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Review on Chandrakala Rasa - A Kharaliya Rasayana

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ABSTRACT

Rasashastra is a branch of Ayurveda, which deals with formulations prepared with varied origin of drugs like metals, minerals, marine drugs, silicate drugs, etc. The formulations are grouped into four categories namely Kharaliya Yogas, Parpati Yogas, Kupipakwa Yogas and Pottali Yogas. Chandrakala Rasa comes under Kharaliya Rasa category of Rasaushadhis. Chandrakala Rasa is one of the Ayurvedic formulations mentioned under Mutrakricchra (Dysuria), Raktapitta (Bleeding disorders), Daha (Burning sensations), Jwara (Fever), as per different classical textbooks. It is a herbo- mineral formulation indicated in Pitta Vikara (disease caused by vitiation of Pitta dosha) such as Raktapitta (Bleeding disorders), Raktapradara (Menorrhagia), Jwara (Fever), Prameha (Diabetes), Mutrakriccha (Dysuria), etc. Various references of it are mentioned in different classical text books.

Key words: Kharaliya Rasayana, Chandrakala Rasa, Rasashastra, Pitta Vikara

INTRODUCTION

Rasashastra is a unique branch of Ayurveda which evolved in the medieval period of 8th century. It is considered as an alchemical chemistry, dealing about the processing of "Parada" (Mercury) along with other metals, minerals, etc. for the purpose of attaining Lohaveda and Dehaveda. Based on the method of preparation, the formulations are categorized into Kharaliya, Kupipakwa, Pottali and Parpati Kalpana. Kharaliya Yogas are prepared by triturating the ingredients in mortar and pestle.^[1] Chandrakala Rasa comes under Kharaliya Yoga containing mainly Kajjali (black sulphide of mercury), Tamra Bhasma, Abhraka

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Bhasma along with different Bhavana Dravya. It is mentioned in different classical text books like Rasa Ratna Samuchchaya, Bhaishajya Ratnavali, Yoga Ratnakara, Rasa Chintamani, Rasa Chandanshu, etc. It is indicated in Vata-Pittaja disorders like Jwara, Daha, Murcha, Bhrama, etc. It is specially mentioned to consume the formulation in Grishma and Sharada Rutu (Summer and Autumn).^[2]

The ingredients of the formulation vary slightly according to different Acharya, with Kajjali, Tamra Bhasma and Abraka Bhasma common in all references. According to Siddha Yoga Sangraha, Mukta Bhasma is an ingredient along with others.^[3] Unique procedure is followed, i.e., after complete *Bhavana* (Trituration), the product is wrapped and kept in paddy husk for seven days according to Bhrihat Nighantu Ratnakara, Rasa Chintamani, Rasa Chandanshu and for a day according to Yogaratnakara. Hence a detailed review on the formulation is conducted in the present article to compile the information on differences and similarities in method of preparation, indications according to different Acharya.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A list of references of Chandrakala Rasa is assembled from different classical texts and compilations, of

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Rasashastra with special emphasis placed on the contributions made by each text. Since published data could not be found for the research projects on

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Chandrakala Rasa, it was necessary to interpret the traditional information.

Table 1: Ingredients of Chandrakala Rasa from different references

SN	References	Ingredients	<i>Anupana</i> (Adjuvant)	Dose
1.	Ayurveda Formulary of India ^[4] <i>Yoga Ratnakara</i> ^[5]	Shuddha Parada (Hydrargyrum), Tamra Bhasma (Calyx of copper), Abharak Bhasma (Calyx of Mica) - 12, Purified Gandhak (Sulphur) - 24 g	-	1 to 3 <i>Ratti</i> (125mg to 750mg)
	Bhaishjaya Ratnavali ^[6]	Bhavana Dravya (Media for trituration) - Musta (Cyperus rotundus linn), Dadima (Punica granatum), Ketakimula (Costus specious), Sahadevi (Vernonia cineria), Kumari (Aloe vera chinensis), Durva (Cynodont dactylon pers), Parpata (Fumaria indica), Ramsitalika (Bombax malabaricum), Satavari (Asparagus racemosus), Stanaja Drava (cow's milk) – 1Bhavana each		
		<i>Churna- Parpata</i> (Fumaria indica), <i>Usira</i> (Vetiveria zizanioides), <i>Madhavi</i> (Hiptage benghalensis), <i>Candana</i> (Santalum album), <i>Sariva</i> (Hemidesmus indicus), <i>Katuki</i> (Picrorhiza kurroa), <i>Guduchi</i> <i>Satva</i> (Tinospora cordifolia) – 12g each		
		<i>Bhavana Dravya – Draksha</i> (Vitis vinifera) – 7 days		
2.	Rasa Yoga Sagara ^[7]	Shuddha Parada (Hydrargyrum), Tamra Bhasma (Calyx of copper), Abharak Bhasma (Calyx of Mica) -12g, Purified Gandhak (Sulphur) -24g	-	1 to 3 <i>Ratti</i> (125mg to 375mg)
		Bhavana Dravya (Media for trituration) – Musta (Cyperus rotundus linn), Dadima (Punica granatum), Ketakimula (Costus specious), Sahadevi (Vernonia cineria), Kumari (Aloe vera chinensis) – 1day Bhavana each		
		<i>Churna – Parpata</i> (Fumaria indica), <i>Usira</i> (Vetiveria zizanioides), <i>Magadi</i> (Piper longum), <i>Candana</i> (Santalum album), <i>Sariva</i> (Hemidesmus indicus) 12g each		
		Bhavana Dravya – Draksha (Vitis vinifera) Phala Kashya – 7days		
3.	Bruhat Nighantu Ratnakar ^[8]	Shuddha Parada (Hydrargyrum), Tamra Bhasma (Calyx of copper), Abharak Bhasma (Calyx of Mica) -12g Purified Gandhak (Sulphur)- 24g		1 to 2 <i>Ratti</i> (125 to 250mg)
		Bhavana Dravya (Media for trituration) – Musta (Cyperus rotundus linn), Dadima (Punica granatum), Ketakimula (Costus specious), Sahadevi (Vernonia cineria), Kumari (Aloe vera chinensis) Durva (Cynodont dactylon pers), Parpata (Fumaria indica), Ramsitalika (Bombax malabaricum), Satavari (Asparagus racemosus)– 2days Bhavana each.		
		<i>Churna – Parpata</i> (Fumaria indica), <i>Usira</i> (Vetiveria zizanioides), <i>Madhavi</i> (Hiptage benghalensis), <i>Candana</i> (Santalum album), <i>Sariva</i> (Hemidesmus indicus), <i>Tikta</i> (Picrorhiza kurroa),		
		Guduchistava (Tinospora cordifolia)- 12g each		
		Bhavana Dravya – Drakshadi Kashya- 7 days		

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4.	Rasa Ratna Samuchayya ^[9]	Shuddha Parada (Hydrargyrum), Tamra Bhasma (Calyx of copper), Abharak Bhasma (Calyx of Mica) -12g purified Gandhak (Sulphur) - 24g	<i>Vasa Swarasa</i> (Juice of Adhatoda vasica)	2 <i>Ratti</i> (250 mg)
		Bhavana Dravya (Media for trituration) - Musta (Cyperus rotundus Linn), Dadima (Punica granatum), Ketakimula (Costus specious) Sahadevi (Vernonia cineria), Kumari (Aloe vera chinensis) – 1 day Bhavana by each Dravya.		
		Churna - Parpata (Fumaria indica), Usira (Vetiveria zizanioides), Magadi (Piper longum), Candana (Santalum album), Sariva (Hemidesmus indicus) 12g each.		
		Bhavana Dravya - Draksha (Vitis vinifera) Phala Kashya - 7days		
5.	Siddha Yoga Sangraha ^[10]	Shuddha Parada (Hydrargyrum), Tamra Bhasma (calyx of copper), Abharak Bhasma (calyx of Mica) -12g Purified Gandhak (Sulphur) and Purified Mukta (Pearl) - 24g	Cold water, Usirasava, Ashokarista	1 to 2 <i>Ratti</i> (125 to 250mg)
		Bhavana Dravya (Media for trituration) – Musta (Cyperus rotundus linn), Dadima (Punica granatum), Ketakimula (Costus specious), Sahadevi (Vernonia cineria), Durva (Cynodont dactylon pers), Parpata (Fumaria indica), Satavari (Hemidesmus indicus) – 1 days Bhavana each.		
		Churna - Parpata (Fumaria indica), Usira (Vetiveria zizanioides), Madhavi (Hiptage benghalensis), Candana (Santalum album), Sariva (Hemidesmus indicus), Tikta (Picrorhiza kurroa), Guduchi satva (Tinospora cordifolia) - 12g each		
		Bhavana Dravya - Draksha (Vitis vinifera) Phala Kashya - 7 days.		
6.	Yoga Ratnakara 2 [11]	Shuddha Parada (Hydrargyrum), Purified Hingula (Cinnabar), Abharak Bhasma (Calyx Mica) - 12g Purified Gandhak (Sulphur) - 24g		1 to 2 <i>Ratti</i> (125 to 250mg)
		Bhavana Dravya (Media for trituration) - Musta (Cyperus rotundus linn), Dadima (Punica granatum), Ketakimula (Costus specious), Sahadevi (Vernonia cineria), Kumari (Aloe vera chinensis), Durva (Cynodont dactylon pers), Parpata (Fumaria indica), Ramsitalika (Bombax malabaricum), Satavari (Asparagus racemosus), Stanaja Drava (Cow's milk) - 1 Bhavana each		
		Churna - Parpata (Fumaria indica), Usira (Vetiveria zizanioides), Madhavi (Hiptage benghalensis), Candana (Santalum album), Sariva (Hemidesmus indicus), Tikta (Picrorhiza kurroa), Guduchistava (Tinospora cordifolia) - 12g each		
		Bhavana Dravya - Draksha (Vitis vinifera) Phala Kashaya - 7 days		
7.	Rasa Chintamani ^[12]	Shuddha Parada (Hydrargyrum), Tamra Bhasma (Calyx of Copper), Abharak Bhasma (Calyx of Mica) - 12g Purified Gandhak (Sulphur) - 24g	Honey Milk with Sugar	2 to 3 <i>Ratti</i> (250 to 750mg)
		Bhavana Dravya (Media for trituration) – Musta (Cyperus rotundus linn), Dadima (Punica granatum), Ketakimula (Costus specious), Sahadevi (Vernonia cineria), Kumari (Aloe vera chinensis), Durva (Cynodont dactylon pers), Parpata (Fumaria		

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		indica), Ramsitalika (Bombax malabaricum), Satavari (Asparagus racemosus) - 1 Bhavana each Churna - Parpata (Fumaria indica), Usira (Vetiveria zizanioides), Madhavi (Hiptage benghalensis), Candana (Santalum album), Sariva (Hemidesmus indicus), Tikta (Picrorhiza kurroa), Guduchistava (Tinospora cordifolia) - 12g each Bhavana Dravya - Draksha (Vitis vinifera) Phala Kashaya - 7 days			
8.	Rasa Chandansu ^[13]	Shuddha Parada (Hydrargyrum), Tamra Bhasma (Calyx of Copper), Abharak Bhasma (Calyx of Mica) - 12g Purified Gandhaka (Sulphur) -24g Bhavana Dravya (Media for trituration) - Musta (Cyperus rotundus linn), Dadima (Punica granatum), Ketakimula (Costus specious), Sahadevi (Vernonia cineria), Kumari (Aloe vera chinensis), Durva	Milk, Sugar, Jeeraka (Cuminum cyminum Linn)	1 to 2 <i>Ratti</i> (125 to 250mg)	
		(Cynodont dactylon pers), Parpata (Fumaria indica), Ramsitalika (Bombax malabaricum), Satavari (Asparagus racemosus), - 1 Bhavana each			
		Churna - Parpata (Fumaria indica), Usira (Vetiveria zizanioides), Madhavi (Hiptage benghalensis), Candana (Santalum album), Sariva (Hemidesmus indicus), Tikta (Picrorhiza kurroa), Guduchistava (Tinospora cordifolia) - 12g each			
		Bhavana Dravya - Drakshadi Kashaya - 7 days			

Indications

The Chandrakala Rasa indications is nearly the same as what all of the authors listed above have stated, All Pittaroga (Diseases of Pitta), Vata Pittaroga, Antardaha (Internal burning sensation), Bahyadaha (External burning sensations), Mahatapa, Jwara (Fever), Bhrama (Giddiness), Mutrakriccha (Dysuria), Raktapradara (Menorrhagia), Urdhva-Adhoga Gata Raktapitta (Bleeding disorders), Raktavami (Haemetemesis).

Method of preparation

First purified *Parada* and purified *Gandhaka* are triturated to make *Kajjali*, then, the remaining *Bhasma* are to be added and mixed well. After that, *Bhavana* should be done with mentioned drugs for stipulated period individually. Then the herbal *Dravyas* should be added, mixed well and *Bhavana* with *Draksha or Drakshadi Kashaya* is given for seven times and rolled into pills.^[14]

DISCUSSION

Total thirteen references of *Chandrakala Rasa* are compiled. By considering the period of each reference

it could be concluded that *Rasa Ratna Samuchchaya* (13th century) is the earliest, followed by *Yoga Ratnakara* (16th century), *Bhaishajya Ratnavali* (19th century).

In Yoga Ratnakara, Tamra Bhasma is not included under ingredients but Shuddha Hingula is mentioned. In Siddha Yoga Sangraha, Mukta Bhasma is told as an additional ingredient along with other ingredients. In the market available products too Chandrakala Rasa with Mukta and without Mukta are available.

In Rasa Chandanshu and Brihat Nigantu Ratnakar Drakshadi Kashaya is mentioned as Bhavana Dravya and remaining authors have mentioned Draksha Phala Kashya for Bhavana purpose.

In *Brihat Nighantu Ratnakar* it is mentioned to give *Bhavana* with each *Drava Dravya* for two days, remaining authors mentioned to give *Bhavana* with each *Drava Dravya* for one day.

In *Rasa Chintamani, Rasa Chandanshu* and *Brihat Nighantu Ratnakar* have mentioned to keep the product obtained after *Bhavana* in a heap of paddy for seven days; whereas *Yogaratnakara* has mentioned to

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keep it for a day. *Nirantaragni* is a type of *Agni* generated in *Dhanya Rashi*. So, the mention of placing in *Dhanya Rashi* is emphasized to carry out the process of *Agni Samskara* and *Kala Samskara*.

Pharmacological properties of ingredients of Chandrakala Rasa

In Chandrakala Rasa, Dwiguna Bali Jarita Kajjali is used for preparation of medicine. Dwiguna Bali Jarita Parada is said to cure Maha Roga^[15] as per Rasa Tarangini, Kushta as per Ayurveda Prakasha. It also has other properties like Rasayana (Anti-ageing) Yogavahi (as a catalyst), Sarvaamayahara (useful in many other diseases), Vruyshya (Aphrodisiac) and it pacifies Tridosha it increases bio availability of drug which helps to obtain greater efficiency of drug.^[16]

Tamra Bhasma has Lekhana and Pitta Saraka qualities. It has the power to heal all Pitta and Kapha illnesses, both acute and chronic. Additionally, it treats every kind of Kosthagata and Sakhagata Roga.^[17] Abhraka Bhasma is used as a rejuvenating agent for brain and neuropsychiatric disorders, an aphrodisiac (Vrushya), an anti-aging agent (Rasyana), and it protects against all forms of Maharoga. When used wisely, it promotes long and healthy life.^[18]

Mukta Bhasma improves the appetite, brings down the burning sensations in body, it is good for aphrodisiac and provides longevity, it nullifies the influence of poisons over the body, it is useful in *Jirna Jwara*^[19] *Shuddha Gandhaka* is a good rejuvenator and is recommended for *Kustha* (Skin diseases), *Visarpa* (Herpes zoster), and *Kandu* (Itching). It also counteracts the negative effects of *Gara visa* on the body.^[20] *Shuddha Hingula* has properties *Kapha-Pitta Nasak*, *Rasayana* (Anti-aging), *Vrishya* (Aphrodisiac), *Vishahara* (Anti-poisoning) and *Jwarahara* (Antipyretic).^[21]

CONCLUSION

Chandrakala Rasa is one of the important *Kharaliya Rasayana*. It is found mentioned in thirteen classical references explained under different *Rogadhikaras* by different *Acharyas* like *Daha Chikitsa, Mutrakriccha Chikitsa, Raktapitta Chikitsa*, etc. Each of the reference

mentioned is different with addition or deletion of some ingredients. Most of these are mentioned for *Pitta Roga* and the dose is also same according all authors, some author mentioned specified *Anupana* for *Chandrakala Rasa*. There are opportunities to do research in this area because not much research has been carried out on the same.

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