



Medicinal Uses Of Poisonous Plant - A Brief Review

¹Dr.Pavan Bhikanrao Jadhav ²Dr.Vijay V Patil

1.PG scholer,Agadtantra Department 2.HOD & Guide , Agadtantra Department

**YASHWANT AYURVEDIC COLLEGE POST GRADUATE TRAINING & RESEARCH
CENTRE,KODOLI.**

ABSTRACT-

Ayurveda Is A Conventional Medical System With Origins In The Indian Subcontinent. There Are Eight Main Medical Specialties In It. One Of The Specialist Branches Of Ayurveda, Known As Agada Tantra, Provides Incredibly Detailed Knowledge Regarding Both Living And Non-Living Toxins, As Well As How To Remove Them From The Body. There Are Numerous Ancient Books In Which We Can Find References Of Agada Yoga. A Poisonous Plant Is Defined As A Plant That When Touched Or Ingested In Sufficient Quantity Can Be Harmful Or Fatal. Many Plants Are Harmful To People When Consumed Or Through Skin Contact With Plant Chemicals. Poisonous Medicinal Herbs Are Used To Treat A Variety Of Illnesses, Including Diabetes, Cancer, Infection, And Fungal Growth. According To The Review, Numerous Phytochemical Components That Have Diuretic, Purgative, Laxative, Anti-Allergic, And Other Significant Therapeutic Effects Have Been Identified From A Variety Of Medicinal Plants. If Utilized Appropriately, Poison Can Be Life-Giving, Calming To The Three Doshas, Encouraging, And Regenerating. The Poisonous Plants Categorized In Visha And Upvisha In Ayurveda Texts. Agadtantra Is An Important Branch Of Astanga Ayurveda. Importance Of This Branch Has Been Described In Our Vedas, Epics, And Samhita. Proper Description, Classification, Clinical Features, And Management Of Any Kind Of Visha Has Been Described In This Branch. Name Of Some Poisonous Plants Are Dhatura, Vatsanabha, Bhallataka, Bhanga, Kuchala, Vacha And Gunja Etc. Shodhana Process Is The Only Bridge Between Visha And Aushadhi. Shodhana Is The Process By Which Physical, Chemical And Natural Impurities Are Removed. It Will Intensify The Potency, Effectiveness Of Drug, Nullify The Toxicity. The Aim Of This Review Article Is To Provide A Brief Overview Of The Numerous Medicinal Uses Of Some Poisonous Plant.

KEYWORDS: Agad Yoga, Agad Tantra, Poison, Toxins, Poisonous Plants, Ayurveda.

INTRODUCTION –

Agadtantra deals with study of the poisons, its action, clinical manifestation diagnosis of acute, chronic and cumulative toxicity and treatment. Poison refers to the toxins produced by toxic materials and living organism which are dangerous to human beings e.g. poisonous plants, heavy metal and its compound, the venom of snake, scorpion, spiders, bees etc., bacterial and non-bacterial food poisoning, artificial poison like insecticide, herbicide and rodenticide etc. It includes also occupational and industrial toxicity, its clinical manifestation, diagnosis and management. It includes also acute, chronic toxicity of various addicted drugs, its withdrawal and its management. According to Acharya Charaka, if poison used in a therapeutic dose will

provide results in a beneficial way to the patient.^[1] Visha means poison and it was named Visha by Acharya Charaka.^[2] Visha Chikitsa or Agad Tantra include the treatment of diseases caused by poison and toxins, such as animal, reptile, insect bites, spoiled food and poisonous minerals, metals and unsuitable food combinations.^[3] Thus Visha has been defined as a substance which is destructive to life and possesses properties like Ushna, Tikshna, Ruksha, Sukshma, Vyavayi, Vikasi, Ashukar, Anirdeshya rasa and Apaki etc. The drugs which possess these properties is in less virulence than Vishas are called Upavishas.^[4,5]

Description of Some Poisonous Plants-

Dhatura (Dhatura Metal Linn.)^[6,7]

A perennial herbaceous plant, belonging to Solanaceae family. Dhatura, commonly known as thorn apple, jimson weed, locoweed, and devil's weed. Dhatura plant. Chemical Constituents Main constituents of the Dhatura plant are tropane alkaloids (hyoscyamine, hyoscyne, littorine, acetoxypine, valtropine, fastusine, fastusinine), a number of withanolides and various triglycol esters of tropine and pseudotropine. Calystegines, the nortropine alkaloids with glycosidase inhibitory activity, have also been found in various Dhatura species. Therapeutic Uses- Plant contains many useful phytochemicals which renders it of benefit for using treatment of many kinds of diseases. Notably the leaves are frequently use as remedy for asthma and proctatile cough.

- **Local:** Being Jantughna, Vedanastapana and Kushthaghna.
- **Anna and Purishavaha:** Dhatura diminishes excessive hyperperistalsis of stomach and duodenum whereby it relieves pain in abdomen and controls secretion of Pitta. Hence, it is used in Amlapitta, Parinamashula and Pittashmari to relieve pain and to control secretion of acid and bile. It is also useful to relieve pain present in Amashayagata vata, Vatajagrahani and Pravahika.
- **Pranavaha:** It relieves bronchial spasm and absorbs mucus whereby it eliminates Shvasa and Kasa.
- **Rasa-Raktavaha:** It improves rate of contraction of the heart and the pulse by stimulating vagus nerve (Pranada vatavahini). Jvara- It is very good Kapha-Vatashamaka. Its seed powder is useful to overcome Bhrama (dizziness) and Pralapa (delirium) associated with Vishamajvara.
- **Majjavaha:** It is Vedanasthapana and Madaka. It acts as a cholinergic blocking agent of the nerves and hence works as Shoolaghna (antispasmodic). It should be used as Vedanashamaka (*analgesic*) in Vatavyadhi.
- **Shukra Artavavaha:** Useful in Kashtartava (dysmenorrhoea) as it removes uterine spasm. It is also useful in premature ejaculation being Shukra stambhana due to its Kashaya and Rooksha gunas.
- **Mutravaha:** It acts as antispasmodic of ureters and bladder and hence should be used in renal colic. Should also be used to overcome bed wetting in children.
- **Svedavaha:** Since it raises body temperature by decreasing rate of perspiration due to its Ruksha guna, it is used to prevent or to treat chills and rigors.

Formulations –

1. Kanakasava
2. Ekangavira Rasa
3. Tribhuvana Kirti Rasa
4. Sri Jayamangala Rasa
5. Laghu Vishagarbha Taila
6. Vishatinduka Taila
7. Dhatura Taila

Vatsnabh (Acontium ferox Wall)^[8]

Family – Ranunculaceae English: Indian aconite, Hindi Name: Meetha Telia, Bachnag, Meetha visha, Sanskrit names: Vatsnabh, Amrit,

Chemical Composition- Vatsnabha is good source of following photochemical- Aconite, Pseudo-aconitine, Indaconitine, Catecholamine, Isoquinolines

Therapeutic Indications –

Fever, Chronic Fever, Inflammation Induced Fever- Like Rheumatic Fever, Loss Of Appetite (Rarely Used Unless Fever, But Beneficial During Fever Or Illness For Improving Appetite). Splenomegaly, Diabetes, Respiratory Infections, Indigestion, Poor Digestion, Asthma, Cough, Common Cold.

Formulations -

1. Amrit Rasayan
2. Anand bhairav ras
3. Hinguleshwar ras
4. Jaya vati
5. Jwarmurari ras
6. kaphketu ras
7. Mahalaxmi vilas ras
8. Mrityunjaya Ras

Gunja (Abrus Precatorius)^[9,10,11,12]

Family- Leguminosae

Common Name– Gunja English Name– Indian liquorice root. Sanskrit– Gunja, Raktika, Kakananti Hindi– Ratti

Active Principle- Seeds contain active principles, abrin, a thermolabile toxalbumin; abrine, an amino acid; hemagglutinin, a lipolytic enzyme; and abralin, a glycoside.

Therapeutic Indication-

Urustambh, Udararog, Shotha Viryavikar Vatavyadhi, Kushta, Krimi, Arsha, Visrpa, Vicharchika And Kaphaj Galgand. When Used Locally, Gunjadya Taila Is Quite Successful At Treating Darunak. The Efficacy Studies Of The Purified Seeds Show The Significant Result On Hair Growth. There Are Various Parts Of A. Precatorius, Which Shows Different Pharmacological Activity. This Plant Is Having Antiestrogenic, Antimicrobial, Antidiabetic, Antioxidative, Neuroprotective, Antiviral, Neuromuscular, Anticonvulsant, Antiepileptic, Immunomodulating, Abortifacient, Anthelmintic, Antidepressant, Memory Enhancing, Antiserotonin, Diuretic, Antiyeast, Anti-Inflammatory, Antiarthritic And Analgesic, Anticancer, Antifertility And Antispermato-genic Activity.

Formulations –

1. Gunjabhadra rasa
2. Gunja Jeevan rasa
3. Pratham gunjaydhya taila
4. Ditiya gunjaydhya taila

Bhanga (Cannabis sativa) [^{13,14,15}]**Family-Cannabaceae**

Cannabis is also called marijuana, Hashish, Ganja etc. It is also classified as mild hallucinogen or a sedative or a narcotic. Sanskrit name- Bhanga, Ganja, Maatulani, Maadini, Vijaya, Jaya. Common name- Marijuana, Marihuana, Hashish, Pot, Hash, Grass, Weed.

Chemical Constituents- Bhanga has many chemical constituents. Some important chemical constituents are Cannabinol, tetrahydro-cannabinol, Cannabidiol, 1-dehydrotetrahydrocannabinol, eugenol, sesquiterpenes, cannabinoids etc. Active Principle- It is not an alkaloid, but a fat- soluble oleoresin, cannabinol, the active form being 9- tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). It also contains benzopyrene, a known carcinogen which is also found in tobacco.

Therapeutic Uses^[16,17,18]

1. Pure Bhang 1 part, Jayphal 1 part and Indrayav 2 part with honey is very useful in dysentery.
2. Roasted Bhang seeds powder with honey in the night is useful in Nindra naash, Attisaar, Grahani.
3. Bhang leaves with hot water is useful in piles.

Formulations

1. Jatiphaladi churna
2. Trilokaya samhohan rasa
3. Trilokaya Vijaya vati
4. Madanodaya modak

CONCLUSION –

Ayurveda is an ancient and renowned medicinal pathy of ancient India. Even the poisonous plants have been used for medicinal purpose in Ayurveda. Acharyas use many toxic natural drugs either in their crude form or after Shodhana processes for treating human diseases. As we know that even a strong poison can be converted to an excellent medicine if processed and administered properly but if handled incorrectly, it may become hazardous. Poisonous plants have numerous medicinal values. Certain precautions about those plants are enough to use these poisonous plants for medication purposes.

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