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# A Progressive step towards classical uses of Medicinal Plants in Gynecological Disorders

Priyanka Gautam,<sup>1</sup> Omprakash Bairwa,<sup>2</sup> Divya Dwivedi,<sup>3</sup> Sanjeev Kumar,<sup>4</sup> Anil Kumar Singh.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Post Graduate Scholar, <sup>4</sup>Assistant Professor, <sup>5</sup>Professor, Department of Dravyaguna, F.O.A., I.M.S., B.H.U., Varanasi,

<sup>2</sup>Post Graduate Scholar, Department of Kaumarbhritya, N.I.A., Jaipur, Rajasthan, <sup>3</sup>Post Graduate Scholar, Obs and Gynae, G.M.C.H., Guwahati, Assam, India.

### ABSTRACT

In India women do not share their Gynecological problems with their family members and not even with her neighbours at early stage of diseases. Generally they share their problems with local practitioners, because there is less chances to disclose their problems in society, another benefit is that local practitioners treat them by local herbal remedies at very low cost. Mostly this work is exploration of different Ayurvedic scriptures for Gynecological problems. About 77 medicinal plants have been recorded having basonyms and latin names of the plants, family, therapeutic uses and their references in different scriptures of Ayurveda and ethno botany. The present study is very much significant to practitioners in their practices and also for researchers to find out the various active phytochemicals and pharmacological agents as a potent drug in the field of Ayurveda.

Key words: Gynecological disorders, Yonivyapada, Medicinal Plants.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Gynecology is a branch of medicine that specializes in the treatment of women- specially, the treatment of diseases and problems of the reproductive organs. A gynecological disorder is a condition which affects the female reproductive organs namely the breast and organ in the abdominal and the pelvic area including the uterus, ovaries, fallopian tube, vagina and vulva. In *Ayurvedic* classics majority of the Gynecological disorders have been described under the heading of *Yonivyapada* though some of the menstrual abnormalities i.e. *Asrigdara* etc. have been described

#### Address for correspondence:

#### Dr. Priyanka Gautam

Post Graduate Scholar, Department of Dravyaguna, F.O.A., I.M.S., B.H.U., Varanasi, India.

E-mail: priyankagautam190@gmail.com

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separately. The knowledge of *Yonivyapada* (Gynecological disorders) is essential. The classics of Ayurveda mentions have number of *Yonivyapada* as twenty, however, there exists much difference of opinion regarding *Doshas*. Charaka described eleven due to vitiation of *Vata*, three due to *Pitta*, one each due to *Kapha* and *Sannipata* and remaining four due to vitiation of two *Doshas* together, while *Shusruta* has described five disorders under each individual *Doshas* and five due to all the three together i.e *Sannipata*.

Herbal medicine has an extraordinary influence as alternative medicinal therapy and treatment of Gynecological patients with Herbal remedies in Indian System of Medicine and other system of traditional medicine. Approximately 25 percent of all prescription drugs of gynecological problems are derived from plants. Nature has bestowed our country with an enormous wealth of medicinal plants therefore India has often been referred to as the medicinal garden of the world.

The physiology of reproductive system of women is different from her male partner to a greater extent as she has to punctuate many functions like,

achievement of conception, child birth etc. These physiological changes make them prone to pathological conditions. That's why reproductive health is just as important as other aspects of health. In classics, several drugs are given for the management of various *Yonivyapadas* (gynecological disorders) which are mentioned below in tabular form.

### **MATERIAL AND METHODS**

# A. Medicinal Plants/ their parts for Leucorrhoea and P/V bleeding (*Ashrgdar* or *Pradara*)

Basonyms	Family	Dosage forms	References
Alabu Lagenaria siceraria Standl.	Cucurbitace ae	Sweet bolus of powdered Alabu fruit mixed with sugar and honey.	B.P.Ci.68.17 <sup>[1]</sup>
Ashoka Saraca asoca (Roxb.) De Wilde	Caesalpiniac eae	Cold milk boiled with the decoction of Ashoka bark.	VM.63.5 <sup>[2]</sup>
Amalaki Emblica officinalis Gaertn.	Euphorbiace ae	1. Paste of Amalaki seeds mixed with sugar and honey, or powder or juice of Amalaki used with honey.  2. Paste of Amalaki seeds mixed with sugar and honey	CS.Ci.30.117 <sup>[3]</sup> BP.Ci.69.10 <sup>[1]</sup>

		taken with water it alleviates within three days.	
Karkandhu Ziziphus nummulari a (Burm. f.)W. and A.	Rhamnacea e	Fine powder of Karkandhu mixed with equal quantity of ghee and jaggery.	RM.31.3 <sup>[4]</sup> and GN.6.1.51 <sup>[5]</sup>
Kakajangh a Peristrophe bicalyculat a Nees.		Root of Kakajangh a or Karpasa should be taken with rice water.	VM.63.4 <sup>[2]</sup>
Kakodumb ar Ficus hispida Linn.f.	Moraceae	Juice of Kakodumb ar fruits mixed with honey and keeping on diet of cereals with milk and sugar.	VM.63.9 <sup>[2]</sup>
Karpasa Gossypium herbaceum Linn.	Malvaceae	Root of Karpasa should be taken with rice water.	VM.63.4 <sup>[2]</sup>
Kusa Desmostac hya bipinnata Stapf.	Poaceae	Kusa root is pounded with ricewater taken for three days.	VM.63.8 <sup>[2]</sup>
Ketak Pandamus	Pandanacea e	Ketaki root is rubbed with water	VD.2.33 <sup>[6]</sup>

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odorotissim		and sugar.	
us Linn.f.			
Laksha Lac		One should take Rasanjana and Laksha with goat's milk.	CS.Ci.30.97 <sup>[3]</sup>
Chandana Santalum album Linn.	Santalaceae	1. If menstrual blood being foetid, purulent and like bone marrow one should use decoction of white or red Chandana.  2. Use of Chandana mixed with	SS.Sa.2.14 <sup>[7]</sup> GN.6.1.42 <sup>[5]</sup>
		milk, ghee, sugar and honey.	
Tanduliya Amaranthu s spinosus Linn.	Amaranthac eae	1. Tanduliya roots mixed with honey along rice- water or Rasanjana and Laksha with goat's milk.	CS.Ci.30.16 <sup>[3]</sup> BS.striroga.39 <sup>[8]</sup> ,and  SG.2.5.22 <sup>[9]</sup>
		2. Intake of Tanduliya roots mixed with Rasanjana and honey	

		along with rice-water checks all types of <i>Pradara</i> .	
Daruharidr a Berbris aristata DC.	Berberidace ae	1. Darvyadi Kwatha. 2. Decoction of Daruharidr a mixed with honey should be taken followed by intake of rice-water.	VM.63.6 <sup>[2]</sup> GN.6.1.24 <sup>[5]</sup>
Dhataki Wodfordia fruticosa Kurz.	Lythraceae	Powder of Dhataki or Amalaki 10gm mixed with profuse honey should be used.	VM.63.4 <sup>[2]</sup>
Nagakesara Mesua ferrea Linn.	Cusiaceae	Nagakesar a should be taken with buttermilk for three days keeping on diet of buttermilk in order to check leucorrhoe a.	BS.striroga.34 <sup>[8]</sup>
Nimba Azadiracht a indica A.Juss.	Meliaceae	In <i>Pradar</i> caused by <i>Kapha</i> one should take <i>Nimba</i> and	CS.Ci.30.99 <sup>[3]</sup>

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		Guduchi with wine.	
Nyagrodha Ficus bengalensis Linn.	Moraceae	1. The paste of Lodhra should be taken with decoction of Nyagrodha bark should be kept in vagina. 2. Leaf bud of Kashmarya, Nyagrodha and Danti separately should be used for cooking ghee which is useful in menometrorrhag ia.	CS.Ci.30.118 <sup>[3]</sup> BS.sriroga.48 <sup>[8]</sup>
Badar Ziziphus mauritiana Lam.	Rhamnacea e	Intake of Badara powder with jaggery or banana with Goat's milk or Laksha with ghee checks Pradara.	VM.63.12 <sup>[2]</sup>
Bhumyaam alki Phyllanthus urinaria Linn.	Euphorbiace ae	Root of Bhumyaam alki take with ricewater for 2-3 days checks	YT.74.9 <sup>[10]</sup>

		bleeding.	
Mudgapar ni Phaseolus trilobus Ait.	Papilionace ae	Keeping tampon with oil cooked with Mudgaparn i checks bleeding and provides softness and pleasure.	BS.striroga.18 <sup>[8]</sup>
Raktachan dan Pterocarpu s santalinus Linn.f.	Papilionace ae	Pusyanuga Churna contains Raktachan dan.	CS.Ci.30.92 <sup>[3]</sup>
Rohitaka Tecoma undulata G.Don.	Bignoniacea e	Paste of Rohitaka root should be taken in Pradara with paleness.	CS.Ci.30.116 <sup>[3]</sup> and VM.63.3 <sup>[2]</sup>
Lodhra Symplocos racemosa Roxb.	Symplocace ae	Paste of Lodhra should be taken with decoction of Nyagrodha bark.	CS.Ci.30.118 <sup>[3]</sup>
Vasa Adhatoda vasica Nees.	Acanthacea e	In Pradara predomina nt in pitta, one should take juice of Vasa or Guduchi.	VM.63.2 <sup>[2]</sup>
Shalmali	Bombacace	1.	BPN.9.51 <sup>[11]</sup>

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Salmalia malabarica Schott. and Endl.	ae	Vegetables of Shalmali flowers cooked with ghee and rocksalt checks bleeding. 2. Shalmaligh rita	BS.striroga.77- 78 <sup>[8]</sup>
Sahadevi Vernonia cinera Less.	Asteraceae	Sahadevi root with goat's milk keeping on diet with buttermilk or should use Nagakesar pounded with buttermilk for three days. It checks leucorrhoe a.	GN.6.1.44 <sup>[5]</sup>
Sudarshan Crinum latifolium Linn.	Amaryllidac eae	Fine paste of the roots of Sudarshan taken with milk checks the disease.	RM.31.1 <sup>[4]</sup>
R Modic	inal Dlante	/ thoir	narts for

# B. Medicinal Plants / their parts for Menometrorrhagia (*Artavavriddhi*)

Atibala	Malvaceae	Powdered	B.P.Ci.68.1
Abutilon indicum(Linn. )SW.		form of root of <i>Atibala</i> with sugar and honey	3 <sup>[1]</sup>

Apamarga Achyranthes aspera Linn.	Amaranthac eae	Sprinkling of Apamarga juice on head checks excessive bleeding.	G.N.6.1.54 <sup>[</sup>
Amalaki Emblica officinalis Gaertn.	Euphorbiace ae	Amalaki seeds taken with rice- water or Amalaki pounded with Udumbar decoction and taken with cold water.	VD.2.9 <sup>[6]</sup>
Udumbara Ficus glomerata Roxb.	Moraceae	Juice of Udumbara fruits mixed with honey keeping on the diet of milk with sugar.	BP.Ci.68.16
Kadali Musa paradisaca Linn.	Musaceae	Kadali fruit mixed with ghee should be taken.	RM.31.3 <sup>[4]</sup> , GN.6.1.50 <sup>[5</sup>
Guduchi Tinospora cordifolia Willd Miers ex Hook.f.andTh oms.	Menisperma ceae	If Menometrorr hagia caused by Vata – juice of Vasa or Guduchi is useful.	GN.6.1.10 <sup>[5</sup>
Plaksha Ficus lacor Buch-Ham	Moraceae	Lump of the powdered bark of Plaksha mixed with honey should	CS.Ci.30.11 9 <sup>[3]</sup>

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		be kept in lubricated vagina. Similarly Lodhra, Priyangu and Madhuka may also be used.	
Bala Sida cordifolia Linn.	Malvaceae	Root of <i>Bala</i> mixed with honey is taken with milk or root of <i>Kusa</i> or rice-water.	VM.63.10 <sup>[2]</sup>
Yastimadhu Glycyrrhiza glabra Linn.	Papilionacea e	Taken Yastimadhu 10gm. mixed with sugar 10gm. and pounded with rice-water.	BP.Ci.68.13
Rajadana Mimusops hexandra Roxb.	Sapotaceae	The Paste of the leaves of Rajadana and Kapittha fried in ghee is efficacious in the disorder particularly caused by pitta and vata.	CS.Ci.30.97
Vastuka Chenopodiu m murale Linn.	Chenopodia ceae	Root of Vastuka and Lotus decocted in water or milk should be taken. It checks the disorder in three days.	BS.striroga. 41 <sup>[8]</sup>

Sarkara Themeda arundinacea (Roxb.) Ridley.		Take the paste of Sarkara 40gm. and Madhuka 160gm. with rice-water. It checks bleeding.	BS.striroga. 47 <sup>[8]</sup>
Shali Oryza sativa Linn.	Poaceae	1. Powder of Red Shali put in milk and added with honey should be taken when cooled. 2. Rice-water is a popular vehicle for the formulations used in this disorder.	RM.316 <sup>[4]</sup> VM.63.4,9 <sup>[</sup>

# C. Medicinal Plants/ their parts for Amenorrhoea and Oligomenorrhoea (*Artavakshaya*)

Indravarun i Citrullus colocynthis Schrad.	Cucurbitacea e	Root of Indravaruni is kept within vagina, it removes amenorrhoea and also induces abortion.	VJ.3.36 <sup>[12]</sup>
Kumari  Aloe vera  Tourn ex  Linn.	Liliaceae	<ol> <li>Kumarika</li> <li>Vati,</li> <li>2.</li> <li>Rajahpravartta</li> <li>ni Vati</li> </ol>	BR.P.1182- 83 <sup>[13]</sup>
Kulattha Dolichos biflorus	Papilionacea e	In Amenorrhoea Fish, <i>Kulattha</i> , sours	SS.Sa.2.21 <sup>[7</sup>

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Linn.		Sesamum, Black gram and Wine are wholesome.	
Japa Hibiscus rosa- sinensis Linn.	Malvaceae	Intake of Japa flowers and Jyotismati leaves pounded with sour gruel induces menstruation.	CD.62.22 <sup>[14</sup> ]
Jyotismati Celastrus paniculatu s Willd.	Celastraceae	Intake of Japa flowers with sour gruel and fried <i>Jyotismati</i> leaves.	CD.62.22 <sup>[14</sup> ]
Durva  Cynodon dactylon Pers.	Poaceae	On taking paste of <i>Durva</i> women gets menstruation.	CD.62.22 <sup>[14</sup> ]
Vansha Bambusa arundinace a Willd.	Poaceae	Decoction of Bamboo nodes 20gm. and Shatapuspha 40gm. mixed with jaggery induces menstruation.	SB.4.1105 <sup>[1</sup> <sup>5]</sup>

# D. Medicinal Plants/ their parts for Soft Chancre (*Upadansha*)

Asana Pterocarpu s marsupium Roxb.	Papilionaceae	Decoction of Khadira and Asana as well as external application of their paste mixed with Guggulu or Triphala	B.P.Updansh a. 24 <sup>[1]</sup>

		destroys all	
		type of	
		Upadansha.	
Aragvadha Cassia fistula Linn.	Caesalpiniace ae	1. Local application of paste of the root of Aragvadha. 2. Decoction of leaves of Karavira, Jati, Aragvadha, Tarkari and Arka should be used for washing venereal wound.	GN.4.8.21 <sup>[5]</sup> SS.Ci.19.39 <sup>[7]</sup>
Karavira Nerium indicum Mill.	Apocynaceae	1. Decoction of leaves of Karavir, Jati, Aragvadha, Tarkari and Arka should be used for washing wounds. 2. Roots of Karvira pounded with water and applied as paste.	SS.Ci.19.39 <sup>[7]</sup> BP.Ci.51.35 <sup>[1</sup>
Kshirivraks ha	-	The wound should be washed with decoction of Kshirivraksh a and Triphala.	SS.Ci.19.43 <sup>[7]</sup>

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Tila Sesamum indicum Linn.	Pedaliaceae	Paste of <i>Tila</i> mixed with ghee and honey should be applied on wound ripe and opened.	AH.U.34.2 <sup>[16]</sup>
Triphala	-	1. Triphala is burnt in an earthen pan and ash is applied on the wounds. It promotes healing. 2. Washed the wound with Triphala decoction or Bhringaraj juice for alleviation of the disease.	AH.U.34.6 <sup>[16]</sup> , VM.49.8 <sup>[2]</sup> and CD.47.8 <sup>[14]</sup> VM.49.7 <sup>[2]</sup>
Dadima Punica granatum Linn.	Punicaceae	Dusting with powder of the leaves of Bandhuka and bark of Dadima or the paste of Puga fruit should be applied.	BP.Ci.51.26 <sup>[1</sup> ]
Daruharidr a Berberis aristata DC.	Berberidacea e	Paste of Rasanjana, Shirisa and Haritaki	SG.3.11.107 <sup>[</sup> 9]

		mixed with	
		should be used.	
Nyagrodha Ficus bengalensis Linn.	Moraceae	Burning leaves of Nyagrodha should be put in water and ash is collected and given in dose of 1.5gm. twice a day.	SB.4.800 <sup>[15]</sup>
Puga Areca catechu Linn.	Arecaceae	Paste of Puga or Karaveer root should be applied.	CD.47.11 <sup>[14]</sup>
Babbula Acacia arabica Willd.	Mimosaceae	Dusting with the powder of Babbula leaves or Dadima's rind or Human bone is useful.	CD.47.10 <sup>[14]</sup>
Bhringaraja Eclipta alba Hassk.	Asteraceae	Washing the wound with the juice of Bhringaraja eliminates this.	GN.4.8.13 <sup>[5]</sup>
Shallaki Boswellia serrata Roxb.	Burseraceae	Washed regularly with the decoction of the leaves of Jambu,	SS.Ci.19.42- 43 <sup>[7]</sup>

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		Amra,	
		Nimba,	
		Sveta	
		girikarnika	
		and	
		Masaparni;	
		Barks of	
		Shallaki,	
		Badara,	
		Bilva,	
		Palasha,	
		Tinisha and	
		Kshirivriksh	
		a along with	
		Triphala.	
Shaileya	Parmeliaceae	Powder	SS.Ci.19.45 <sup>[7]</sup>
Parmelia		consisting	
		of Svarjika,	
perlata		Tuttha,	
Ach.		Kaseesa,	
		Shaileya,	
		Rasanjana	
		and	
		Mahashali	
		alleviates	
		wound and	
		its spread.	
Shlesmatak	Boraginaceae	Fine	SB.4.799 <sup>[15]</sup>
а		powder of	
		the tender	
Cordia		fruits of	
dichotoma		Shlesmatak	
Forst. f.		<i>a</i> mixed	
		with goat's	
		milk and	
		sugar	
		destroys	
		Upadansha.	
Sarvagandh	-	With this	SS.Ci.19.44 <sup>[7]</sup>
a drugs		decoction	
		oil should	
		be cooked	
		along with	
		Goji,	
		Vidanga,	
		Yastimadhu	
		rastiniaana	

		and Sarvagandh a. It is an excellent remedy.	
Haritaki Terminalia chebula Retz.	Combretacea e	By applying Haritaki with Rasanjana the disease is cured.	RM.17.3 <sup>[4]</sup>

# E. Medicinal Plants / their parts for Syphilis (*Phiranga Roga*)

Akarakarab ha Anacyclus pyrethrum D.C.	Asteraceae	Saptasali Vati is prescribed in Syphilis.	B.P.Ci.59.15
Chopachini Smilex china Linn.	Liliaceae	1. Powder of Chopachini 2. 5gm with honey keeping on salt-free diet. 3. Decoction also used with Usava in Syphilitic Arthritis.	SY.Bhunimba dikasaya p-78 <sup>[17]</sup> , SB.4.477 <sup>[15]</sup>

# F. Medicinal Plants/ their parts for Disease of female genital tract (*Yonivyapada*)

Arka	Asclepiadacea	Vaginal	C.S.Ci.30.71 <sup>[</sup>
Calotropis	е	suppository	3]
		- Powdered	
procera		barley	
(Ait.)R.Br.		mixed with	
		rock salt is	
		impregnate	
		d with <i>Arka</i>	
		latex is	
		used in	

		Kaphaja Yonivyapad a	
Katukalabu Lagenaria siceraria (Mol.)Stand I.	Cucurbitaceae	Oil processed with Katukalabu alleviates, and helps conception.	VD.13.2 <sup>[6]</sup>
Jivaniya Gana	-	If caused by Pitta - ghee extracted from milk and cooked with Jivaniya drugs should be given and also helps in conception.	CS.Ci.30.69 <sup>[3</sup>

# G. Medicinal Plants/ their parts for Excessive urination (Somaroga)

Amlika Tamarindus indica Linn.	Caesalpiniacea e	The seeds of Amlika soaked with water firstly then pounded with milk next day this paste taken regularly.	VD.2.13 <sup>[6]</sup>
Amalaki Emblica officinalis Gaertn.	Euphorbiacea e	Ripe banana fruit, Amalaki juice, honey and sugar all mixed together should be	GN.6.1.69 <sup>[5]</sup>

		taken.	
Kadali Musa paradisaca Linn.	Musaceae	Ripe fruit of Kadali mixed with Amalaki juice, honey and sugar should be taken.	BS.striroga- 86 <sup>[8]</sup> , GN.6.1.69 <sup>[5]</sup>
Kumuda Nymphoea stellata Willd.	Nymphaeacea e	Juice of Utpala leaves mixed with a little oil checks discharge from bone Somaroga.	VD.2.1 <sup>[6]</sup>

### H. Medicinal Plants/ their parts for Raktagulma

Arka  Calotropis  procera(Ait.)R  .Br.	Asclepiadac eae	Flower of Arka mixed with oil promotes bleeding	YR.P.266 <sup>[18]</sup>
Tila  Sesamum  indicum Linn.	Pedaliaceae	Intake of decoction of Tila mixed with ghee, jaggery, trikatu and Bhargi is efficatious in Raktagulma and amenorrhoe a.	AH.Ci.14.12 0 <sup>[16]</sup> , VM.30.37 <sup>[2]</sup> and RM.31.8 <sup>[4]</sup>
Palasha  Butea  monosperma (Linn.) Kuntz.	Papilionace ae	Palashaksha ra Taila and Ghrita.	CS.Ci.5.173 <sup>[</sup> 3]

## I. Medicinal Plants/ their parts for Vaginal polyps (Yonikanda)

Kosataki Luffa acutangula (Linn.)Roxb.	Cucurbitaceae	Intake of the juice of Kosataki mixed with curdwater destroys	BS.striroga- 388 <sup>[8]</sup>
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#### **DISCUSSION**

Acharya Charaka has said that a distinguished physician is known by his knowledge of judicious use of drugs in various disorders in order to alleviate human diseases. He adds that a plant even if well identified creates havoc if not used properly. The proper use makes a good remedy. Even out of poisons a medicinal plant can save the life if used rationally and act as a poison if used improperly. So, best physician is that who knows the administration of medicinal plants, external as well as internal uses, combination and rational uses.

In this article there are so many medicinal plants have been identified in several Ayurvedic Scriptures viz. Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, Ashtanga Hridaya, etc. As earlier as we know that different types of medicinal plants and their preparations are used in different gynecological disorders i.e. Ashrgdara, Aartavativrridhi, Aartavkshaya, Upadansha, Phirang, Raktagulma, Yonivyapada, Somaroga and Yonikanda etc. are treated with different herbs having different Ayurvedic properties i.e. Amalaki, Ashok, Banyan tree (Vat), Sesamum (Til), Triphala etc. Tandulodaka used as a main Anupana (vehicles) in the treatment of Ashradara. Honey, Milk, and Ushnodaka (Luke-warm water) are also used as vehicle in the treatment of different gynecological disorders.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The present paper has been prepared on the basis of several classical Ayurvedic treatises as well as ethno botanical uses of plants. We hope this will help future researchers to proceed further.

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