



SODHANA (PROCESSING) OF ABRUS PRECATORIUS (GUNJA): A LITERARY STUDY

1. Yashwant Soni, M.D. Scholar, Dept. of Dravya Guna, M.M.M. Govt. Ayurveda College, Udaipur
2. Priyanka Kumari, M.D. Scholar, Dept. of Kriya Sharir, National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur
3. Rajesh Chandra Mishra, Asso. Professor, Dept. of Dravya Guna, M.M.M. Govt. Ayurveda College, Udaipur

ABSTRACT

Abrus Precatorius, often known as Indian liquorice, is an herb referenced in the *Samhita* and other Ayurvedic writings. It is classed as *Upavishas* (semi poisonous medicine) in the *Rasashastra* scriptures and as *Sthavara Visha* (inanimate poisons) in the *Samhita*. Poisons are utilised therapeutically as medicine following the *shodhan* treatment, despite their severe and dangerous effects.

The *Shodhan* method cleanses the medication while simultaneously reducing its side effects. This form of toxicity was assessed using a pharmaceutical study of *Gunja* (*Abrus precatorius*) to investigate the purification process in a methodical and scientific manner. After *Dolayantra* performed *Shodhana* on both varieties of *Gunja Beeja*, this study was conducted. After *Shodhana*, the colour of all six samples has altered. When *Abrus Precatorius* is used in formulations after adequate purification, it can have amazing results in a variety of diseases.

INTRODUCTION

In Ayurveda, herbal medications are the most common form of treatment. These drug sources can be divided into two categories: toxic and non-poisonous. Strong poisons, it has been claimed emphatically, may be the best medicine if taken after complete detoxification. *Abrus Precatorius* (L.) is a poisonous plant in the Leguminosae family. According to Ayurveda, when a poison is used properly, it transforms into nectar. After adequate cleansing, an Ayurvedic physician employed *A. Precatorius* in the treatment of illnesses. The purification technique includes not only purificatory measures but also the process of drug detoxification.

The ultimate goal of purification is to improve the drug's biological efficacy. In Ayurveda, *shodhan Samskar* refers to the use of substances in treatment that are known to have poisonous qualitiesⁱ. Jequirity seeds, also known as *Gunja*, are one such medication that goes through the *Sodhana* procedure before being used as a treatment in Ayurveda. *Gunja*, both red and white varieties, is good for hair and heals ailments caused by vitiation of *Vata* and *Pitta* (body humours), such as fever, dry mouth, giddiness, difficulty breathing, thirst, excitation, and disorders of the eyes. Improves sex vitality and bodily power, and can be used to treat pruritus, ulcers, worms and other parasites, alopecia and other skin conditionsⁱⁱ,

as well as *Rakshograhavisha* (anti-microbial)ⁱⁱⁱ. Gunja contains toxalbumin and hemagglutinin, and has been utilised as a medication in Ayurveda. described in Ayurveda for the utilization of drugs in medicine which are known to have some toxic properties. The detoxification of gunja has been done using the *Swedana* method.

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION:

- **Habitat** - tropical and subtropical areas most commonly Himalayas of India.
- **Habit** - branched, slender, perennial, deciduous, woody, prickly twining or climbing herb.
- **Stem** - cylindrical, wrinkled,
- **Bark** - smooth-textured, brown.
- **Leaves** - pinnate and glabrous, with many leaflets. The leaflets are 2.5-cm long and 1.5-cm wide.
- **Flowers** - 1 to 3 inches long, usually red to purple, or occasionally white.
- **Fruit** - legume (pea shaped pod) 3 cm long.
- **Seed** - red and black seeds, 4 to 6 peas in a pod.

MATERIAL AND METHODS:

It involves:

Pharmaceutical Study:

Selection of the drug: Fully developed seeds of with black spot and *shwet gunja*.

Chemical structure –

- *Gunja* (*Abrus Precatorius*), a *Vanaspathic Visha* (Vegetative poison)^{iv} is described and classified as *Upavisha* (sub-poisonous drug)
- *Gunja* seeds contain Abrin, a poisonous and frequently utilised geogeneous chemical.
- Other compounds identified in the seeds include poisonous pyrogen species, fat-splitting enzyme, abrussic acid, haem agglutinin, and urease.

Table :1 - *Raspanchak* of *Abrus precatorius*

	<u>SEEDS</u>	<u>ROOT</u>
1.	<i>Rasa</i>	<i>Tikta, Kashaya</i>
2.	<i>Guna</i>	<i>Madhura -Tikta, Kashaya</i>
3.	<i>Virya</i>	<i>Laghu,Rruksh, Tikshna,</i>
4.	<i>Vipak</i>	<i>Katu</i>
5.	<i>Doshghnta</i>	<i>Usna</i>
		<i>Vata-Pita Shamak</i>

Shodhana of Gunja Beeja:

Red and white *Gunja* seeds were made into coarse powder. Both types of 500 gm *Gunja* seeds were grouped into powder and divided into four groups each weighing 125 gm. Among eight groups, one group each of *Shwet* and *Rakta* *Gunja* seeds was kept untreated as impurified sample. Remaining six groups of samples were treated separately with *kanji* for one yam (three hours) and Distilled water (three hours) for purification by *Dolayantra* (sudation in liquid filled earthen pot) After purification, samples were dried in shade and then made into fine powder.

OBSERVATIONS AND RESULT:**The colours of the samples observed after purification of red and white Gunja seeds**

Table: 2 - Showing Colour of the Samples.

Sample no.	Sample name	colour
A.	<i>Ashuddha Rakta</i> Gunja	Yellowish Red
B.	Distilled Water <i>Shodhit Rakta</i> Gunja	Blackish Grey
C.	<i>Kanji Shodhit Rakta</i> Gunja	Blackish Grey
D.	<i>Ashuddha Shwet</i> Gunja	Faint Yellow
E.	<i>Kanji Shodhit Shwet</i> Gunja	Whitish Yellow
F.	Distilled Water <i>Shodhit Shwet</i> Gunja	Whitish Yellow

DISCUSSION

Gunja seeds have been described as a vegetable poison in both ancient and modern literature. The character of the powdered medication remained coarse after the purifying process. After that, the colour of all six samples has changed. The original colour of the *Ashuddha Rakta* gunja powder was yellowish red, but following *Shodhana* with distilled water and *Kanji*, it turned blackish grey. The colour of *Asudha Shwet Gunja Beej* powder was Faint Yellow, but after *Sodhana* with distilled water and kanji, it turned Whitish Yellow.

CONCLUSION

Sodhana Samskar revealed substantial alterations in Gunja samples in this investigation (Abrus precatirious). As a result, it is critical to follow certain procedures in order to avoid the poisonous principle's harmful effects. The physicochemical qualities of a purified medication are impacted by *Sodhan Samskar*, which may have positive therapeutic benefits.

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