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A LITERARY REVIEW ON THE MEDICINAL IMPORTANCE OF AGNIMANTHA

Dr. Nishant Aggarwal*1 and Dr. Ritu Rani2

¹Assistant Professor, Department of Dravyaguna at Shri Bhanwar Lal Duggar Ayurved Vishwa Bharati, Sardarshaher, Churu, Rajasthan, India.

*Corresponding Author: Dr. Nishant Aggarwal

Assistant Professor, Department of Dravyaguna at Shri Bhanwar Lal Duggar Ayurved Vishwa Bharati, Sardarshaher, Churu, Rajasthan, India.

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ABSTRACT

An Ayurveda science has got a peculiarity in the management of diseases. Agnimantha is one of such drugs which play a very important role in the management of many diseases. It is an important medicinal plant which has been used in Indian system of medicine since antiquity for the treatment of various disorders. The present study aim to review of this drug both Ayurvedic as well as modern point of view. It contains various active principles raffinose, apigenin, betulin, premnenol etc. On the basis of Ayurvedic literature, experimental and clinical studies conducted in various institutes drug possess that the drug having various properties like Kapha-Vata-Hara, Sothahara, Dipana etc.

KEYWORDS: *Agnimantha*, Tarkari, Arni, Kaphavata etc.

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda is an ancient Indian system holistic medicine and plants are the backbone of this science. Agnimantha is one of such drug which is used to treat various disorders. It is the main ingredient of Brhatpanchmula^[1] as well as Dashmula. [2] Agnimantha is well explained drug, by all the Ayurvedic texts. Its stem/sticks were used to produce fire. It is a plant considered essential for rituals also. Like Patala, Agnimantha is also found to be Shvyathuhara according to Acharya Charaka. [3] Tarkari and Agnimantha are described together by Acharya Charaka in one context. [4] Acharya Sushruta enumerated Tarkari and Agnimantha separately in the Varunadi Gana. [5] In Astang Sangraha, Tarkari dvaya is delineated. [6] From these references it is clear that Brhattrayi mentioned two kinds of Agnimantha among the Nighantus. Amarkosha considered Agnimantha & Tarkari as different plants.^[7] The same is accepted by almost all the *Nighantus*. *Bhavmishra* mentioned only one variety i.e. *Agnimantha* for which *Tarkari* is the synonym.^[8] In *Kaidev Nighantu* earlier quoted that *Agnimantha* is better *Sothahara* as well as *Vatahara* drug.^[9] It is interesting to note that *Madanpala*^[10] neither mentioned *Agnimantha* and *Tarkari*. But he mentioned *Agnimantha* and *Ganikarika* separately.

Classical categorization of Agnimantha

categoriz	categorization of rightmanna					
S. No.						
1.	Charak Samhita	Shvyathuhara, [11] Shitaprashmanam, [12] Anuvasanopaga [13]				
2.		Varunadi ^[14] , Vatasamshamana ^[15]				
3.		Varunadi Gana ^[16]				
4.	Dhanvantri Nighantu	Guduchaiyadi Varga ^[17]				
5.	Priya Nighantu	Haritkayadi Varga ^[18]				
6.		Abhyadi Varga ^[19]				
7.		Oushadi Varga ^[20]				
8.	Bhavaparkasha Nighantu	Guduchaiyadi Varga ^[21]				

²Assistant Professor, Department of Dravyaguna at Shri Bhanwar Lal Duggar Ayurved Vishwa Bharati, Sardarshaher, Churu, Rajasthan, India.

Varnacular Names of Agnimantha. [22]

S. No.	Language	Names
1.	Sanskrit	Agnimantha
2.	Hindi	Arnii
3.	Gujrati	Arni
4.	Tamil	Irume mulle munne
5.	Bangali	Ganiyari
6.	Udia	Gandhona
7.	Malyalam	Appail
8.	Nepali	Ginari
9.	Garwal	Bakorcha

Synonyms of Agnimantha in Different Classical texts. [23,24,25,26,27,28]

S. No.	Synonyms	S.N.	B.P.N.	K.N.	D.N.	M.N.	N.A.
1.	Shriparni	+	+	-	+	+	+
2.	Vaijyantica	+	+	+	+	+	+
3.	Jaya	+	+	+	+	+	+
4.	Ketu	+	-	+	+	+	•
5.	Tarkari	+	+	+	+	+	+
6.	Ganikarika	+	+	+	+	-	+
7.	Jayanti	-	+	+	•	+	•
8.	Nadei	-	+	-	+	+	+
9.	Karnika	+	-	-	•	+	+
10.	Tapan	+	-	-		-	•
11.	Tanutwak	+	-	-		-	-
12.	Tajovriksha	+	-	-		-	•
13.	Arni	+	+	+	+	+	+

Action & uses of Agnimantha in Different Classical texts

S. No.	Classical texts	Action & Uses
1.	Charaka Samhita	Shvyathuhara ^[29]
2.		Vatasamshamana ⁽³⁰⁾
3.		Kaphaa-Med-Agnimandya-Nashaka ^[31]
4.	Bhavaparkasha	Deepana, [32] Balya, [33] Rasayana, [34] Sitprashmanam, [35] Saraka, [36] Vata-Kaphasamaka, [37]
4.		Sothanashaka, ^[38] Panduroganashaka, ^[39] Agnivardhaka ^[40]
5.		Vatasamshamna, ^[41] Kaphasamshanmna, ^[42] Sothahara ^[43]
6.		Vatasamshamna, ^[44] Kaphasamshanmna, ^[45] Sothahara, ^[46] Aama Dosha, ^[47] Vibandha ^[48]
7.		Vata-Kaphahara, ^[49] Sothahara, ^[50] Agnivardhaka, ^[51] Pandurogahara ^[52]
8.	Priya Nighantu	Vata-Kaphasamaka, ^[53] Sothhara, ^[54] Agnidipaka, ^[55] Jwaranashaka ^[56]

Rasapanchaka of Agnimantha in Different Classical texts. [57,58,59,60,61,62]

S. No.	Classical texts	Rasa	Guna	Virya	Vipaka	Doshakarma
1.	Dhanwantri Nighantu	Katu, Tikta	-	Usna	_	Vata-Kapha-samaka
2.	Priya Nighantu	Tikta, Kashaya	-	Usna	_	Vata-Kapha-samaka
3.	Madanpala Nighantu	-	-	Usna	_	Vata-Kapha-samaka
4.	Bhavprakash Nighantu	Katu, Tikta, Kashaya, Madhura	-	Usna	-	Kapha-Vata-samaka
5.	Kaidev Nighantu	Katu, Tikta, Kashaya, Madhura	-	Usna	_	Vata-Kapha-samaka
6.	Nighantu Adarsha	Katu, Tikta, Kashaya	-	Usna	Katu	Vata-Kapha-samaka

Taxonomical classification of Agnimantha

		Clerodendrum phlomidis Linn. [63]		Premnamucronta Roxb. [65]
1.	Kingdom	Plantae	Plantae	Plantae
2.	Clade	Tracheophytes	Tracheophytes	Tracheophytes
3.	Order	Lamiales	Lamiales	Lamiales
4.	Family	Lamiaceae	Lamiaceae	Lamiaceae
5.	Genus	Clerodendrum	Premna	Premna
6.	Species	C. phlomidis	P. integrifolia	P. mucronata

S. No.	Botanical Discription	Clerodendrum phlomidis Linn. [66]	Premna integrifolia Linn. ^[67]	Premna mucronta Roxb. [68]
1.	Habit	A large bushy shrub.	A large shrub or small tree.	A small tree.
2.	Bark	Woody	Brown and thin	Thin, pale and exfoliating.
3.	Branches	Spiny	Large branches spinous usually	Spiny
4.	Leaves	Ovate-sinuete or serrete.	Opposite or whorled and entire or serrete.	Ovate-oblong, long acuminate, base rounded, cordate or tapering, entire or irregularly dentate.
5.	Flowers	Pubescent beneath flower, white coloured and fragrant.	Small, irregular, arranged in terminal corymbs, greenish white, with unpleasant smell.	Arranged in terminal, corymbose, trichomous panicles and are greenish in colour.
6.	Fruits	Black, slightly succulent.	Black coloured drupe like fruit.	A globose drupe, green when young, dark at maturity.
7.	Seeds	Oblong	Oblong shape	Dark color
8.	Distribution	Bihar, Punjab & West Bengal	South India & West Bengal (Northern parts)	Sub-tropical, Himalyan tracts extended from Chenab in north-west India to Bhutan in the east. Also, found in dry forests tracts of South- West Bengal, Odisha and coastal Peninsular India.
9.	Chemical Constituents	Pectolinarigenin, scutellarein, apigenin, hispidulin, clerosterol, clerodi clerodendrin A, cerolic acid, ceryl alcohol, raffinose etc.	β – sitosterol, luteolin (leaves); aphelandrine, premnine, betulin, ganiarine, ganikarine, caryophellen, premnenol, premnaspirodiene etc.	Linalool, linolic acid, P- methoxy cinnamic acid, aphelandrine, caryophellen, clerodendrin-A, canikarine, Iridoid glycoside, luteolin.
10.	Image			

Therapeutic uses of Agnimantha

- 1. *Ikshumeha Agnimantha* decoction is useful. ^[69]
- 2. Sthoulya Silajatu is to be given with Agnimantha Swarasa. [70]
- 3. *Gandmala* local application of leaves paste. [71]
- **4.** *Urustabha* the paste of root with *Gomutra* used externally. [72]
- 5. Arsh sits bath with its leaves Kwath is helpful in relieving pain during Arsh. [73]
- **6. Lymphadenitis** *Agnimantha* root powder should be taken in dosage of 2 grams twice daily with water. In addition to this, an herbal paste prepared from fresh *Agnimantha* leaves and bamboo leaves should also be applied on the swelling externally. [74]
- 7. **Neuralgia** 100 ml *Agnimantha Kwath* should be given along with 125 mg *Mukta Pishti* and 125 mg *Rajat Bhasma* twice daily for the best results. [75]
- **8.** Urticaria 2 grams *Agnimantha* root powder can be

used along with 125 mg Yashad Bhasma for good results.^[76]

DISCUSSION

Agnimantha is explained in Ayurvedic texts like Charaka Sushruta Samhita, Astanga Sangraha, Bhavprakasha Nighantu, Nighantu Adarsha, Priya Nighantu, Dhanvantri Nighantu etc. According to Nighantu Adarsha Chlerodendrum phlomidies Linn. is Arni and Premna integrifolia linn is Tarkari. And Chlerodendrum multiflorum Burm is the synonym of Chlerodendrum phlomidies. Acharya Priya Vrat Sharma states in his book Dravyaguna Vigyanam volume II that Premna mucronata Roxb is Agnimantha. The presence of Katu-Tikta Rasa, Usna Virva, Katu Vipaka and chemicals like Pectolinarigenin, scutellarein, apigenin, hispidulin, clerosterol, clerodi, clerodendrin A, cerolic acid, ceryl alcohol, raffinose aphelandrine, premnine, betulin, ganiarine, ganikarine, caryophellen, premnenol, premnaspirodiene etc. makes it Arsha, Urticaria, Neuralgia, Lymphadenitis, Sthoulya, Urustabha Nashana.

CONCLUSION

After studying in detail about Agnimantha in various texts it can be conclude that the Agnimantha having a property to produce fire by rubbing its sticks and the drug Agnimantha is described by almost all the Ayurvedic authors, but the thing is that everyone explained it with a different botanical name. If we think from Ayurvedic point of view then the drug which posses Katu-Tikta Rasa, Usna Virya and Katu Vipaka can either be Agnimantha, Tarkari or Arni because they are described as synonyms of each other also. As per Avurvedic properties all three possess same properties and can be used as substitutes of each other. But if we consider modern concept than we can only say that Premna mucronata Roxb is actual Agnimantha while two are its varieties Chlerodendrum phlomidies Linn and Premna integrifolia Linn, because its having the property of producing fire after rubbing its sticks with each other and all of three belongs to same family with different botanical characteristics but with almost same chemical constituents.

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