

DISSOLUTION OF SNUHI KSHEER (LATEX OF EUPHORBIA NERIIFOLIA)

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Article Received on
16 Sept. 2022,

Revised on 06 Oct. 2022,
Accepted on 26 Oct. 2022

DOI: 10.20959/wjpr202215-26067

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ABSTRACT

Snuhi is considered a poisonous plant and classified under upvisha^[1] (Less virulent poison). In Raj Nighantu, *snuhi ksheer* is indicated in *Ashtamahagada* (*Vata vyadhi, ashmari, kustha, meha/ prameha/ madhumeha, udara roga, bhagandar, arsha* and *grahni*).^[2] Because it is poison So, it should be used very carefully. After drying *snuhi ksheer*, it became *churna* (coarse powder). A proper medium is required in which *snuhi ksheer* powder is dissolved and can be given in subjects (rat, mice, etc.). Here we try to know the solvent in which the maximum solubility of the *snuhi ksheer* occurred.

KEYWORDS: *Snuhi ksheer*, Olive oil, Ethanol.

INTRODUCTION

Nearly 500 years ago, Swiss physician and chemist **Paracelsus** expressed the basic principle of toxicology: "All things are poison and nothing is without poison; only the dose makes a thing, not a poison."

In *Ayurveda*, there are many poisons, which are mentioned and also used as drug constituents. *Snuhi* is also mentioned as a poison plant and also indicated in *Prameha, kushtha* etc.

Snuhi ksheer are indicated as *virechniya dravya* and called for used in *pramehi*. In *Raj Nighantu*, *Snuhi* is indicated in following diseases-

स्नुहीरुष्णा पित्तदाहकुष्ठवातप्रमेहनुत् ।

क्षीरं वातविषाध्मानगुल्मोदरहरं परम् ॥

(*Raj nighantu Shalmalyaadi varga sloka no.51*)

- *Ushna veerya* and *pitta janya vikaar*
- *Daah* (Burning sensation)
- *Kushtha Roga* (Skin diseases)
- *Vata vikaar*
- ***Prameha*** (Diabetes mellitus)
- *Visha vikaar* (Poisoning)
- *Adhmaan* (Flatulence with gurgling sound)
- *Gulma Roga* (Abdominal-lump)
- *Udara Roga* (Disease of abdomen)

In modern times, experimental data is very important for proving the benefit and use of any drug. Although the use of *Snuhi Ksheer* in the above diseases is mentioned in *Samhitas* and *Nighantus* but their experiential data are not available. Experiments are performed in Albino mice, Wistar rats, etc. and the drug is introduced in the stomach of the subject via a stomach tube. So, the drug must be in soluble form so that it could easily be administered in the subject for proper results.

***Snuhi ksheer* collection**

The *ksheer* from *Snuhi* was collected early in the morning, before sunrise. With the help of a scalpel, the *Snuhi* branch was incised vertically from down upwards (5 mm deep) keeping a collection jar under the slit. As soon as the cut was made, a milky substance (*ksheer*) started dripping down. This *ksheer* was collected in the jar. After collection of the *ksheer*, the jar was packed and sealed so that no air could enter it.

***Snuhi ksheer* purification^[3]**

Freshly collected *Snuhi ksheer* (Latex of *Euphorbia neriifolia*) and juice of *Chincha Patra* (leaves of tamarind plant) were mixed. *Snuhi ksheer* (latex of *Euphorbia neriifolia*) was taken in the amount of 2 pala/ 8tola/ 93grams and was mixed with 2 tola/ 23grams of *Chincha*

Patra swaras (juice of tamarind leaves). Both were mixed and filtered by cotton cloth in a stainless-steel pot, then dried in sunlight. The dried latex will be used as the trial drug mixed with the proper vehicle.

Dissolution of *snuhi ksheer*

1. **Solubility in water:** Dried *Snuhi Ksheer* was mixed in water for 24 hours at room temperature. Dried *Snuhi Ksheer* was insoluble in water. It is also insoluble in 70⁰ C heated water (Concentration 2.5mg/ml).



Plate 1: Dried *snuhi ksheer* in water.

2. **Solubility of *snuhi ksheer* in ethanol:** Dried *snuhi ksheer* was mixed in ethanol and stirred but it was not soluble in ethanol. Ethanol was heated up to 70⁰ C and Dried *snuhi ksheer* was mixed and stirred, but it was insoluble in ethanol (Concentration 2.5mg/ml).



Plate 2: Dried *snuhi ksheer* in ethanol.

3. **Solubility of *snuhi ksheer* in olive oil:** Dried *snuhi ksheer* was mixed with olive oil and heated up to 70⁰ C then it was stirred for about 15 minutes. *Snuhi Ksheer* was almost dissolved in olive oil (Concentration 2.5mg/ml).



Plate 3: Dissolved *snuhi ksheer* in olive oil.

CONCLUSION

Snuhi is a useful and potent drug in Ayurveda. According to Raj Nighantu, *Snuhi Ksheer* is indicated *Ashtamahagada*. *Snuhi* plant is poisonous so it is used very carefully. Dried *Snuhi Ksheer* is for better absorption, it should be soluble and dissolve in any solvent. Its solution can be given to any subject in the experimental study so that it is absorbed easily and results are accurate. Dried *Snuhi Ksheer* was insoluble in water, and ethanol and it was soluble in olive oil.

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