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# An evaluation of pharmacological actions of *Padmak Agada*: A Review

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## ABSTRACT

*Agada* means the medicaments which have antitoxic properties. They are used to combat *Gada* which means disease, discomforts, pain, or morbid conditions produced by any type of the poison. For the management of different poisons many formulations are mentioned in *Ayurveda*. *Acharaya Vagbhatta* has mentioned so many formulations in *Keetlootadivishpratishedham Adhyay* of *Ashtanghrudayam Uttarsthana*. One of those formulation is *Padmakagada*, which is indicated in the treatment of all types of insect bite (*Keet Visha* and *Loota Visha*). *Padmakagada* can be used in different forms like *Nasya* (Nasal instillation), *Dhoom* (medicated smoke), *Abhyanga* (massage), *Paan* (drink) etc. It contains 5 ingredients including *Priyangu*, *Haridra*, *Daruharidra*, ghee and honey. Easy availability of its ingredients and simplicity of the preparation and preservation of the formulation may encourage the physician to use this formulation. Here is an effort has been made to review *Padmak Agada* in order to its pharmacological properties for its medicinal use.

**Key words:** *Keet Visha*, insect bite, Pharmacological actions, *Agada*, *Padmakagada*.

## INTRODUCTION

*Ayurveda* is oldest medical science known to mankind and mainly aims at healthy living and long life unlike other medical science which simply focus on the treatment of ailments and diseases. According to

*Ayurvedic* science, there should be proper balance between the inner constituent elements of the body for a healthy existence.<sup>[1]</sup>

*Agadtantra* is one of the main branch of *Ashtang Ayurveda* which deals with toxicological conditions and their management. *Acharya Susruta* in *Kalpa Sthana* of *Susruta Samhita*, and *Acharya Vagbhata* in *Uttaratantra* of *Ashtanga Hridaya*, moreover in other classics and regional texts has recited concerning the origin of *Visha*.

The term *Visha* is derived from the word *Vishaad* (depression, sorrow). *Agada* means the medicaments which are used as an antidotes or substances having anti-poisonous properties. In *Agad Tantra* various *Agadas* are described for treatment of various types of *Jangam Visha* (Animal poisons) and *Sthavar Visha* (vegetable and mineral poisons). *Agadas* which are explained in the texts act against different types of

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Visha (poisons) such as *Sarpa Visha*, *Loota Visha*, *Keeta Visha*, *Dooshi Visha* etc.

Acharya Sushrut has described about Keetas in 8<sup>th</sup> chapter of *Kalpa Sthana*. A detailed description regarding the symptoms and treatment of various Keeta Damsha is available in the 37<sup>th</sup> Chapter of *Uttar Sthana* in *Ashtang Hridaya*. According to Acharya Vagbhata, heaviness in head and eyes, coma, dizziness, dyspnea, pain, swelling, fever, itching and anorexia are common symptoms of all Keeta Damsha.<sup>[2]</sup> According to Acharya Charak, insects belonging to *Dooshi Visha* category causes red, white, black or brownish black discoloration of the part of the body. In the bitten area, the area covered with rashes and inflammation. The patient suffers from itching and burning sensation, erysipelas, suppuration and sloughing.<sup>[3]</sup> The bite of the insects belonging to the *Pranahara* (fatal) category produces expanding edema. According to Acharya Sushrut the poisonous Keeta causes *Shula*, *Daha*, *Visarpa*, *Jwara*, *Angamarda*, *Romanch*, *Chhardi*, *Atisara*, *Trishna*, *Murchha*, *Jrimbha*, *Kampanna*, *Swasa*, *Hikka*, *Atisheeta*, *Shopha*, *Mandala*, *Dadru*, *Karnika*, *Kitibha* etc.<sup>[4]</sup> Padmak Agad is described in *Ashtang Hridaya Uttar Tantra* chapter 37. It is indicated in all types of *Luta and Keet Visha*.<sup>[5]</sup> Padmak Agad is told as *Sarvakamika* as it can be used in any kind of *Keet Visha* for treating any kind of symptoms. It can be use both externally and internally. It has three main ingredients *Priyangu*, *Haridra*, and *Daruharidra* along with *Madhu* and *Ghrit*.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To study the action of *Padmakagada*.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Method of preparation of *Padmak Agad* - Fruits of *Priyangu*, tuber of *Haridra* and stem & root of *Daruharidra* were taken in equal quantity to make a mixture of powder. Here *Ghrit* and *Madhu* are used as *Anupaan*.<sup>[6]</sup>

फलनीद्विनिशाक्षौद्र सर्पिभिः पयकाहयः । अशेषलूताकी

टानामगदः सर्वकामिकः । (अ.ह.उ.37/70)

Table 1: *Raspanchak* of ingredient of *Padmakagad*<sup>[7]</sup>

S N	Dravya	Rasa	Guna	Veer ya	Vipa ka	Karma
1.	<i>Priyangu</i>	<i>Tikta, Kasha ya</i>	<i>Guru, Ruks ha</i>	<i>Shee ta</i>	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Dahaprasha man, Vednasthap an, Durgandhna shak Raktaprasad ana, Balakrit.</i>
2.	<i>Haridra</i>	<i>Tikta, Katu</i>	<i>Lagh u, Ruks ha</i>	<i>Ushn a</i>	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Kaphapittah ar, Varnya, Twak Doshhar,</i>
3.	<i>Daruhari dra</i>	<i>Tikta, Katu</i>	<i>Lagh u, Ruks ha</i>	<i>Ushn a</i>	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Varnya, Twak Doshhar, Jwarghna, Kamalahar</i>

### 1. *Priyangu*

Latin Name - *Callicarpa macrophylla* Vahl.

Family - *Verbineceae*

### Sanskrit Synonyms

*Gandhaphali* - The fruit has a strong odor.

*Phalini* - The plant bears many fruits.

*Asthibandhan* - Binds the bones together.

*Gochandana*, *Shayama*, *Pitatandula*, *Karambha*, *Varnabhedini*, *Priya*, *Durjara*, *Kanta*, *Vanita*, *Lata*, *Shyama*, *Godantini*, *Kanguni*, *Kangu*, *Priyavalli*, *Shreyasi*.

Hindi name - *Phalini*, *Priyangu*

English name - *Beautyberry*

### References of *Priyangu* in Samhita Period

Samhita	Gana / Mahakashaya
<i>Charak Samhita</i>	<i>Shonitasthapana, Sandhaniya, Purishsangrahniya, Mutraviranjaniya, Prajasthapana</i>

<i>Sushrut Samhita</i>	<i>Priyngvadi Gana</i> <i>Anjanadi Gana</i>
<i>Ashtang Sangara</i>	<i>Priyngvadi Gana</i>
<i>Ashtang Hridaya</i>	<i>Priyngvadi Gana</i>

### Active principles

Seeds & leaves contain Caliterpenone & its Monoacetate, Betasitosterol, in addition seed contains fatty acids.<sup>[8]</sup> The bark contains betulinic acid. The roots and aerial part contain essential oil, (diterpene) calliterpenone, calliterpenone monoacetate.<sup>[9]</sup>

### Therapeutic Indications

Fruit is used for *Vaatpittashaman* and *Raktashodhan*.<sup>[10]</sup> It is *Daahprashman*, *Vednasthapan*, *Durgandhnaashak* in properties. It has *Twagdosshar*, *Mutravirajniya*, *Jwaraghna* and *Vishaghna* properties.<sup>[11]</sup>

In *Ashtanga Hrudaya*, *Priyangu* is recommended for stopping excessive bleeding. It can be used in chronic diahorrea and *Pittaja* disorders, in healing fractures and wounds.<sup>[12]</sup> As per *Bhavprakash Nighantu*, it is suggested for treatment of dysentery (*Raktatisara*), fever (*Jwara*), excessive sweating, burning sensation of the body (*Daha*), body odour (*Durgandha*) and tumors.<sup>[13]</sup> In *Dhanvantari Nighantu*, it is advised to be used in delerium (*Moha*), burning sensation of the body (*Daha*), fever (*Jwara*), vomiting (*Chardi*) and bleeding disorders (*Raktapitta*).<sup>[14]</sup>

### Pharmacological Action

Ethanol extract of *C. macrophylla* leaves have anti-inflammatory effect and can be the choice to be used as anti-inflammatory drug.<sup>[15]</sup> Extract also possessed significant anti-arthritis activity as compared to standard drug diclofenac sodium.<sup>[16]</sup> Aqueous extract of leaves show analgesic and anti-pyretic effects also.<sup>[17]</sup> Ethanol and aqueous extracts of the stems of *C. macrophylla* Vahl. show anti-fungal activity.<sup>[18]</sup> ethanol extract of *C. macrophylla* flower showed anti-arthritis activity.<sup>[19]</sup> The alcohol extract of flowers, at the dose of 100 and 200 mg/kg, was found to exhibit significant dose dependent antidiabetic activity along

with reduction in hyperlipidemia in dexamethasone induced insulin resistance and streptozotocin induced diabetes in rats.<sup>[21]</sup>

## 2. Haridra

**Latin Name** - *Curcuma longa* Linn.

**Family** - Zingiberaceae

### Sanskrit Synonyms

*Rajani, Nisa, Nisi, Ratri, Gauri, Krimighna, Yoshitpriya, Varvarnini*

English - Turmeric

Hindi - Haldi, Hardi

### References of Haridra in Samhita Period

The classification of *Haridra* according to different *Samhitas* has been completed in the table-

SN	Samhita	Gana
1.	<i>Charak Samhita</i>	<i>Lekhaniya, Kusthaghna, Vishaghana, Tikta Skanda, Shirovirechana, Vatasanshaman, Sleshma-Sanshaman</i>
2.	<i>Sushrut Samhita</i>	<i>Sleshma-Sanshaman, Kusthaghna, Haridradi, Lakshadi, Mustadi, Tiktras Dravya</i>
3.	<i>Ashtang Sangrah</i>	<i>Mustadi, Arshoghna, Haridradi, Kandughana</i>
4.	<i>Ashtang Harideya</i>	<i>Mustadi, Arshoghna, Haridradi, Kandughana</i>

### Active principles

Essential oil and a colouring matter (curcumin). Curcumenone, curcane, eugenol, camphene, borneol.

### Therapeutic Indication

According to *Acharya Charak*, *Haridra* is used in *Kushtha, Shotha, Udara, Hikka, Shvaasa, Arsha, Pandu, Kasa, Prameha, Visha, Dwivaranaya* and in *Yonivyapada Rogas*.<sup>[22]</sup> While according to *Sushrut Samhita*, indications of *Haridra* are *Arsha, Bhagandar, Kushtha, Prameha, Vidradhi, Visarpa, Pandu, Shvaasa, Kasa*.<sup>[23]</sup> *Haridra* is indicated in *Sannipataja Jwara, Kasa,*

Shvaasa, Hikka, Trishna, Pandu, Kamala, Vatavyadhi, Mukharoga, Bhagandar, Kshudraroga, Gudaroga and Vish Chikitsa.<sup>[24]</sup>

### Pharmacological Action

Haridra is widely used in cosmetology.<sup>[25]</sup>

Rhizome of Haridra is known to possess therapeutic activities and has been used by medical practitioners as an anti-diabetic,<sup>[26-28]</sup> hypolipidemic,<sup>[26-28]</sup> anti-inflammatory,<sup>[27-28]</sup> hepatoprotective<sup>[26,27]</sup>, anti-diarrheal,<sup>[27]</sup> anti-asthmatic<sup>[28]</sup> and anti-cancerous drug.

### 3. Daruharidra

**Latin Name** - *Berberis aristata* DC.

**Family** - Berberidaceae

### Sanskrit Synonyms

Darvi, Darunisa, Katamkateri, Panchpancha

Darunisha - Yellow wood like turmeric.

Panchpancha - It is cooked to make Rasanjana.

Eng. - Indian barberry

Guj. - Daaruhaldar, Daruharidra, Talimkhana

Hindi - Daaruhaldi, Darhald, Chitraa, Talmakhana

### References of Daruharidra in Samhita Period

The classification of Daruharidra according to different Samhitas has been compiled in table.

SN	Samhita	Gana
1.	Charak Samhita	Lekhaniya, Arshoghna, Kandughna, Shirovirechana
2.	Asthang Sangraha	Shirovirechan, Arshoghna, Kandughna, Haridradi, Mustadi
3.	Sushruta Samhita	Haridradi, Mustadi, Lakshadi, Tiktavarga
4.	Asthang Haridra	Tiktagana, Haridradi, Mustadi, Arshoghna, Kandughana.

### Active principles

Berberine, oxyberberine, berbamine, palmatine, jatrorhizine, tetrahydropalmitine etc.

### Therapeutic Indication

Amatisara (Diarrhoea due to indigestion), Aruchi (Tastelessness), Hrilasa (Nausea), Jvara (Fever), Pittaja-Atisara (Diarrhoea due to Pitta Dosa), Raktavikara (Disorders of blood), Trisana (Thirst), Vamana, Visavikara (Disorders due to poison), Yakrtodara (Enlargement of liver).<sup>[29]</sup>

### Pharmacological Action

Medicinal properties - Berberine has antimicrobial<sup>[30]</sup>, anticarcinogenic activity, antiparasitic action<sup>[31]</sup>. The antimicrobial activity of hydroalcoholic extracts of berberis aristata were tested against different bacterial strains like E.coli, klebsiella pneumoniae, pseudomonas aeruginosa, Staphylococcus pneumoniae, and also some fungal strains like candida albicans, aspergillus tereus, trichophyton rubrum etc. The major alkaloid berberine may be responsible for antimicrobial activity.<sup>[32]</sup>

### DISCUSSION

Priyangu, Haridra and Daruharidra are the main ingredients of Padmak Agad. Here, Madhu and Ghrit are mixed in Padmak Agad as an Anupaana. Padmakagad is effective in Keeta Visha and Loota Visha. Padmakagad can be used as various preparations like Paan (Oral administration), Lepa (Local administration). The main manifestation of Keet-Loota Vish is on skin which includes symptoms like Raga (Redness), Ruja (Pain), Daha (Burning) and Shotha (inflammation). Most of these drugs have Tikta, Katu and Madhur Rasa, Katu Vipaka, Ushna Veerya and Vishghna, Shothhar, Twakdoshar, Raktashodhak Karma. Pharmacologically these drugs are Anti-inflammatory, Anti-bacterial, Antioxidant, Anti-fungal activities. Padmak Agad is one of the main Agad described in Keetlootadivishapratishehdh Adhyay in Ashtang Hridya.

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