
15.	Ghrita	Kushtha	Su. Ci. 9/49	Haridradvaya
16.	Vajraka taila	Kushtha	Su. Ci. 9/55	Rajanidvaya
17.	Mahavajraka taila	Kushtha	Su. Ci. 9/57	Dvi haridre
18.	Kwatha	Pishti meha	Su. Ci. 11/9	Daruhaaridra
19.	Karanjadi ghrita	Dushta vrana etc.	Su. Ci. 16/17	Dvi haridre
20.	Taila	Kaphavatajanya nadivrana	Su. Ci. 17/41	Rajanidvaya
21.	Churna	Updansha	Su. Ci. 19/40	Darvi
22.	Lepa	Kachu, pama etc.	Su. Ci. 20/18	Darvi
23.	Churna	Karnapali roga	Su. Ci. 25/20	Rajanidvaya
24.	Ghrita	Vyanga, neelika etc.	Su. Ci. 26/38	Dviharidre
25.	Triphaladi taila	Sthaulya, alasya etc.	Su. Ci. 37/33	Nishadvaya

26.	<i>Lepa</i>	<i>Visha</i>	<i>Su. Ka. 1/54</i>	<i>Kaliyaka</i>
27.	<i>Ajeya ghrita</i>	<i>Vishaghna</i>	<i>Su. Ka. 2/48</i>	<i>Haridrdvaya</i>
28.	<i>Yavagu</i>	<i>Visha</i>	<i>Su. Ka. 3/45</i>	<i>Rajanidvaya</i>
29.	<i>Maha agada</i>	<i>Sarva-visha</i>	<i>Su. Ka. 5/62</i>	<i>Haridre</i>
30.	<i>Agada</i>	<i>Mushika visha</i>	<i>Su. Ka. 5/82</i>	<i>Darvi</i>
31.	<i>Kalyanaka sarpi</i>	<i>Sarva-visha</i>	<i>Su. Ka. 6/9</i>	<i>Rajanyo</i>
32.	<i>Mahasugandhi agda raj</i>	<i>Sarva-visha</i>	<i>Su. Ka. 6/19</i>	<i>Haridre</i>
33.	<i>Sanshaman yog</i>	<i>Mushika visha</i>	<i>Su. Ka. 7/39</i>	<i>Rasanjana</i>
34.	<i>Kusthadi agada</i>	<i>Trikantaka visha</i>	<i>Su. Ka. 8/47</i>	<i>Haridrdvaya</i>
35.	<i>Kumkumadi agada</i>	<i>Shatpadi visha</i>	<i>Su. Ka. 8/49</i>	<i>Rajanidvaya</i>
36.	<i>Ghrita</i>	<i>Pittabhishyanda</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 10/4</i>	<i>Darvi</i>
37.	<i>Anjana</i>	<i>Sirotpata</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 12/16</i>	<i>Darvi</i>
38.	<i>Anjana</i>	<i>Raktabhishyanda</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 12/19</i>	<i>Darvi</i>
39.	<i>Kashmaryadi Anjana</i>	<i>Pitta vidagdha Drishti</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 17/15</i>	<i>Darvi</i>
40.	<i>Naktandhyahara Anjana</i>	<i>Naktandhya</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 17/17</i>	<i>Kshande</i>
41.	<i>Raskriya</i>	<i>Pittaja timira</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 17/39</i>	<i>Rasanjana</i>
42.	<i>Bhadrodaya Anjana</i>	<i>Raj Anjana</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 18/96</i>	<i>Darvi</i>
43.	<i>Manahshiladi Anjana</i>	<i>Kandu, timira etc.</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 18/100</i>	<i>Rajanyo</i>
44.	<i>Gutika Anjana</i>	<i>Kukunaka</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 19/15</i>	<i>Darvi</i>
45.	<i>Patoladi ghrita</i>	<i>Kamla, jwara etc.</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 39/50</i>	<i>Darvi</i>
46.	<i>Patoladi ghrita</i>	<i>Jwara</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 39/227</i>	<i>Darvi</i>
47.	<i>Kalyana ghrita</i>	<i>Jeerna jwara</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 39/231</i>	<i>Rajanidvaya</i>
48.	<i>Triphaladi ghrita</i>	<i>Jwara, visarpa</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 39/245</i>	<i>Rajanidvaya</i>
49.	<i>Kalingadi vinshati yoga</i>	<i>Atisara</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 40/40</i>	<i>Haridre</i>
50.	<i>Kalingadi vinshati yoga</i>	<i>Atisara</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 40/42</i>	<i>Haridre</i>
51.	<i>Kwatha</i>	<i>Pitta pachana</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 40/62</i>	<i>Rasanajan, haridredvaya</i>
52.	<i>Mustadi yoga</i>	<i>Pittatisara</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 40/64</i>	<i>Haridredvaya</i>
53.	<i>Mustadi yoga</i>	<i>Pittatisara</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 40/66</i>	<i>Haridradvaya</i>
54.	<i>Darvyadi ghrita</i>	<i>Sannipataja pittatisara</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 40/78</i>	<i>Darvi</i>
55.	<i>Lodhradi putapaka</i>	<i>Kaphapittatisara</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 40/87</i>	<i>Darvi</i>
56.	<i>Darvyadi ghrita</i>	<i>Raktmalatisara</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 40/105</i>	<i>Darvi</i>
57.	<i>Harenukadi yog</i>	<i>Kasa</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 52/19</i>	<i>Haridre</i>
58.	<i>Vyoshadi Anjana</i>	<i>Visuchika</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 56/18</i>	<i>Haridre</i>
59.	<i>Leha</i>	<i>Arochaka</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 57/11</i>	<i>Rajanidvaya</i>
60.	<i>Kwatha</i>	<i>Arochaka</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 57/16</i>	<i>Mustadigana</i>
61.	<i>Naktmaladi varti</i>	<i>Graha dosha</i>	<i>Su. Ut. 60/44</i>	<i>Haridre</i>

Ashtanga Hridaya (7th century CE compendium of Ayurveda) balances both internal and external applications, citing it in seventy-one instances across conditions such as Arsha (piles), Prameha (urinary disorders), Pandu (anemia), Kamala (jaundice), Visarpa (erysipelas/cellulitis), Visha (poisoning), Unmada (psychosis), Apasmara (epilepsy) and Mukha Roga (oral diseases).

Table 3: Review of Daruharidra in Ashtang Hridayam.

Sr. No.	Preparation	Indication	Reference no.	Name used
1.	-	Visha vikara	Ah. Su. 7/25	Haridre
2.	Anu taila	Urdhvajatrugata rog	Ah. Su. 20/37	Darvi
3.	Mukha lepa	Shishira ritu	Ah. Su. 22/19	Darvi
4.	-	Snana	Ah. Sh. 1/62	Darvi
5.	Haritaki rasayana	Kasa	Ah. Ci. 3/31	Haridre
6.	Kwatha	Raktarsh	Ah. Ci. 8/103	Darvi
7.	Changeri ghrita	Arsha	Ah. Ci. 8/139	Darvi
8.	Churna	Atisara	Ah. Ci. 9/57	Darvi
9.	-	Atisara	Ah. Ci. 9/62	Katankateri
10.	Ghrita	Raktatisara	Ah. Ci. 9/89	Darvi
11.	Patoladi churna	Grahani	Ah. Ci. 10/35	Darvi
12.	Haridradi Bhasma	Grahani	Ah. Ci. 10/57	Dvi haridre
13.	-	Pittaja mutraghata	Ah. Ci. 11/8	Darvi
14.	Kwatha	Prameha	Ah. Ci. 12/6	Darvi
15.	Kwatha	Kaphaja Prameha	Ah. Ci. 12/7	Darvi
16.	Ghrita	Pittaja vidradhi	Ah. Ci. 13/5	Dvinisha
17.	Mandoora vataka	Pandu	Ah. Ci. 16/16	Darvi
18.	Ghrita	Pandu	Ah. Ci. 16/36	Dvirajani
19.	Swarasa	Kamla	Ah. Ci. 16/44	Darvi
20.	Patoladi kwatha	Pittaja shotha	Ah. Ci. 17/31	Darvi
21.	Kwatha	Visarpa	Ah. Ci. 18/7	Darvi
22.	Taila	Vrana ropana	Ah. Ci. 18/35	Darvi
23.	Tiktaka ghrita	Kushtha	Ah. Ci. 19/2	Darvi
24.	Mahatikta ghrita	Kushtha	Ah. Ci. 19/8	Rajanyo
25.	Darvyadi kwatha	Kushtha	Ah. Ci. 19/38	Darvi
26.	Pathadi yoga	Arsha, Prameha etc.	Ah. Ci. 19/40	Darvi
27.	Mustadi kwatha	Kushtha	Ah. Ci. 19/59	Darvi
28.	Shveta karveeradi lepa	Kushtha	Ah. Ci. 19/62	Darvi
29.	Nimbadi ubtana	Kushtha	Ah. Ci. 19/65	Haridre
30.	Mustadi avchurna	Dad, kandu, kitibha	Ah. Ci. 19/67	Katankateri
31.	Gugguladi gharshan	Kushtha	Ah. Ci. 19/72	Ubhaya haridre
32.	Jeevantydi ghrita-taila	Kushtha	Ah. Ci. 19/77	Darvi
33.	Vajraka taila	Kushtha	Ah. Ci. 19/79	Dviharidre
34.	Lepa	Vatarakta	Ah. Ci. 22/28	Darvi
35.	Siddharthaka taila agada	Visha, unmada	Ah. Ut. 5/10	Rajanidvaya
36.	Siddhartha guda vatika	Dushta vrana, unmada	Ah. Ut. 5/15	Nishadvaya
37.	Mahabhutarav ghrita	Bhutonmada	Ah. Ut. 5/20	Nishayugm
38.	Anjana	Yaksha graha	Ah. Ut. 5/36	Haridredvaya
39.	Mahapanchgavya ghrita	Apasmar	Ah. Ut. 7/19	Dvinisha
40.	Kwatha	Pothaki	Ah. Ut. 9/22	Dvinisha
41.	Lepa	Kukunaka	Ah. Ut. 9/32	Dvinisha
42.	Kwatha	Timira, pilla roga etc	Ah. Ut. 11/22	Dvinisha
43.	Patoladi ghrita	Timira	Ah. Ut. 13/6	Darvi

44.	<i>Taila</i>	<i>Timira</i>	Ah. Ut. 13/69	<i>Dvinisha</i>
45.	<i>Taila</i>	<i>Timira</i>	Ah. Ut. 13/92	<i>Darvi</i>
46.	<i>Anjana</i>	<i>Abhishyanda</i>	Ah. Ut. 16/25	<i>Darvi</i>
47.	<i>Ashchyotana</i>	<i>Akshishopha</i>	Ah. Ut. 16/33	<i>Darvi</i>
48.	<i>Lakshadi masi</i>	<i>Pilla roga</i>	Ah. Ut. 16/57	<i>Darvi</i>
49.	<i>Sneha</i>	<i>Karnapali vardhaka</i>	Ah. Ut. 18/56	<i>Rajanyo</i>
50.	<i>Kwatha</i>	<i>Kantha roga</i>	Ah. Ut. 22/55	<i>Darvi</i>
51.	-	<i>Kantha roga</i>	Ah. Ut. 22/56	<i>Darvi, rasanjana</i>
52.	<i>Gutika</i>	<i>Mukha roga</i>	Ah. Ut. 22/81	<i>Haridradvaya</i>
53.	<i>Ubtana</i>	<i>Vyanga, nilika etc.</i>	Ah. Ut. 22/87	<i>Darvi</i>
54.	<i>Khadiradi gutika</i>	<i>Mukharoga</i>	Ah. Ut. 22/92	<i>Dvinisha</i>
55.	<i>Kshudradi kawala</i>	<i>Mukharoga</i>	Ah. Ut. 22/97	<i>Darvi</i>
56.	<i>Pathadi manjana</i>	<i>Mukharoga</i>	Ah. Ut. 22/98	<i>Darvi</i>
57.	<i>Peetaka churna</i>	<i>Danta-mukha-gala roga</i>	Ah. Ut. 22/100	<i>Darvi</i>
58.	<i>Patoladi kwatha</i>	<i>Mukharoga</i>	Ah. Ut. 22/104	<i>Dvinisha</i>
59.	<i>Darvi ghana kwatha</i>	<i>Mukhapaka</i>	Ah. Ut. 22/105	<i>Darvi</i>
60.	<i>Jatyadi ghritha</i>	<i>Vrana</i>	Ah. Ut. 25/67	<i>Darvi</i>
61.	<i>Taila</i>	<i>Sadhyavrana</i>	Ah. Ut. 26/26	<i>Darvi</i>
62.	<i>Talishadi taila</i>	<i>Sadhyavrana</i>	Ah. Ut. 26/35	<i>Haridre</i>
63.	<i>Lepa</i>	<i>Vyanga, nilika</i>	Ah. Ut. 32/22	<i>Haridradvaya</i>
64.	<i>Manjishthadi Sneha</i>	<i>Vyanga, nilika</i>	Ah. Ut. 32/31	<i>Haridradvaya</i>
65.	<i>Yavagu</i>	<i>Visha</i>	Ah. Ut. 35/21	<i>Haridre</i>
66.	<i>Padma agada</i>	<i>Luta visha</i>	Ah. Ut. 37/70	<i>Dvinisha</i>
67.	<i>Champakagada</i>	<i>Luta visha</i>	Ah. Ut. 37/71	<i>Haridradvaya</i>
68.	<i>Mandar agada</i>	<i>Luta visha</i>	Ah. Ut. 37/73	<i>Darvi</i>
69.	<i>Ghritha</i>	<i>Akhu visha</i>	Ah. Ut. 38/25	<i>Dvinisha</i>
70.	<i>Lepa</i>	<i>Nakha-danta visha</i>	Ah. Ut. 36/39	<i>Rajanyo</i>
71.	<i>Naladadi ghritha</i> <i>Rasayana</i>	<i>Rasayana karma</i>	Ah. Ut. 39/46	<i>Haridre</i>

Ashtanga Sangraha (7th century CE encyclopedic text of Ayurveda) highlights its incorporation into Shodhana (purification therapies), Visha Chikitsa (toxicology/poison management), Jvara (fever), Sthulya (obesity) and Snana (bath/ablution) regimens, with at least thirteen references. Across all texts, Daruharidra is consistently described as possessing Tikta Rasa (bitter taste), Katu Vipaka (pungent post-digestive effect), Ushna Virya (hot potency) and Kapha-Pitta Hara (alleviator of Kapha and Pitta doshas), underscoring its pharmacological relevance in metabolic, dermatological, ophthalmic and toxicological conditions. Comparative analysis demonstrates both continuity and contextual divergence in its usage, reflecting the evolving therapeutic applications of Daruharidra from internal medicine to surgical, lifestyle, and preventive domains.

The Sharangdhara Samhita (13th century A.D.), authored by Acharya Sharangdhara, grandson of Raghavdeva and son of Damodara, is regarded as one of the three principal texts of the

Laghu Trayi along with Madhava Nidana and Bhavaprakasha. Structured into three Khandas with 32 chapters, this compendium outlines numerous therapeutic practices. Within it, Daruharidra finds repeated mention, both in single-drug prescriptions and as a constituent of compound formulations, reflecting its broad utility in clinical applications of the period.

The Bhavaprakasha (16th century A.D.), written by Acharya Bhavamishra, is another influential treatise of the Laghu Trayi. Divided into Purva Khanda, Madhyama Khanda, and Uttara Khanda, it covers diverse aspects of Ayurvedic science. In this text, Bhavamishra has provided a detailed account of Daruharidra, carefully noting its properties, therapeutic actions, and extensive use across a wide range of diseases. Its frequent inclusion in polyherbal preparations further demonstrates its versatility and valued role in Ayurvedic formulations.

Together, these two treatises emphasize the continuity of Daruharidra's importance during the medieval era, highlighting its enduring pharmacological significance and consistent therapeutic relevance across Ayurvedic practice.

Period / Text	Author	Century / Era	Classification / Mention of Daruharidra	Context / Notes
Vedic Texts	Vedic sages	c.1500-1000 BCE	General mention of medicinal plants	Used for treatment of common ailments
Charaka Samhita	Agnivesha, revised by Charaka & Dridhabala	c. 1000 BCE - 200 CE	Arshoghna Mahakashaya, Kandughna Mahakashaya, Lekhaniya Mahakashaya, Tikta Skandha	Therapeutic use in multiple formulations
Sushruta Samhita	Sushruta, later edited by Nagarjuna	c. 1000 BCE - 500 CE	Haridradi, Mustadi, Lakshadi, Daruharidradi gana, Rasaut-anjandi gana, Tikta Varga	Described for diverse ailments, surgical adjuncts
Ashtanga Hridaya	Vagbhata	7th Century CE	Asanadi, Haridradi, Mustadi, Nasya, Vachadi, Rasaut-anjandi ganas	Noted for multipurpose therapeutic uses
Ashtanga Sangraha	Vagbhata	7th Century CE	Various contexts	Holistic description across 8 branches
Sharangadhara	Sharangadhara	13th	Several formulations	Widely used in

Samhita		Century CE		compound preparations
Bhavaprakasha	Bhavamishra	16th Century CE	Detailed pharmacological properties and uses	Multipurpose medicinal use
Bhela Samhita	Bhela, disciple of Atreya	6th Century BCE	Various formulations	Unique references, disease management
Harita Samhita	Harita	Early medieval period	Annapana, Arishta, Chikitsa, Kalpa, Sutra, Sharira sthanas	Detailed pharmacological properties and uses
Kashyapa Samhita	Vridha Jivaka, revived by Vatsya	600-1000 CE	Pediatric formulations	Major role in Kaumarbhritya (pediatrics)
Siddhasara Samhita	Ravigupta	7th Century CE	Various mentions	Described for disorders, compound use

DISCUSSION

The continuous mention of Daruharidra across nearly all major Ayurvedic treatises demonstrates its therapeutic centrality. While early Vedic references were general, systematic classifications began in the Samhita period, where Daruharidra was included in specific ganas (groups of drugs) like Arshoghna (anti-hemorrhoidal), Kandughna (anti-pruritic), and Lekhaniya (scraping/anti-obesity). Surgical contexts in the Sushruta Samhita highlight its use in wound healing and infection control, suggesting an early recognition of its antimicrobial action. Later texts like Bhavaprakasha refined its pharmacological profile, reflecting continuity as well as innovation in Ayurvedic pharmacology.

The consistency of its description across centuries indicates not only its empirical effectiveness but also the preservation of knowledge within the Ayurvedic tradition. Interestingly, the pediatric emphasis in Kashyapa Samhita and the surgical focus in Sushruta Samhita highlight the plant's adaptability to varied contexts. This wide applicability makes Daruharidra an ideal candidate for bridging ancient insights with modern pharmacological validation.

CONCLUSION

Daruharidra emerges as one of the most consistently mentioned and therapeutically versatile herbs in classical Ayurveda. Its documentation from the Vedic hymns to medieval texts underscores its enduring significance in disease management. The master table presented here

consolidates textual evidence, offering a valuable resource for researchers. Moving forward, critical correlation between these classical references and modern pharmacological findings may provide a deeper understanding of Daruharidra's potential in contemporary healthcare, while honoring its historical legacy.

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