

A REVIEW ARTICLE ON MEDICINAL VALUE OF *KARANJ TAILA* IN SKIN
DISORDERSDr. Mohammad Faheem*¹

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ABSTRACT

There are so many formulations *Ayurvedic* as well as modern for the treatment of skin disorders but *Karanj* is very unique and easy to have. Skin disorders mainly consist of rashes, itching, and redness like symptoms. Somewhere for wound healing also *Karanj* is recommended by *Ayurvedacharya's* Many *Nighantukara* mentioned *Karanj* as *Krimighna*, *Kandugna*, *Vrana Ropaka*. The current work is based on the compilation of data related to *Karanj* so that with help of this work a new ideas opens for the research in clinical field.

KEYWORDS: *Karanj*, *Kushth*, *Kandu*, *Vrana* etc.

INTRODUCTION

The aim of *Ayurveda* is fulfill with the help of *Aushadha Dravya* and *Aahaar Dravya*. *Aushadha Dravya's* are used for the prevention and cure from disease and *Aahaar Dravya* are used for maintenance of a good health. Both these *Dravya's* are describes in our ancient texts like *Charaka Samhita*, *Susruta Samhita*, *Astang Hridayam* and *Bhavprakash Nighantu* etc. The methods of preparation of both types of *Dravya* are well described in *Rasa Shastra* and *Bhaishajya Kalpana*. *Karanj* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) a well known drug mentioned in almost all the *Ayurvedic* classical texts basically used for skin related problems. It is mentioned in *Aragvadhadi*^[1], *Varunadi*^[2] & *Arkadi*^[3] *Dravya* of *Astang Hridayam*.

Nighantu Period

Description of *Karanj* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) in different *Nighantus*

S. No.	Nighantu	Varga
1.	<i>Dhanwantri Nighantu</i> ^[4]	<i>Amradi Varga</i>
2.	<i>Madanpala Nighantu</i> ^[5]	<i>Vatadi Varga</i>
3.	<i>Raj Nighantu</i> ^[6]	<i>Prabhadradi Varga</i>
4.	<i>Priya Nighantu</i> ^[7]	<i>Haritkyadi Varga</i>
5.	<i>Bhavprakash Nighantu</i> ^[8]	<i>Guduchiyadi Varga</i>

Botanical Description^[9]

Karanj (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) is a fast-growing, multipurpose tree of the humid tropic. It is one of the few N-fixing trees that produce oilseeds. With the increasing production of oil for biofuel, large amounts of oil cake are available for livestock feeding.

Karanj (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) is a medium-sized evergreen or briefly deciduous tree, usually about high

Need of Study

Rasa Shastra is subject which deals with the herbo-mineral formulations and their effects. *Karanj Taila* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) like wound healing and helps in skin related disorders as mentioned in *Ayurvedic* classical texts. Present study help in conclusion of efficacy of *Karanj Taila* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) by knowing its Pharmaceutical properties of *Karanj Taila* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) will be done. So we could use *Karanj Taila* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) in these problems freely.

Objectives of Study

1. Review literature of *Karanj*.
2. Review literature of *Karanj Taila*.

but that can grow to 15-25 m. the trunk is straight or crooked, 50 cm in diameter, covered with grey to grayish brown bark, smooth or vertically fissured. *Karanj* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) has a deep and thick taproot with several secondary lateral roots. The branches are spreading or dropping and form a board hemispherical crown of dark green leaves. Branchlets are hairless with pale stipule scars. Leaves are alternate, pinnately compound, pinkish-red when young becoming glossy

dark green at maturity. The leaves consist of 5-7 glabrous leaflets borne in pairs on slender stalks, and a single end leaf. The inflorescence is a 6-27 cm long raceme of typically papilionaceous, very fragrant flowers. The flowers are lavender, pink white in color, finely pubescent and 15-18 mm long. Fruits are numerous, elliptical, 3-6 cm long x 2-3 cm broad, hard and woody indehiscent pods. Pods contain 1-2 seeds; seeds are bean-like, 1.5-2.5 cm long x 1.2-2.0 cm wide, dark brown in color. They are oily, containing about 30-40% oil. The tree sheds its pods which produce long lasting ground litter. The seeds germinate after the pods husk decay, several months after dropping.

Geographical Description^[10]

The natural distribution of Karanj (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) is along coasts and river banks in India and Myanmar. In India, its occurrence and distribution of diversity is reported throughout the country in general and particularly in the Western Ghats.

Summary of Ayurvedic Properties Of Karanj (*Pongamia Glabra* Linn.)^[11]

- **Rasa-** Tikta, Katu, Kasaya
- **Guna-** Tikshna, Lagu
- **Virya-** Ushna
- **Vipaka-** Katu
- **Karma-** Kapha-Vata-Samaka, Shothara, Vranaghna, Raktprasadana etc.

Indications^[12]

Dadru, Pama, Vicharchika, Visarpa, Parisarpa, krimiroga, Arsha, Gulma, Raktivikara, Kukurkasa, Premeha, Kustha, Vishmajwara etc.

Pharmacodynamic Properties of Karanj (*Pongamia Glabra* Linn.) in Nighantus

S. No.	Texts	Rasa	Guna	Virya	Vipaka	Karma
1.	Dhanwantri Nighantu ^[17]	Tikta	-	Ushna	-	Kapha-Pitta-Samaka, Krimighna, Bhutbadha-Nashaka, Yoniroga-Nashaka, Paliharoga-Nashaka, etc.
2.	Madanpala Nighantu ^[18]	-	Tikshna	Ushna	-	Kapha-Vata-Samaka, Kushthaghna, Gulmanashaka, Arshoghna, Vranaropaka, Krimighna etc.
3.	Bhavprakash Nighantu ^[19]	Katu	Tikshna	Ushna	-	Yoniroga Nashaka, Kushthaghna, Gulmanashaka, Arshoghna, Krimighna, Vranaropaka etc.
4.	Raj Nighantu ^[20]	Katu	-	Ushna	-	Vata Shamaka, Chakshushya etc.
5.	Priya Nighantu ^[21]	Tikta, Katu	-	Ushna	-	Kushthaghna, Vranaropaka, Krimighna etc.

Synonyms of Karanj (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.)

S. No.	Synonyms	D.N. ^[22]	B.P.N. ^[23]	M.P.N. ^[24]	R.N. ^[25]	P.N. ^[26]
1.	Karanj	+	+	-	+	+
2.	Naktmaal	+	+	+	+	+
3.	Udkiya	-	+	-	-	-
4.	Parkirya	-	-	-	+	-
5.	Chirbilva	+	-	+	+	-
6.	Putika	+	+	+	+	-
7.	Ghritvarnaka	-	+	-	-	-
8.	Putivarna	-	+	-	-	-
9.	Parkeerana	-	+	-	-	-
10.	Putiparni	-	-	-	+	-

Therapeutic Uses^[13]

- **Granthi Visarpa** – Paste of Karanj bark may be applied locally (C.S.Ci.21).
- **Romasanjanana** – Kasisa and tender leaves of Karanj are pounded with the juice of Kapittha is useful (S.S.Cci1).
- **Rakta Pitta** – Seed powder of Karanj should be given with sugar & hones (S.S.Ut.45).

Parts Used^[14]

- Leaves
- Stem Bark
- Root Bark
- Seeds
- Seed oil

Dosage^[15]

- Patra Kwatha – 40-80 ml
- Sawaras – 5-10 gm

Important Formulations^[16]

- Karanjadi ghrit
- Karanjadi Tailam
- Karanj Tailam
- Karanjadi Churna

Varieties of *Karanj* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.)^[27]

There are four varieties of *Karanj* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) mentioned in classical texts-

1. *Karanj*
2. *Karanji*
3. *KantaKaranj*
4. *Chirbilva*

Major Chemical Constituents of *Karanj* (*Pongamia Glabra* Linn.)

- *Karanj* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.)in, Kanjone, Pongapin, Pongapin, *Karanj* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) a chromene, (-)-I-solonchocarpin, Glabrachromene-I, Pongamol, Glabrin etc.^[28]

Biological Activities of *Karanj* (*Pongamia Glabra* Linn.)

- Antibacterial activity of leaf extracts of *Pongamia pinnata* from India.^[29]
- Bioactivity of ethanol extract of *Karanj* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) (*Pongamia glabra* vent) seed coat against mosquitoes.^[30]
- Antibacterial activity of *Karanj* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) (*Pongamia pinnata*) and *Neem* (*Azadirachta indica*) seed oil: a preliminary report.^[31]
- Study of *Pongamia pinnata* flower and seed extracts for their antioxidant and antibacterial activity.^[32]
- Antioxidant, Antimicrobial Properties and Phenolics of Different Solvent Extracts from Bark, Leaves and Seeds of *Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre.^[33]
- Phytochemical Investigation And Antibacterial Activity Of *Pongamia pinnata*(L). Against Some Multidrug Human Pathogens.^[34]
- Study of Antimicrobial Activity of Stem Extracts of *Pongamia pinnata* L.^[35]
- Evaluation of *Pongamia pinnata* Products against the *Sclerotium rolfsii* Extracted from Chickpea.^[36]
- Phytochemical screening and antibacterial properties of leaves of *Pongamia pinnata* Linn. (Fabaceae) from India.^[37]
- In-vitro Antimicrobial Activities of *Pongamia glabra* and *Phyllanthus niruri*.^[38]
- Studies on *Pongamia pinnata* (L.) Pierre leaves: understanding the mechanism(s) of action in infectious diarrhea.^[39]
- A phyto pharmacological review on a versatile medicinal plant: *Pongamia pinnata* (L.) pierre.^[40]

DISCUSSION

Karanj is well known drug basically used for wound healing and skin related problems and almost explained by every *Nighantukara* in their texts. The *Karanj Taila* possess *Ushna Virya*^[41] and it is a known fact that, drug acts by its *Virya*. *Ushna Virya* is necessary to counteract the *Vata* and *Kapha Dosh*, hence this *Taila*^[42] is found effective in the management of skin disorders, wound healing. The benefits of *Karanj*^[43] (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) Oil” are in skin disorders, wound healing, herpes, eczema, hair growth etc. *Acharya Charaka* states that

Vata, *Pitta*, *Kapha*, *Twak*, *Rakt*, *Mamas* and *Ambu* (*Lasika*) all they are immediate causative factors for skin disorders.^[44] As *Karanj* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) is having qualities like *Laghu-Guna*^[45], properties like *Kapha-Vata-Samaka*^[46], *Raktprasandana*^[47] hence it is capable to treat skin disorders with these qualities on the basis of *Ayurvedic* fundamental principles. The *Karanj* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) seed oil is affordable and effective as many theories suggests.

CONCLUSION

As we know today's is an era of innovation and entrepreneurship so any one starts his/her starts up by making the *Karanj* (*Pongamia glabra* Linn.) seed oil and marketing it. It is durable, effective and affordable for everyone.

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