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A LITERARY REVIEW ON THE MEDICINAL IMPORTANCE OF VATA

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ABSTRACT

From medical history one can know about recognition of the continuity of medical thoughts. It tells us about the conception and misconceptions of the past from which one can draw inferences for the present and future times. Literary review of any drug gives insight into its morphology, properties and therapeutic or dietary utility as conceived by various authors at different stages of the history. Several drugs have been mentioned in *Ayurvedic* treatises, vata is one of them which is being utilized in day to day practice.

KEYWORDS: Vata, Ayurveda, Properties etc.

INTRODUCTION

These are certain plants, which are commonly available with a specific indication and therapeutic effect, *Vata* is one of them. In the *Bhagavat Gita^I Krishna* said "There is a banyan tree which has its roots upward and its branches down, and the *Vedic* hymns are its leaves. One who knows this tree is the knower of the *Vedas*." (BG 15.1) Almost all ancient *Acharyas* of *Ayurveda* have referred this drug for its multiple benefits in therapeutic. *Vata* is explained in almost all the important *Nighantus* like *Bhavprakash Nighantu*, *Kaidev* Nighantu, *Dhanwantri Nighantu*, *Sodhala Nighantu*, *Shaligram Nighantu* etc. We can get the detailed explanation about

its synonyms, qualities and different medicinal uses. Vata is explained in text books of modern periods such as *Dravyaguna Vijnana* by Dr P.V Sharma, *Priya Nighantu*, *Shaligrama Nighantu*, The *Ayurvedic* material medica, The *Ayurvedic* pharmacopoeia of India, Wealth of India, and other books written by recent Acharyas, which provide information about its habit, habitat, morphology, chemical composition etc.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- Literary review from different *Ayurvedic* texts.
- Literary review on the basis of modern parameters

Gana and Varga of Vata according to different classical texts.

	Classical Texts	Gana & Varga
1.	Charaka Samhita. ^[2]	Kasayaskandha, Mutrasangraniya
2.	Sushruta Samhita. ^[3]	Nygrodhadi Gana
3.	Astang Nighantu. ^[4]	Nygrodhadi Gana
4.	Dhanwantri Nighantu. ^[5]	Amradi Varga
5.	Bhavprakash Nighantu. ^[6]	Vatadi Varga
6.	Kaiyadeva Nighantu. ^[7]	Ausadhi Varga
7.	Raj Nighantu. ^[8]	Amradiphala Varga
8.	Madanpala Nighantu. ^[9]	Vatadi Varga
9.	Shodhal Nighantu. ^[10]	Amradi Varga
10.	Dravyaguna Vijnana. ^[11]	Nygrodhadi Gana
11.	Gunaratnamala. ^[12]	Vatadi Varga
12.	Shaligram Nighantu. ^[13]	Vatadi Varga
13.	Soushruta Nighantu. ^[14]	Nygrodhadi Gana

Prayaya of Vata according to different classical texts.

<u> </u>	ya or vara according to unici chi classical texts.								
S. No.	Synonyms	B.P.N. ^[15]	K.N. ^[16]	D.N. ^[17]	D.H. ^[18]	D.V. ^[19]	G.R.M. ^[20]	Sho.N.[21]	Sha.N. ^[22]
1.	Vata	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
2.	Nyagrodha	+	+	+	•	+	+	+	+
3.	Ksiri	+	+	+	+	+	•	+	+
4.	Bahupado	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
5.	Raktaphala	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
6.	Skandhaja	+	+	+	+	+	•	+	+
7.	Vaisravana	+				-	+	+	+
8.	Vanaspati	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
9.	Tunga	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
10.	Jati	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+
11.	Avasa	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
12.	Shringi	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+
13.	Dhruv	+	+	+		+	+	-	+
14.	Vasa	+	•			-	-	-	-
15.	Dhruvksiri	-	•			-	+	-	-

Vernacular Names of Vata. [23]

S. No.	Language	Vernacular Names
1.	English	Banyan
2.	Hindi	Bat, Bargad, Bor, Ber
3.	Bengali	Bar, Bot, But
4.	Gujarati	Vad, Vdlo, Vor
5.	Kannada	Alada, Mara
6.	Tamil	Alamaran, Peral, Al, Alam
7.	Malayalam	Peral, Vatavrksam, Ala, Vatam
8.	Marathi	Vada, Wad, War
9.	Punjabi	Bor, Bera, Bohir, Bohar, Bargad
10.	Urdu	Bargad, Bad

Rasa Panchaka Doshakarma Rogaghanta of Vata according to different classical texts.

S. No.	Classical Texts	Rasa	Guna	Virya	Vipaka	Doshakarma	Rogaghanta
1.	Bhavprakash Nighantu ^[24]	Kasaya	Guru	Seeta	-	Kapha-Pitta- Hara	Varnya, Stambhan, Mutrasangrahaniya, Sothahara, Grahi
2.	Shaligram Nighantu ^[25]	Madhura Kasaya	-	Seeta	-	Kapha-Pitta- Hara	Varnya, Stambhan, Sothahara, Yonidoshara
	Kaidev Nighantu ^[26]	Kasaya	Guru, Ruksha	Seeta	-	Kapha-Pitta- Hara	Varnya, Yonidoshara, Grahi
4.	Dravyaguna Vijnana ^[27]	Kasaya	Guru, Ruksha	Seeta	Katu	Kapha-Pitta- Hara	Varnya, Stambhan, Mutrasangrahaniya, Sothahara, Grahi
	Dhanwantri Nighantu ^[28]	Kasaya	Ruksha, Tikshna	Seeta	-	Rakta-Pitta- Hara	Stambhan

Therapeutic uses according to different classical texts.

S. No.	Prayoga	D.V. ^[29]	B.P.N. ^[30]	Sh.N. ^[31]	D.N. ^[32]	K.N. ^[33]	G.R.M. ^[34]	So.N. ^[35]	D.H. ^[36]
1.	Prameha	+	+	-	-	ı	-	-	1
2.	Raktapitta	+	=	-	+	ı	-	-	+
3.	Chardi	+	+	+	+	ı	-	-	1
4.	Yonivyapat	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+
5.	Vranavikar	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
6.	Dantasula	+	+	-	-	ı	-	-	1
7.	Bhagandra	+	+	-	-	ı	-	-	1
8.	Vipadica	+	+	-	-	ı	-	-	1
9.	Visarpa	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+
10.	Pravahika	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+

Prayoja Anga according to different classical texts.

S. No.	Prayoja Anga	D.V. ^[37]	D.H. ^[38]	B.P.N. ^[39]
1.	Bark	+	+	+
2.	Latex	+	+	+
3.	Leaves	+	+	-
4.	Fruits	+	+	-

Matra according to different Authors.

S. No.	Authors	Powder	Juice
1.	Gyanendra Pandey ^[40]	3-6 gm	50-100 ml
2.	Banwari Lal ^[41]	3-5 gm	40-70 ml

Folk uses^[42]

A small quantity of its milky juice is dropped in "*Batasha*" and the *Batasha* is taken daily as aphrodisiac and the juice alone as a remedy for dysentery throughout the country. The milky juice, obtained from its branches is also applied on the cracked heels of the feet. According to *Yunani*, [43] the aerial root is styptic,

aphrodisiac, and useful in gonorrhoea, syphilis, biliousness, dysentry, inflammation, of the liver. Its wood is durable under water and may be used for wall curbs. The wood of aerial root is more stronger and elastic and may be used for tent poles, cart yolks and carrying shafts. [44]

Vishista Yoga

<u>gu</u>			
S. No.	Vishista Yoga	Indication	Reference
1.	Panchvalkal Kalka	Pattik Vidradhi	C.D. Chi 43/6
2.	Nyagrodhpatradi Lepa	Vatapitolavan Visarpa	Ch. Chi 21/83
3.	Vataroha Prayoga	Aamatisar	C.D. Chi 3/51
4.	Vatadi Yoga	Updansh	Y.R. Updansh Chi. 3
5.	Nyagrodhadikmudhistam Lepa	Vrana Shophnashaka	Ch. Chi 25/63
6.	Vranyo Lepa	Vranya	Sarangdhar-U.K. 11/9
7.	Nyagrodhodumbrashawth	Raktatisaar	Ch. Chi 19/99
8.	Shothnirvapanlepa	Shofprashamanam	Ch. Chi. 25/46
9.	Vtankur Lepa	Vyang	B.P. Chi. 61/40
10.	Nyogradhi Ganna Sidha Taila	Bhagander	Su. S. chi. 8/48
11.	Nyagrodhadi Ghrita	Urah Kshat or Kshin Virya	Ch. Chi 11/31
12.	Nyogradhi Ganna Dravya	Pitaj Vrana	A.H.Uttar Tantra 25/65
13.	Nyagrodhshungkanam Kwatha	Raktarsha	Ch. Chi 14/203
14.	Dahashamak Lepa	Vrana Shoth	A.H. Uttar Tantra 25/29
15.	Nyagrodhodumbrashawtha Kwatha	Vrana Ropana	Ch. Chi 25/87

Modern Review of Vata

• Latin name: Ficus bengalensis linn. [45]

• **Family:** Urticaceae. [46]

Taxonomical Classification^[47]

- **Kingdom** Plantae.
- **Division** Angiosperms.
- Class Eudicots.
- Order Rosales.
- **Family** Urticaceae.
- Genus Ficus.
- Species Bengalensis.

General Characteristic of Family Urticaceae

- Leaves: Usually alternate, often oblique, Stipules: various,
- Flowers: Cymose or clustered, Perianth: simple, calycine, regular or irregular, equally or unequally toothed, lobed or partite; segments imbricate or valvate.

- **Stamens**: As many as and opposite to the perianth lobes, sometimes adnate to their base (rarely fewer or more); filaments free or rarely connate at the base.
- **Anthers**: 2-celled, Pistillode: in male flowers small or 0. Ovary: superior, 1-celled, Ovules: solitary,
- **Style**: often eccentric, simple or 2-fid with stigmatic arms. Stigma: sessile, plumose or penicillate.
- Fruit: Simple, indehiscent, a drupe or samara, or of free achenes, or compound in a confluent mass of perianths and pericarps.
- Seeds: Erect, lateral or pendulous; testa membranous; albumen copious, scanty or 0; Embryo: Straight or curved.

General Characteristic Of Genus Ficus^[51]

- Leaves: Alternate (rarely opposite), entire, lobed, serrate or toothed; stipules clothing the bud, caduceus.
- Flowers: Minute, 1-sexual, monoecious.
- **Perianth**: In male flower 2-6 fid or partite and in neuter flower same as in male and in female flower

as in male or imperfect or obsolete. Galls flower same as in female.

- **Stamens**: 1 or 2 (rarely 3-6), erect in bud.
- Ovary: straight or oblique.
- Stigma: Entire or 2-armed, acute or obtuse.
- Seed: Pendulous; testa membranous; albumin scanty;
- Embryo: Curved; cotyledons are equal or unequal Radicle: Ascending

General Characteristic Of Species Bengalensis^[50]

- Leaves: Coriaceous, 10-20 by 5-12.5 cm, ovate or orbicular-ovate to elliptic obtuse, entire. Receptacles: About 2cm in diameter, sessile in pairs axillary globose, puberulous, red when ripe with 3 broad rounded nearly glaberous corraceous basal bracets.
- **Flowers:** Male flower rather numerous near the mouth of the receptacles.
- **Sepals:** 4, lanceolate.
- Stamens: 1.
- **Perianth:** In gall flower same as in male, in fertile flower shorter than in the male.
- **Style:** In gall flowers short in fertile flower elongate.

Distribution^[51]

The tree occurs throughout the forest tracts of India, in Subhimalayan region, Rohilkhand, common in Sal forests of Dehradun wild or cultivated all through Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, in deciduous forest of Deccan and in all districts from sea level to 1200m in deciduous and semi- evergreen forest of South Indian.

Macroscopic characters^[52]

Drug occurs in cut pieces.4-8cm long, 0.1-1.2cm thick, cylindrical or unbranched or branched, rough due to longitudinal and transverse cracks and transverse row of lenticels, external surface is grey, cut surface reddish brown, fracture, fibrous in bark portion and tough and short in wood portion.

Microscopic characters^[53]

Transverse section of mature bark shows compressed cork tissue and dead element of secondary cortex consisting of mostly stone cell and thin walled compressed elements of cortex. Cork cells are rectangular, thick walled, and containing brownish content. Secondary cortex is white forming more than half of thickness of bark, composed of large groups of stone cells and parenchymatous cells. Stone cells vary in shape. Parenchymatous cells are somewhat cubical to oval, few in number and occur between groups of stone cells. Some of cells contain prismatic crystals of calcium oxalate, starch grains and tannin. Secondary phloem is composed of a few sieve elements, parenchyma, fibers, stone cells and latex tubes alternating with modularly rays. Sieve elements are compressed in outer region of bark while Drug Review intact in inner region. Few thick walled phloem parenchymas are present in between patches of phloem fibers and stone cells. Stone cells are

similar to those present in secondary cortex, some phloem cells contain prismatic calcium oxalate crystals, also present in fibers forming crystal fibers. Modularly rays are 2-5 seriate, composed of thick walled, circular to oval cells, few cells also converted into stone cells and some have pitted walls also containing plenty of starch grains, which are mostly round, rarely oval or semi lunar in shape, simple as well as compound type. Compound starch grains consist of 2-3 components. Cambium is composed of a few layers of small rectangular thin walled cells.

Powder microscopy^[54]

Reddish brown; shows oval to elliptical, elongated, thick walled stone cells with wide lumen and clear pit canals; fibers, thick walled with blunt tips and wide lumen; xylem vessels shows pitted thickening.

Major chemical constituent^[55]

Leucoanthocyanin, two flavonoid compounds, viz, 5,7dimethyl ether of leucopelargonidin-3-0- alpha-Lrhamnoside and 5,3'-dimethyl ether of leucocyanidin3-0alpha-D-galactosyl cellobioside; three methyl ethers of leucoanthocyaninsdelphinidin-3-0-alpha-L-rhamnoside (I), pelargonidin-3-0-alpha-L-rhamnoside (II), leuc ocya ndin-3-0-beta-Dgalactosylcellobioside (III)20tetratriaconten-2-one, pentatriaconten-5-one, heptatriacontent-10-one, beta-sitosterol-alpha-Dglucoside and meso-inositol(stembark); tiglic acid ester of - taraxasterol (heartwood); quercetin3-glactoside, rutin, friedelin, beta-sitisterol and surface hydrocarbons (leaves).

Identity, Purity and Strength^[56]

Foreign Matter	Not more than 2 %
Total Ash	Not more than 7 %
Acid-insoluble Ash	Not more than 1 %
Alcohol-Soluble Extractive	Not more than 3 %
Water-Soluble Extractive	Not more than 4 %

Pharmacological Activities^[57]

- Hypoglycemic, hypotensive, antifertility, antidiabetic, antioxidant, hypocholesterolemic.
- Parts Used^[58]
- Fruit
- Stem bark
- Latex
- Leaf
- Aerial root.

Propagation and Cultivation^[59]

It is grown in gardens and road side for shade. It develops from seeds. It can also propagated from cuttings easily.

Trade and commerce $^{[60]}$

Not traded.

Substitutes and Adulterants^[61]

The powder prepared from fruits of ficus bengalensis is used to adulterate kampillaka i.e. *Mallotus philippinsis* Lamk.

DISCUSSION

Acharya Charka mentioned Vata in Kshaya Skhanda and Acharya Sushruta mentioned Vata in Nyagrodhadi Gana. Vata has got synonyms such as Jati, Dhruva, Vanaspati, Sringi etc. apart from classical references it is also used in folk medicine. Most of the author opined that Vata possesses Kasaya Rasa, Guru-Ruksha Guna, Seeta Virya, Katu Vipaka and Kapha-Pitta-Samaka Doshkarma. It has been therapeutically indicated in Diabetes, Leucorrhoea, Raktarsh, Bhagander, Vrana Ropana, etc.

CONCLSION

Vata is drug having properties like Kasaya Rasa, Guru-Ruksha Guna, Seeta Virya, Katu Vipaka and Kapha-Pitta-Samaka Doshkarma, according to classics. Also, described by almost every ancient Acharya in his texts. It is useful in disorders related with Kapha-Pitta Dosha. Almost all the Nighantu Dhanwantri Nighantu, Priya Nighantu, Nighantu Adarsha, Bhavprakash Nighantu, Kaidev Nighantu etc. talks about Vata and its properties The phytochemical study have revealed that the Vata is especially rich in Flavonoids, Steroids, Alkaloids and Glycosides etc. treatment of disorder like diabetes, leucorrhoea, diarrhea, Raktarsh, Bhagander, etc.

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