AYURVEDIC LITERATURE REVIEW OF DARUHARIDRA A HERBAL DRUG

Dr. Sabiyashabana Hasham Shaikh¹ Dr. Nilima Ghangale² Dr. Santosh D.Pawale³

¹PG Scholar, Dept. of Dravyaguna, Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Ayurved and Research centre, Pimpri, Pune (Maharashtra, India)
²Guide, Associate Professor, Dept. of Dravyaguna, Dr. D. Y. Patil College of Ayurved and Research centre, Pimpri, Pune (Maharashtra, India)
³Associate Professor, PMT’s Ayurved College, Shevgaon Dist. Ahmednagar (Maharashtra, India)

DOI No. 03.2021-11278686 DOI Link :: https://doi-ds.org/doilink/05.2022-91292957/IRJHIS2205010

ABSTRACT:

Dravya Vigyan is fundamental in separate branch of Ayurveda which deals with study of plant drugs, properties, action, dose, and time of administration & various preparations of these drugs. Recognizing the importance of Dravya guna, Shri Narhari gave prime position to Dravya Ashtanga in Astang Ayurveda in his Nighantu.

Dravya guna has not evolved spontaneously, years of observations extensive practical experiences has consolidated & enriched its principle and utility, due to this an only it has long regime in the changing scenario of the medical world and it streignigns supreme. The properties mentioned in Ayurvedic classical text are now being proved in modern parameters are, same is for Vranaropaka drugs. One of the drugs is Daruharidra, it has been prescribed in Vranaropaka by all Ayurvedic classical texts and Nighantus.

Keywords: Dravyaguna, Daruharidra, Vranaropaka

Introduction:

➢ Historical background of Daruharidra-

No reference is available in Veda about Daruharida. Rajani word has come which might be for Haridra.

• Charaka

Charaka has included the this drug in following Ganas, besides he has mentioned it in the treatment of Vranaropak, Prameha, Atisaar, Arsha, Grahani etc.

Lekhaniya¹
Arshoghan²
Kandughan³
Tikta Skandha⁴

- **Sushruta**

He has mentioned Daruharidra in Vrana chikitasa, Sadyovrana, Gandmala, Kustha, Sleepad, Kshudra Roga, Sarpdansha, Vidrhadi, Visarp, Netra-roga and Jwar. Included in following gana.
Mustadi gana⁵
Laksadi gana⁶
Tikta varga⁷
Haridradi gana⁸
Rasaut-anjandi gana⁹

- **Astanga hridya**

Daruharidra has been used in Siro-veerachan, Atisaar, Grahani, Mutraghat, Prameha, Vidrhadi, Pandu rog, Kamala, Ksotha, Visarp, Kustha, Supta-vata, Dadru, Vatarakata, Netra-roga, Timir, Mukha-roga
Nasaya gana¹⁰
Vachadi gana¹¹
Mustadi gana¹²
Rasaut-anjandi gana¹³

➢ **NIGHANTU PERIOD**

- **Dhanvantari nighantu-(10-13 th century)**

In this Daruharidra has been included in Guduchiyadi Varga.

- **Shodhala nighantu-(12 th century)**

In this Daruharidra has been included in Guduchiyadi Varga, described along with Haridra.

- **Madanpala nighantu-(1374 century)**

In this Daruharidra has been included in Abhayadi Varga.

- **Raj nighantu-(17 th century)**

In this Daruharidra has been included in Pippalyadi Varga.

- **Pippalyadi Varga**
• Kaiyadeva nighantu-(1425 century)
  In this Daruharidra has been included in Aushadhadi Varga.

• Bhavprakasha nighantu-(16 th century)
  In this Daruharidra has been included in Haritakyadi Varga. Bhavprakash has mentioned first 
  Haridra and then Daruharidra and narrated that it has similar property as Haridra but more 
  efficacious in Netra, Karna and Mukha-rogas.

• Shaligram nighantu-(19 th century)
  In this Daruharidra has been included in Astha Varga.

• Vano-ausdhai chandrodya-
  In this Daruharidra has been included in Daruharidradi varga.

• Sarvosdhi naam guna nighantu-
  In this Daruharidra has been included in Daruharidradi gana.

• Unani dravya guna nam nighantu-
  In this Daruharidra has been included in Daruharidradi varga.

• Vanaspati sristi
  In this Daruharidra has been included in Darvyadi varga.

• Vanga-sen nighantu-
  In this Daruharidra has been included in Haridradi gana, Tiktadi varga.

➢ MODERN PERIOD

The period after Nighantu Kala is the modern period. Nighantu Adarsha, Abhinava Nighantu, 
Dravyaguna Vijnanam, Dravyaguna Vignan, Abhinava Buti Darpana, Indigenous drugs of India, 
Indian medicinal plants, Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia etc. are the texts of this period.

A brief account of Daruharidra, as found in these texts is give here under:

(1) Nighantu Adarsa (Bapalal G.Vaidya)
  Included in Daruharidradi Varga, has described family character. Its Synonyms, Guna, 
  Chemical constituents and Uses are mentioned.

(2) Dravyaguna Vijnanam: (Shri Yadavji Trikamji)
  Acharya has presented an elaborate on Daruharidra including its Latin name, synonyms, 
  properties etc in this text.

(3) Dravyaguna Vignan: (Prof. P.V. Sharma):
  The Latin names, synonyms, Rasa, Guna, Veerya, Vipaka etc of Daruharidra are mentioned.

(4) Indian Medicinal Plants: (By Shri Kiritkar and Basu)
This text emphasizes the family character apart from the distinguishing feature of other species of Berberis. Vernacular name and uses are mentioned according to ayurvedic classical text and current studies.

(5) Indian Materia Medica: (By Shri Nadkarni)

Various species of Berberis has been mentioned. *B. aristata, B. asiatica, B. lycium, B. nepalensis, B. vulgaris*, vernacular names, Habitat, Part used, chemical composition, therapeutic usage and preparation. In context of *B. vulgaris* pharmacological action and therapeutic uses of berberine has been mentioned.

(6) Materia Medica of India and their therapeutics: (By Shri R.N. Khory and N.N. Kartrak)

The habitat, parts used, characters, preparations, actions and uses of Daruharidra have been discussed.

(7) Ethnovet Heritage:

The text emphasizes on botanical description, chemical constituent parts used, therapeutic usage of Daruharidra (*Berberis aristata* D.C).

(8) Flora of British India: (Hooker, J.D.-1973)

The detail botanical description of the various species of plant along with habit and habitat have been described, in this text 13 species of Berberis have been mentioned.

(9) Hand Book of Medicinal Plant: (Prajapathi, Purohit, Sharma/Kumar):

Botanical description, habitat, propagation, chemical constituents with therapeutic usage of Daruharidra are discussed in detail.

(10) The treatise of Indian Medicinal plants (Chatterjee Chattergee, Satyesh Chandra)

Vernacular names, habitat, properties-uses, botanical description and chemical constituents have been discussed.

(11) Wealth of India

Vernacular names, habitat, general botanical description, Chemical constituents, uses, etc. have been discussed.

(12) Database on Medicinal Plants used in Ayurveda:

In this book *Berberis aristata* stem and root has been used as botanical source of Daruharidra, Vernacular names, Botanical description, Ayurvedic properties, Chemical constituents, pharmacological activities, Toxicology, Therapeutic evaluation, Formulation and Preparations, Substitutes and Adulterants are mentioned.

(13) Vanoaushadi-Nidarishka (Prof. Ram Sushil Singh)

A comprehensive description is available about drug, synonyms, Ras Panchakhak, gunakarma, pharmacognosy, various species of Berberis and Brief information about Berberin.

The dose is given according to part used,
Fruits (Jarishk) - 6gm-12gm
Rasut - ½-1gm
Daruharidra stem - 3gm-6gm

Commenting on

(14) Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India (First Edition):

In this book, first time stem has been considered as medicine. In this book also Synonyms, Macroscopic and Microscopic description of Berberis aristata D.C. stem has been given. Some parameter to judge the Purity and the Identity of drug has been given, moreover Ayurvedic properties, Action, Important formulation, Dose has been mentioned.

(15) Indian Pharmaceutical Codex:

In this book Synonyms, Vernacular names, Specification of dried root of Berberis aristata has been given, Description of plant, Macroscopic and microscopic character of the root, Chemical constituent, action and uses, standard and tests, method to assay Berberine and substitute and adulterants are described.

(16) Glossary of Indian medicinal plants: (R.N.Chopra; S.L.Nayar; I.C.Chopra.)

Nine species of Berberis has been mentioned, with their Habit, habitat, uses and main chemical constituents.

Some facts- Berberis aristata root have 4.0% of total alkaloid, and of stem 1.95%, of which berberine is 2.09% and 1.29% respectively.

While describing B.vulgaris it is said that it has a fluctuating ratio of several alkaloid groups, relatively poisonous causing death through paralysis with dyspnocic symptoms.

(Merk’ jber, 1936, 102) Chem. Abstr.1937, 3149)

SYNONYMS OF DARUHARIDRA-
अन्या दारुहरिद्रा च दार्वी पीतदु पीतिका ।
कालैयकं पीतदारु स्थिररागा च कामिनी ॥
कटकटेती परजन्या पीता दारूनिशा स्मृता ।
कांतियकं कामवती दारुपीता पथम्पचा ॥
स्यात् कर्कटकिनी द्रवया प्रोक्तासप्रदशाह्वया ।
- राज्य. निघंठु

NIRUKTI-
Daruharidra: Plant having yellow wood.
Kusumbhala: This produces yellow dye like Kasumbha.
Darvi: The important part of the plant.
Kantakari: Plant has spithe nes on margin of leaves.
Parjanya: Fruit appears in rainy season.
Vishodhani: It is blood purifier.
Krimihara: Anthelmentic
Pacampach: Improve liver function.
Peetadaru: Yellow wood.

Table No. 01 Shows synonyms of Daruharidra.

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Other synonyms Darupita, Hemvati, Parjanya Kamini, Kastha, Parvatiharidra, Girijaharidra, and Daruk are also mentioned in various texts.

- RASAPANCHAK-
## Rasa-

Table No. 02 Shows Rasa of Daruharidra.

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<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Karma of DARUHARIDRA-

Table No. 06 Shows Karma of Daruharidra.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Karma</th>
<th>Cha</th>
<th>Su</th>
<th>DN</th>
<th>MN</th>
<th>KDN</th>
<th>BP</th>
<th>RN</th>
<th>NR</th>
<th>SN</th>
<th>SGN</th>
<th>NA</th>
<th>PVS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vran</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ropan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meha</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kandu</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urdah jatru gat rog</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visarp</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It is evident from the above table that maximum numbers of the authors have accepted Raspanchak as below –

**Rasa**: Tikta, Katu.

**Guna**: Laghu, Ruksha.

**Veerya**: Ushna

**Vipaka**: Katu

- **Panchabhautik Composition of Daruharidra**
  
  On the basis of gustatory perception, as has been advised by Charaka. Daruharidra possesses two Rasas viz. Tikta, Katu. The Panchabhautik composition of two Rasa is as follows:

*Table No. 07 Shows Panchabhautik sanghatan of Daruharidra.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rasa</th>
<th>Panchamahabhoota</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tikta</td>
<td>Vayu + Akasha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katu</td>
<td>Vayu + Agni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Action of Rasas on Doshas:**

*Table No. 08 Shows action of Rasas on Doshas of Daruharidra.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rasa</th>
<th>Dosha Shamaka</th>
<th>Dosha Vardhaka</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tikta</td>
<td>Kapha, Pitta</td>
<td>Vata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katu</td>
<td>Kapha</td>
<td>Vata and Pitta</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus according to Rasa, Daruharidra has Kapha and Pitta pacifying effect, on the other hand, aggravates the Vata dosha.

- **Guna:**

According to the textual description Daruharidra possesses Laghu, Ruksha guna. The Panchabhautik compositions of these gunas are as follows –
Table No. 09 Shows Guna & Panchabhautik sanghatan of Daruharidra.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guna</th>
<th>Panchabhautik</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laghu</td>
<td>Vayu+ Akasha + Agni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruksha</td>
<td>Prithvi+Vayu+Agni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The action of Guna on Doshas:

Table No. 10 Shows action of Guna on Doshas of Daruharidra.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guna</th>
<th>Dosha Shamaka</th>
<th>Dosha Vardhaka</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laghu</td>
<td>Kapha</td>
<td>Vata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruksha</td>
<td>Kapha</td>
<td>Vata</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus, according to Gunas, it is effective on Kapha Dosha and aggravates Vata.

Vipaka:

Panchabhautik composition is –

Vayu + Agni

Action on Dosha is, it aggravates Vata Dosha and pacifies Kapha dosha.

Veerya:

Panchabhautik composition is Agni.

Action on Doshas is, it aggravates Pitta and pacifies Kapha, Vata.

Based on Rasa, Guna, Vipaka and Veerya, it can be concluded that it pacifies Kapha and aggravates Vata and Pitta.

Discussion:

In Samhita and Sangraha we find lot of reference of Daruharidra and its uses in various disease like Vrana, Phiranga, Upadansha, Gandmala, Visarpa, Pravahika, Kamala, Aruchi, Bastishotha, Twakdosha, Atisaar, Raktapitta, and especially in Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat diseases like Netra abhishyanda, Netrashotha Karnashoola, Karnasrava, Mukharoga. All Nighantus have mentioned Haridra i.e. Haridra and Daruharidra and narrated same property for both but reiterated that latter one is more efficacious in Netra-karna roga.

Conclusion:

Daruharidra has Katu, Tikta rasa; Katu vipaka; Laghu, ruksha Guna; and Ushna Veerya. Its property is similar to the Haridra, which is also considered as a substitute of Daruharidra. Botanical source of Daruharidra is Roots of Berberis aristate D.C but now days its stem is being used.

Reference:

1. Ch.Su 4/3
2. Ch.Su 4/12
3. Ch.Su4/14
4. Cha.Vim.8/133
5. Su.Su.38/54
6. Su.Su.38/63
7. Su.Su.43/23
8. Su.Su.38/27
9. Su.Su.38/41
10. As.H.15/3
11. As.H.15/36
12. As.H.15/40
13. As.H.15/14