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A review on *Swarnamakshika Marana*

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ABSTRACT

Swarnamakshika (Chalcopyrite) is a combination of copper, iron and sulphur. It is an ore of copper. In *Rasashastra*, *Swarnamakshika* is grouped under *Maharasa* and *Upadhatu* by *Acharyas*. *Brihatrayis* mentioned *Swarnamakshika* in some of the compound formulation. Later on, this drug is widely mentioned by almost all *Granthas* of *Ayurveda*. *Marana* is a process of subjecting the metallic and mineral drugs for different pharmaceutical procedures to obtain them in the form of *Bhasma*. *Acharyas* explained various *Marana* procedures to prepare *Swarnamakshika bhasma* for the treatment of various ailments such as *Jwara*, *Prameha*, *Pandu*, *Anidra*, *Apasmara* etc.

Key words: *Swarnamakshika*, *Marana*, *Chalcopyrite*.

INTRODUCTION

Rasaoushadhis have unique place in *Ayurvedic* therapeutics because of qualities like very less dosage, tastelessness, it can be used at any stages of disease and its immediate action. The main objective of *Rasashastra* is not limited to *Dhatuvada* but also to maintain health and strengthen the body for achieving *Mukti*. For elimination of *Doshas* of *Rasadavyas* and to make them suitable for internal administration specialised procedure like *Shodhana*, *Marana* *Samskaras* were developed. *Marana* is an indigenous process of *Rasashastra* in which metals and minerals are converting into *Bhasma* form. *Swarnamakshika* is

one of the *Maharasa Dravya* according to *Rasaratna Samuchaya*.^[1] Origin and importance of *Swarnamakshika* is well explained in *Rasaratna Samuchaya*.^[2] According to *Rasarnavam*, *Swarnamakshika* is the first *Maharasa*.^[3]

Mythological origin

Two concepts of mythological origin are explained in almost all *Rasa* texts.

- According to *Rasaratna Samuchaya*, Lord Vishnu created *Swarnamakshika*, which was originated from *Sumeru* mountain, at the banks of river *Tapee*, *Kirata*, *Cheena*, and *Yavana Desha*.^[4]
- According to *Rasarnava*, Lord Krishna went into *Yoganidra* after completion of his role in *Mahabharata*. A hunter mistaking him as a deer pierced the sole of his foot by an arrow. Because of the injury, blood drops fell down from the wound in to the earth. They resemble *Nimbu* fruits. This gives rise to the stones of *Makshika*.^[5]

Synonyms

SN	Synonym	R.T ^[6]	A.P ^[7]	R.S.S ^[8]	R.J.N ^[9]
1.	<i>Suvarnamakshikam</i>	+	-	-	-

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2.	Swarnamakshikam	+	+	-	-
3.	Hemamakshikam	+	-	-	-
4.	Maksheekam	+	-	-	-
5.	Makshikam	+	+	+	+
6.	Tapya	+	-	-	+
7.	Dhatu makshikam	+	-	+	+
8.	Makshika dhatu	+	+	-	+
9.	Tapeejam	+	+	-	+
10.	Madhu makshikam	-	+	+	+
11.	Taptam	-	-	-	+
12.	Tapee samudbhavam	-	-	+	+
13.	Garuda	-	-	+	+
14.	Pakshi	-	-	+	+
15.	Brihadvarna	-	-	+	
16.	Madhu dathu	-	-	-	+
17.	Tapya	-	-	-	+

Vernacular names

- Sanskrit - Swarnamakshika
- English - Chalcopyrite / copper pyrite
- Hindi - Sonamakhi
- Malayalam - Makhera Kallu
- Kannada - Swarnamakshika
- Tamil - Ponnimalai
- Telugu - Makshikamu
- Gujarathi - Sona Mukhi

Swarnamakshika Vargikarana

Swarnamakshika have been classified under different groups by Acharyas. Rasaratna Samuchaya, Rasaprakasa Sudhakara and Rasendra Chudamani

classified under Maharasa, and Rasendra Sara Sangraha, Rasa Jala Nidhi under Uparasa. Ayurveda Prakasa, Sarangadhara Samhita, Bhava Prakasha and Rasa Tarangini under Upadhatu Varga.

Types

2 types^[10]

1. Kanyakubjotha
2. Tapanee Teera Sambhuta

3 types^[11]

1. Peeta
2. Sukla
3. Lohita

4 types^[12]

1. Kadamba Gholakakara - round like a Kadamba flowers
2. Shuktika Puta Sannibha - having the shape of an oyster shell
3. Gureeyakakara - having the shape of a finger ring
4. Bhasmakaturika Samam - resembling burned Tuvari in colour

Grahya Lakshana^[13]

- Snigdha
- Guru
- Shyamala Kanthi
- Kashet Swarnadyuthi Suprakasa
- Konochitam
- Swarna Samana Varna

Agrahya Lakshana^[14]

- Gharam
- Gurtaviheenam
- Pravrutta Konam
- Kharalohakabham

Dhatuvatmaka Gunas of Swarnamakshika

- *Prano Rasendrasya* - Inevitable in various mercurial process
- *Durmela Loha Dwaya Melanascha* - Can bring together *Dhatu* having antagonistic properties

Swarnamakshika Sodhana

Swedana, *Pachana*, *Nirvapa* and *Putapaka* method have been adopted for *Sodhana* of *Swarnamakshika*.

Swarnamakshika Marana

Drugs mentioned for *Marana* of *Swarnamakshika* in different *Rasa* classics

- *Gandhaka*
- *Ajamutra*
- *Hingula*
- *Ghrita*
- *Matulunga Swarasa*
- *Takra*
- *Kulatha Kwatha*
- *Kumari*
- *Beejapuraka Swarasa*
- *Eranda Taila*
- *Nimbuswarasa*
- *Tila Taila*

Various Marana procedures of Swarnamakshika

- *Shudha Swarnamakshika* and equal quantity of *Gandhaka* are mixed together and ground well in *Matulunga Swarasa*. It is dried and kept in *Musha* and subjected to five *Varahaputa* to obtain *Bhasma* of *Swarnamakshika*.^[15-17]
- *Nimbu Swarasa Shoditha Swarnamakshika* grounded with *Nimbu Swarasa* and made *Chakrika*. *Sarava Samputa* was done and subjected to 10 *Puta* to obtain *Bhasma* resembling *Raktolpala Varna*.^[18]
- *Shudha Swarnamakshika* and *Gandhaka* in equal quantity are mixed together and ground well in

Nimbuka Swarasa and kept in *Sarava Samputa* and subjected to 5 *Puta*.^[19]

- *Shudha Swarnamakshika* and 1/8 part of *Shudha Hingula* are mixed together and ground well in *Nimbu Swarasa* and *Chakrika* were prepared and dried. *Chakrikas* are kept in *Sarava Samputa* and subjected to 8 *Gajaputa*. For each *Puta* 1/8 quantities of *Hingula* was added.^[20]
- 1 part of *Swarnamakshika* and 1/4th part of *Gandhaka* are grounded along with *Eranda Taila* and made in to *Chakrika*. *Sarava Samputa* done and subjected to *Gajaputa*. Pour husk on *Sarava Samputa* during *Marana*.^{[21],[22]}
- *Shudha Swarnamakshika* grounded well either with *Kulatha Kwatha* or *Tila Taila* or *Ajamutra*. *Sarava Samputa* was done and subjected to *Gajaputa* to obtain *Bhasma*.^[23]
- *Sudha Swarnamakshika* and equal quantity of *Gandhaka* are mixed together and ground well in *Beejapooraka Swarasa*. It is dried and *Saravasamputa* done and subjected to 5 *Varaha Puta*.^[24]
- *Sudha Swarnamakshika* and ¼ part of *Sudha Gandhaka* are mixed together and ground well in *Eranda Taila*. *Saravasamputa* done and subjected to *Gajaputa*.^[25-28]
- *Sudha Swarnamakshika* ground well either with *Kulatha Kwatha* or *Takra* or *Ajamutra*. Kept in *Saravasamputa* and subjected to *Gajaputa* to obtain *Bhasma*.^[29,30]
- *Sudha Swarnamakshika* grounded well with *Kumari Swarasa* and *Cakrika* are prepared and subjected to 27 *Kukkutaputa*.^[31]
- *Sudha Swarnamakshika* is grounded well either with *Kulatha Kwatha* or *Tila Taila* or *Takra* or *Ajamutra* kept in *Saravasamputa* and subjected to *Gajaputa*.^[32]
- *Sudha Swarnamakshika* and ¼th part *Sudha Gandhaka* are mixed together and grounded well in *Kumari Swarasa* and *Cakrikas* are prepared and dried. *Sarava Samputa* was done and subjected to

7 Gajaputas. From second Puta onwards heat is gradually reduced.^[33]

Table showing different procedure for preparation of Swarnamakshika Bhasma

SN	Ingredients	Putra	Reference
1.	Sudha Swarnamakshika – 1part Sudha Gandhaka – 1part Matulunga Swarasa – Q.S	5 Varahaputa	R.R.S ^[34] R.J.N ^[35] R.Chu ^[36]
2.	S. Swarnamakshika Eranda Taila – Q.S	Intense heat	R.R.S ^[37] R.J.N ^[38] R.Chu ^[39]
3.	S. Swarnamakshika Ghrita – Q.S	Intense heat	R.R.S ^[40] R.J.N ^[41] R.Chu ^[42]
4.	S. Swarnamakshika Matulunga Swarasa – Q.S	Intense heat	R.R.S ^[43] R.J.N ^[44] R.Chu ^[45]
5.	S. Swarnamakshika Nimbu Swarasa – Q.S	10 Puta	R.T ^[46]
6.	S. Swarnamakshika – 1part S. Gandhaka – 1 part Nimbu Swarasa – Q.S	5 Puta	R.T ^[47]
7.	S. Swarnamakshika - 1 part Hingula – 1/8 part Nimbu Swarasa – Q.S	8 Puta	R.T ^[48]
8.	S. Swarnamakshika – 1part S. Gandhaka – 1/4 part Eranda Taila – Q.S	Gajaputa	A.P ^[49]
9.	S. Swarnamakshika – 1part Kulatha kwatha – Q.S	Gajaputa	A.P ^[50] Sar.S ^[51]

10.	S. Swarnamakshika – 1part Tila Taila – Q.S	Gajaputa	A.P ^[52] Sar.S ^[53]
11.	S. Swarnamakshika – 1part Ajamutra – Q.S	Gajaputa	A.P ^[54] Sar.S ^[55]
12.	S. Swarnamakshika – 1part Takra – Q.S	Gajaputa	Sar.S ^[56]
13.	S. Swarnamakshika – 1part S. Gandhaka – 1/4 part Kumara Swarasa – Q.S	7 Gajaputa	R.M ^[57]
14.	S. Swarnamakshika – 1part S. Parada – 1 part S. Gandhaka – 1 part Nimbu Swarasa – Q.S	Kupipakva Vidhi	R.S ^[58]
15.	S. Swarnamakshika – 1part Kumara Swarasa – Q.S	27 Kukkuta Putra	R.J.N ^[59]
16.	S. Swarnamakshika – 1part S. Gandhaka – 1/4 part Matulunga Swarasa – Q.S	Gajaputa/Varahaputa/ Kurmaputa	R.P ^[60]
17.	S. Swarnamakshika – 1part Nimbu Swarasa – Q.S	7 Gajaputa	R.S ^[61]
18.	S. Swarnamakshika – 1part S. Gandhaka – 1/4 part Eranda Taila – Q.S	Gajaputa	R.Ma ^[62]

Bhasma Pareeksha

- Rekhapurnatvam
- Varitaratvam
- Unnamam

- Nirutha
- Amladadhi Pareeksha

Amritikarana of Swarnamakshika

There is no direct reference is available for Swarnamakshika Bhasma Amrutikarana in the classics. As Swarnamakshika contain Tamra as one of the constituents, the Amritikarana method adopted for Tamra Bhasma can be implemented.

Swarnamakshika Bhasma with equal quantity of Panchamrittika is taken in Loha Patra and closed with Sarava. Heat it till it become Nirdhuma. After Swangaseeta, mixture is collected and subjected to Bhavana with Triphala kwatha. Cakrikas are prepared and subjected to 5 Varaha Puta and it attain red colour.^[63]

Pharmacological properties of Swarnamakshika Bhasma

S N	Reference	Rasa	Guna	Virya	Vipaka	Karma
1.	R.R.S ^[64]	Madhura	Laghu	Sheeta	Katu	Jaravyadhi Visha Nasaka
2.	R.T ^[65]	Madhura, Tikta	-	-	-	Vrishyam, Chakshushyam, Rasayanam
3.	R.S.S ^[66]	Tikta, Madhura	-	Sheeta	-	Meha, Arshas, Kshaya, Kushta, Yogavahi, Rasayana
4.	R.P.S ^[67]					Sarvamayag hna, Rasayana

Matra

According to Rasatarangini : ½ - 2 Gunja, considering Bala and Kala.

DISCUSSION

Acharyas have different opinion to classify Swarnamakshika under Maharasa, Uparasa and Upadhatu. It may be because of their experience with

use in Parada Kriya. Acharyas after 16th century have included Swarnamakshika under Upadhatu Varga. Swarnamakshika is considered as Rasendra Prana it means its usage is inevitable in various mercurial process. It has been told that Swarnamakshika is Rasayana Agrya. It is very much useful in both Lohavada and Dehavada. This might be the reason that Rasaacharyas were included Swarnamakshika under Maharasa Varga.

As Swarnamakshika is useful in many Parada Karmas, it is included in Uparasa Varga.

By the influence of modern chemistry, the recent Rasaacharyas might have grouped it under Upadhatu Varga because it is the combination of copper and iron.

Reviewing Swarnamakshika marana, mainly Gandhaka, Hingula and Amladravyas are the Marana dravyas. Gandhaka is the Ariloha for Tamra, which is one of the major constituents in Swarnamakshika. Gandhaka helps in easy Marana of the drug. If Parada Bhasma or Parada Yukta Dravya is used for Marana, the Bhasma will be considered as best because of its qualities like Shadrasa, Yogavahi and Achintya Veerya. It might be the reason for including Hingula as Maraka Dravya.

CONCLUSION

Swarnamakshika has unique place in Lohavada and Dehavada aspects. In modern metallurgy, Chalcopyrite is referred to as fool's gold because of its golden colour. Marana is a process of subjecting the metallic and mineral drugs for different pharmaceutical procedures to obtain them in the form of Bhasma. Swarnamakshika is a complex compound which gets converted into a mixture of simple compounds having very small particle size after the process of Marana. Acharyas mentioned various method for the preparation of Swarnamakshika Bhasma. If Parada Bhasma or Parada Yukta Dravya is used for Marana, the Swarnamakshika Bhasma will be considered as best.

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