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Review Article

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REVIEW ARTICLE ON VISHGHANA PROPERTY OF MANJISTHA

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ABSTRACT

Poisoning being the major health problem in modern era which is increasing day by day. There are different sources from where people are consuming poison directly or indirectly. According to *Ayurvedic* point of view, there are different types of poison like *Sthavar Visha*, *Jangam Visha*, *Gara Visha*, *Dushi Visha*. So, after taking such poison shows harmful effect in human health which leads different kinds of diseases to death. So, to protect from such kinds of poisoning *Ayurveda* has mentioned different types of detoxifying Dravyas that help to diminish or destroy the poisonous effect in human body. The Concept of *Ayurvedic Vishaghna mahakashaya* explained by *Acharya Charaka* has the properties of detoxifying action. As per *Ayurved* classics, it is included in the *Vishaghna gana* (Anti poisonous drugs) and is an important constituent of several *Agada* (Anti-poisonous formulations). *Agada*, one of the modalities used for treatment of poisoning is a combination of different herbs. *Manjistha*, as a single and multiple preparations are available which indicates its utility in many poisonings. *Manjistha* is not only used as *Vishaghna* (anti poisonous) drug, but it has multiple therapeutic values, which are discussed in the article. Selection of all logical references are done and collection, correlation and explanation as per requirement. It can be useful for diseases which come under area of any field of toxicity. Hence, we can prevent and treat many toxicological disorders.



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Keywords: Ayurveda, Manjistha, Detoxifying, Vishaghna, Agada

INTRODUCTION

Poison is a substance (may be solid, liquid or gaseous) which if introduced in the living body or brought into contact with any part thereof will produce illhealth or death by its constitutional or local effects or both.¹ It's another definition is "A substance, either natural or synthetic which will lead to injury of living tissue or damage living tissues or show fatal effect on the body, whether it is ingested, inhaled or absorbed or injected through skin. All these harmful effects may show immediate or after long term². Thus, by the above definition Visha and poison seem to be analogous to each other. There are eight branches of Ayurveda, which have been written in Different Samhita. Among them, Agadtantra is one, which deals with all kinds of poisons produced by different types of Snakes, Spider, Scorpion, Rat, etc. animals, plants, combination of different types of poisonous or nonpoisonous things including their properties, their actions, sign and symptoms and their management. One of the earliest treatises of Indian medicine, the Charaka Samhita, mentions the use of over 2000 herbs for medicinal purpose. Charaka Samhita has mentioned ten antitoxic herbs in Vishaghna Mahakashaya. In that system Manjistha, which belongs to the family Rubiaceae is a very important herb with a broad spectrum of pharmacological activities, medicinal properties and Vishaghna (Anti poisonous) properties. One of the famous Traditional systems of medicine is the Ayurveda system of medicine since antiquity. Having importance to herbal plants and their therapeutic usage for treating diseases. Manjistha, one among the Vishaghna mahakashayas mentioned by Acharya Charaka. Each drug of Vishaghna Mahakashya is chief ingredient of many classical preparation and *agada* preparation (Anti-poisonous ayurvedic preparation) which has large area of therapeutic uses. The pharmacological properties of drug *Manjistha* are having broad spectrum in the field of *Ayurvedic*.

Material and Method:

This review has done with an intention to provide an overview on Pharmacological activities and *Vishaghna* (Anti poisonous) property of Manjistha. The data were collected from Ayurveda authentic texts, scientific journals and through the electronic media.

Common Description & Scientific classification ^{: 3-} ⁵

Habitat: *Rubia cordifolia* is a climbing plant growing in the North-west Himalayas, Nilgiris and other hilly districts of India (Altitude: 1500-2500m)

Botanical description: It is Perennial, prostate or climbing herb. Stems sharply 4-angled, minutely prickly; leaves in whorled of 6-8, elliptic to ovatecordate, long petiolate, flowers in axillary panicles of dichotomous cymes, greenish yellow; fruits 2-celled, globose, smooth, shining, purplish-black when ripening.

Flowering and fruiting: June-October and Part used: Root and Stem mainly. Cultivation: The tolerable thermal range for the species varies from 15-35°C in high altitude of Himalayas. The plant prefers loose, moist, light soil with some shade. As the root goes deep into soil, porous well-aerated soils are beneficial for cultivation. Irrigation is recommended at weekly intervals to maintain moist conditions in the beds. For vegetative propagation, pieces of the stem are planted directly.⁶

Taxonomical Classification

Kingdom	Plantae
Class	Dicotyledons
Subclass	Sympetalae
Order	Rubiales
Family	Rubiaceae

Genus			Rubia		
Species			Cordifolia	ι ⁷	
			*	Kannnada	Siragatthi, Bhandeera, Man-
Vernacular names : ⁸			jishta		
*	English	Indian Madder	*	Konkani	Itari
*	Sanskrit	Aruna, Bhandi, Bhandiralatik	*	Punjabi	Kattha, Majitha
*	Hindi	Manjit, Manjishtha	*	Gujrati	Majitha
*	Urdu:	Majith Malayalum Manjithi	*	Manipuri	Moyum
*	Marathi	Manjestha	*	Oriya	Manjishta
*	Kashmiri	Dandu, Mazait	*	Tibetan	Brtsod
*	Assammese	Majathi, Mandar	*	Tulu	Manjishta
*	Tamil	Mancitti	*	Nepali	Majito

Ayurvedic pharmacodynamic properties by Different Nighantu ⁹⁻¹¹

Literature	Rasa	Guna	Veerya	Vipaka	Karma
Bhav prakash	Kashya, Tikta,	Guru	Usna	Katu	Kaphapittasamaka,
Nighantu	Madhura				Varnya, Svarya, Visaghna, Sothaghna, Kusthaghna, Pramehagh- na, Vrnaya, Krimighna, Stambhana, Artavajanana, Rasayana
Dhanvantari Nighantu	Madhura Kashaya	Guru	Usna	Madhur	Kapha-Vrana-Meha-Asra- Visha- Aamyajeeta
Kaiyadev Nighantu	Kashaya Tikta	Guru	Usnaa	Madhur	Yoniroghana Kaphasho- pha- Vishapaha Visarpa- Meha-Kustha-Arsa-Vrana- Rakta-Atisarajeeta
Raj Nighantu	Madhura Kashaya	Guru	Usnaa		Vrana-Meha-Jwara- Sleshma- Visha - Netramayapaha

Chemical Composition of Manjistha

- *Rubia cordifolia* is most known for its anthraquinones and naphthohydroquinones phytochemical constituents¹².
- The chief constituents of Rubia cordifolia are Rubiadin¹³, Rubicordone A¹⁴, Rubiasins A-C¹⁵, Rubiatriol¹⁶ and two pentacyclic triterpenoid- Rubicoumaric acid Rubifolic acid¹⁷.

Description of Manjistha in Ayurved literature.

S.No	Ayurvedic Literature	General classification	Vishaghna Classifi-
			cations
1.	Charaka Samhita ^{18,19,20}	Varnya ,Jwarhar	+
2.	Susruta Samhita ^{21,22}	Priyangvadi and Ambashthadi gana	-
3.	Ashtanga Hridaya ^{23,24,25}	Priyangvadi Varga	+
4.	Bhavaprakasha Nighantu ²⁶	Haritkyadi varga	+
5.	Raj Nighantu ²⁷	Pippalyadi varga	+

6.	Kaiyadeva Nighantu ²⁸	Aushadhi varga	+
7.	DhanvantariNighantu ²⁹	Guduchtadi varga	+
8.	Priya Nighantu ³⁰	Pippalyadi varga	+

Antitoxic activity of Manjistha

Rubia cordifolia shows potent antioxidant activity against lead nitrate and radiation induced toxicity. ^{31,32} According to *Bhava Prakash, Rubia cordifolia* is able to bind itself with *Amavisha* (free radicals) and *garavisha* toxins which cause inflammation, skin disease, ulcers and others' problems. ³³ Alizarin Bi-

omarker of *Rubia cordifolia* is responsible for Antigenotoxic activities. ³⁴ A balanced combination of *Soma* (cooling) and *Agni* (heat) found in *Rubia cordifolia. Agni* allows the herb to penetrate into the cellular level of tissue and *Soma* helps to soak up toxins and neutralize them. ³⁵

S.No	Literature	Yoga and Agad Preparation	Indication	Reference
1.	Charak	Rajniadi Churna	Visha	C.S.Chi.23/50
		Mahagandhahasti agad	Visha	C.S.Chi.23/77-94
		Pipplyadi Pishthi	Visha	C.S.Chi.23/185
		Manjishthadi Pana	Mandali Sarpa visha	C.S.Chi.23/196
2.	Sushruta	Mahagada	Vishavegahar	S.S.K.5/61-62
		Rishabhagada	Sarpakeeta visha	S.S.K.5/68-72
		Drakshadi agad	Sarpavisha	S.S.K.5/76-77
		Ksharagada	Vish	S.S.K.6/3-7
		Kalyanak Sarpi	Vish	S.S.K.6/8-11
		Snukakshiradi lehya	Mushak damsha	S.S.K.7/22
3.	Vagabhatt	Manjishthadi churna pana	Sarpa visha	A.H.U.36/59
		Kashmaryadi pana	Sarpa visha	A.H.U.36/65
		Pathyadi lepa	Vraschika visha	A.H.U.37/38
		Champakadi agad	Luta visha	A.H.U.37/71
		Agardhumadi lepa	Mushaka visha	A.H.U.38/18
		Suryodaya agad	Visha	A.S.U.40/57
		Priyangavadi agad	Visha	A.S.U.40/59
		Mushkadi yoga	Visha	A.S.U.40/81
		Ajeya ghrita	Visha	A.S.U.40/98
		Mahagada	Visha	A.S.U.42/61
4.	Bhavaprakash	Jatyadi Taila	Vishaj vrana	B.P.M.47/90-95
		Mrityupasachhedi ghrita	Visha	B.P.M.67/82-87
		Rajniyugmadi lepa	Luta visha	B.P.M.67/89
5.	yogratnakar	Jatyadi taila	Vishaj vrana	Y.R. sadyovrana 46-50
		Grahadhumadi yoga	Aakhu visha	Y.R. visha 111
		Rajnidvayadi lepa	Luta visha	Y.R. visha 138
		Mrityuchhardi ghrita	Visha	Y.R. visha164-169

Therapeutic Vishaghna Yoga and Agad Preparation of Manjistha

Some Pharmacological actions of *Manjistha:* 1.Anti-tumour activity

Anti-tumour activity of RC-18, proved from *Rubia* cordifolia was repeatedly tested in different sets of

experiments on a spectrum of experimental murine tumours, viz. P388, L1210, L5178Y, B16 melanoma, Lewis lung carcinoma and sarcoma180. RC-18 exhibited significant increase in life span of ascites leukaemia P388, L1210, L5178Y and a solid tumour B16 melanoma. However, it failed to show any inhibitory effect on solid tumours, Lewis lung carcinoma and sarcoma -180. Promising results against a spectrum of experimental tumours suggest that RC-18 may lead to the development of a potential anticancer representative.³⁶

2.Wound Healing Effect

Wound Healing of an herbal formulation of *Rubia cordifolia* was done. emulsion formulation of herbal drug mixture of *R.cordifolia*, *C.asiatica*, *T.belerica*, *P.zeylanica*, and *W.somnifera* was formulated. Animals were inspected daily up to 20th days and healing was good and produced wound contraction, period of epithelization and histological study. It shows that there is contraction and new epithelization of excision wound.³⁷

3.Hepatoprotective Activity -The hepatoprotective activity of an aqueous and methanol extract of *Rubia cordifolia* was investigated against acetaminophen and CCl4induced hepatic damage. Acetaminophen created 100% death at a dose of 1 g/kg in mice while pretreatment of animals with plant extract (500 mg/kg) reduced the fatality rate to 30%. Acetaminophen at a dose of 640 mg/kg produced liver damage in rats as manifested by the rise in serum levels of GOT and GPT to 1447 ± 182 and 899 ± 201 IU/L (n =10) respectively, compared with respective management values of 97±10 and 36±11. Pretreatment rats through plant extract (500 mg/kg) lower significantly(p<0.005) the respective serum GOT and GPT levels to 161 ± 48 and 73 ± 29 .^{38.}

4.Antioxidant activity extract of root of *Rubia cordifolia* and its constituent rubiadin were found antioxidant property.^{39,40,41} Hydroxyanthraquinones were the prime antioxidant phenolic constituents of R. cordifolia.⁴² The antioxidant properties of *R.cordifolia* extract for protection Alcoholic against lipid peroxidation and reduced glutathione (GSH) content in rat liver homogenate compared with vitamin E and parabenzoquinone (PBQ).⁴³

5.Immunity enhancing activity: The ethanolic extracts of the whole plant of *Rubia Cardifolia* were tested for many immunity enhancing activities using a murine model. The active compound present in the extract enhanced both cell-mediated and humoral immunity. Administering the extracts to rats that were given the immunosuppressive drug, phosphamidon showed significant restoration in immunity ^{44.}

6.Neuroprotective Properties: R. cordifolia has been shown to exert cell/neuroprotective properties via preventing the depletion and increasing GSH (glutathione) levels by inducing GCLC (cglutamylcysteine ligase) expression, reducing oxidant levels by direct scavenging, and decreasing iNOS expression. The protective ability may be attributed to the GSH and vitamin C content of the herb.45 Neuroprotective effect of Rubia cordifolia Linn. was studied on β-amyloid Induced cognitive dysfunction in Mice. Ethanolic extract of Rubia cordifolia administration significantly (P<0.01) reduced the ßamyloid induced cognitive and memory dysfunction. The extract decreases neurodegeneration and helps in memory retention activity. The extract showed significant effects (P<0.05) in short term retention and increases long term retention of memory in step-down inhibitory avoidance task and an increase (P<0.05) in number of head dippings, line crossings and rearing's in the open field, and the water-maze test. The neuroprotective activity of the plant on Alzheimer's type dementia may be due to inhibition of AChE, MAO, free radical scavenging activity.⁴⁶

DISCUSSION

As we have seen in the above literature that *Manjistha* have been used as a prominent content in many *Agad* (antitoxic) preparations. These *Agad* are mainly used for different types of toxicity as such *Sarpa*, *luta*, *Vrischhikka and* by our great sages of *Ayurveda*. By recent research, we find that *Manjistha* has Antioxidant, Anti-tumor, hepato-protective, nephroprotective, wound healing and immunomodulator

effect also. By this research, the concept of *vishaghna* guna of Manjistha gets strengthen.

CONCLUSION

As per the above discussion, we conclude that *Manjistha* is a *Vishaghna*(Anti-toxic) drug useful in different types of toxicity. It will be beneficial for metabolic toxicity; substances acquired acute and chronic toxicity, biological toxicity, cumulative toxicity etc. and diseases due to toxicity. *Manjistha* can be easily used in today's era for preventive as well as curative disease and make life free from toxicological agents.

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