

A Comprehensive Review of Prishniparni (*Uraria picta* Desv. Ex DC.) in Brihatrayee and various Nighantus

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Prishniparni (*Uraria picta* Desv. Ex DC.) is a respected herb in *Ayurveda* and it is described in ancient texts like *Charaka Samhita*, *Sushruta Samhita*, *Ashtanga Hridaya*, and various *Nighantus*. *Prishniparni* (*Uraria picta* Desv. Ex DC.) is considered as *Agraydravya* (*Sanghrahika*, *Vatahara*, *Deepniya* and *Vrishya Karma*) in *Charaka Samhita*. Moreover, it is attributed with multiple therapeutic uses and is indicated in treatment of *Shwasa* (breathing troubles), *Kasa* (Cough), *Jwara* (fever), *Atisara* (diarrhoea), *Raktavikara* (bleeding disorders), *Grahani* (IBS), *Vataroga*, *Asthibhagna* (bone fractures) etc. and various *Yogas* (medicinal preparations) are mentioned in classical texts. It is one of the most important ayurvedic herb among *Dashmula* that includes '5 *Brihat Panchmula*' (*Bilva*, *Agnimantha*, *Shyonaka*, *Patala* and *Gambhari*) which are obtained from large trees and '5 *Laghu Panchmula*' (*Brihati*, *Kantakari*, *Salaparni*, *Prishniparni* and *Gokhru*) which are obtained from small shrubs. *Uraria picta* is commonly found in dry grasslands and open forests in sub - Himalayan tract from Kashmir to Assam upto 1800m altitude and all over plains of India. It has got many important chemical constituents like alkaloids, flavonoids, steroids etc. *Prishniparni* is known to exhibit cardioprotective, hepatoprotective, anti- inflammatory, anti -hypertrophic, antioxidant and wound healing properties. Also, its nourishing, rejuvenating, and strengthening properties are well-recognized.

Keywords: Prishniparni, *Uraria picta* Desv. Ex DC., classical texts, Ayurveda, Therapeutic use.

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Introduction

Prishniparni is an important *Ayurvedic* herb with a wide range of therapeutic uses. However, its information is scattered across different classical texts. A detailed review is necessary to bring together both traditional and modern insights, clarify its botanical identity, and highlight its IUCN Conservation status[1] (currently classified as "Least Concern" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species). This can improve both clinical application and conservation efforts. *Prishniparni* is a well-known and significant drug extensively discussed in *Ayurvedic* classical texts. The illustration and description of the drug commences from Vedic period itself. In Samhita period, it is described as one among the *Amshumatidwaya*[2] and as one of the drugs in *Dashmula*. [2,3] Synonyms appertaining to the identification of the drug, its therapeutic properties (*Rasadipanchaka*), actions (*Karma*) and therapeutic indications (*Rogaghnata*) of the drug is mentioned in various *Nighantus*.

Materials and Methods

Literary review of the current literary research was done by referring various *Ayurvedic* classical texts (*Charaka Samhita*[4], *Sushruta Samhita*[3], *Ashtanga Sangraha*[5], *Ashtanga Hridaya*[2], *Ashtanga Nighantu*[6], *Amarkosh*[7], *Madanadi Nighantu*[8], *Dhanvantari Nighantu*[9], *Sausruta Nighantu*[10], *Saligrama Nighantu*[11], *Sodhala Nighantu*[12], *Madanapala Nighantu*[13], *Kaiyadeva Nighantu*[14], *Raja Nighantu*[15], *Bhavaprakaha Nighantu*[16], *Sarasvati Nighantu*[17], *Nighantu Adarsha*[18], *Abhidhanamanjari*[19], *Mahaushadha Nighantu*[20], *Priya Nighantu*[21], *Ayurvediya Oushadi Nighantu*[22], *Rajavallabha Nighantu*[23], *Hridya Deepak Nighantu*[24], *Paryaymuktavali*, *Siddha Mantra Nighantu*[25], *Sabdachandrika*[26], *Nighantu Shesha*[27], *Abhidhana Ratnamala*[28] etc) to extract information regarding *Prishniparni* (*Uraria picta* Desv. Ex DC.) Also, the review has been done following various research journals, scientific papers and internet sources.

Observation

Botanical Identity[29,30]

Botanical Name - *Uraria picta* Desv. Ex DC.

Family - Fabaceae (Papilionaceae)

Botanical synonyms

Hedysarum pictum Jacq.

Doodia picta Roxb.

Uraria aphrodisiaca Welw.

Uraria leucantha Span.

Uraria linearis Hassk.

Desmodium pictum (Jacq.) Walp.

Etymology

The term *Uraria* is derived from Greek word "Ouru" which means tall inflorescence and *Picta* is a Latin word which means Painted or marked leaves.

प्रश्नि चित्रितं पर्णं अस्य इति। (B.P.)

Prishniparni consist of term *Prishni* refers to "small striped" and *Parni* refers to "leaf".

Chemical Constituents

The plant is said to contain alkaloids, flavonoids, steroids, terpenoids, phenols, and saponins.

Taxonomical classification of *Uraria picta* Desv. Ex. DC

Kingdom	Plantae
Phylum	Tracheophyta
Class	Magnoliopsida
Order	Fabales
Family	Fabaceae
Genus	<i>Uraria</i>
Species	<i>Picta</i>

Common Names of *Uraria picta* Desv. Ex DC in different Vernaculars[29,30]

Sanskrit	Prishniparni, Dhavani, Kalasi, Guha
Hindi	Pithavan, Dabra, Salvan
Urdu	Prishniparni
English	Prshniparni
Marathi	Pithvan, Prushnipamee
Gujarati	Pithavan
Tamil	Oripai, Sittirappaladi, Orila
Oriya	Prushnipamee, Sankarjata
Telugu	Kolakuponna, Muiyakupona, Gitanaram
Punjabi	Detedarnee
Kannada	Murelehone, Ondelehone, Prushniparni
Bengali	Salpani, Chhalani, Chakule, Sankarjata
Malayalam	Orila

Morphological Characters of *Uraria picta*[29,30]

Uraria picta is a perennial, pubescent-downy perennial undershrub, 60-75 cm tall with several branches and stems having short, rough hairs, occurs throughout India, ascending to 1800m, on Himalayas and several tropical countries.

Leaves: Leaves are generally 3-5 in number, upto 9 foliate. Leaflets are imparipinnate, linear-oblong, obtuse, mucronate at apex, white clouded above and pubescent below.

Flowers: Flowers are purple, 6-10 mm long on dense, cylindrical racemes with bracts concealing the buds. Flowering and fruiting are seen between the months of August to October.

Racemes: Dense cylindrical, 20cm long.

Bracts: Caduceus, 1.5cm long, concealing the buds.

Inflorescence: Rachis, 8-12 cm.

Calyx: 4-6mm long, pubescent: teeth much longer to tube.

Corolla: Purplish to bluish, much exerted.

Seeds: 1-12, reniform, reddish.



Pic. 1: *Uraria Picta* Desv. Ex. DC[33] plant

Synonyms and Interpretations (*Paryayas*)

Synonyms referring to the morphology, properties and actions of the drug *Prishniparni* can be traced out from the various *Nighantus*. The morphological features, pharmacological properties and actions are well interpreted in the synonyms which are available from *Amarakosha*[7], *Namrupavijnanam*[31] and *Shabdakalpadruma*. [32]

Based on morphological characters

- *Amshumati*: Roots are fibrous

- *Aanghribalaparni*: Leaves are thickly arranged on the stem.
- *Chitraparni*, *Upachitra*: Leaves are mottled
- *Deergha*, *Deerghaparni*, *Guha*, *Mahaguha*: Roots go deep into the soil
- *Krishnapushpa*: dark coloured flowers.
- *Kroshtukapucha*, *Langali*, *Shwapucha*, *Simhapucha*, *Simhalangali*, *Srigaalapucha*, *Srigaalavinna*: Inflorescence resembles the tail of jackal
- *Prishniparni*, *Parnika*, *Praparni*, *Prithakparni*: possess distinct Leaves
- *Snigdhaparni*: Leave have an oleated appearance
- *Tarvi*: The plant is thin and small
- *Varti*: The roots are like a streak or line

Table 1: Synonyms (*Paryayas*) of *Prishniparni*

Synonyms	A.	D.	So.	M.	Ka.	Ra.	B.	S.L.	Ab.	Ma.	P.	Am.	Sa.	P.	Ab.
	N	N	N	P	N	N	P	N	M	N	N	K	N	Rt	Rt
Prishniparni	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prithakparni	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Parnika		✓		✓	✓			✓					✓		
Praparni									✓	✓					
Kalashi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Kleetani									✓	✓					✓
Krishnapushpa									✓	✓					
Kroshtukapucha	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Kroshtuvinna							✓					✓	✓		
Shwapucha						✓									
Simhalangali								✓							
Simhapucha		✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		✓	
Snigdhaparni															
Sreshta										✓					
Ahiparni							✓								
Ahitila				✓											
Anghribalaparni	✓	✓													
Chitraparni		✓			✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		
Dhamani					✓									✓	
Dhavani	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓			
Deergha						✓									
Deerghaparni						✓									
Guha	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Langali	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓				✓	✓
Mahaguha						✓									✓
Srigaalaparnika		✓		✓											
Srigaalapucha		✓													
Srigaalavinna	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓					✓
Sthira	✓								✓	✓					
Tarvi		✓						✓						✓	
Upachitra			✓			✓									
Varti									✓	✓					
Amshumati													✓		

Abbreviations Used: A.N – Ashtanga Nighantu, D.N – Dhanvantari Nighantu, So.N – Sodhala Nighantu, M.P – Madanapala Nighantu, Ka.N – Kaiyadeva Nighantu, Ra.N – Raja Nighantu, B.P – Bhavaprakasha Nighantu, S.L.N – Saligrama Nighantu, Ab.M – Abhidhana Manjari, Ma.N – Mahaoushadhi Nighantu, P.N – Priya Nighantu, Am.K – Amarakosha, Sa.N- Sarasvati Nighantu, P.Rt- Paryay Ratnamala, Ab.Rt- Abhidhana Ratnamala

Based on Pharmacological actions

- *Dhamani, Dhaavani*: expels toxins from body
- *Kalashi*: increases semen.
- *Sthira*: strengthens the body

Prishniparni: Useful Parts and Doses[34]

Useful parts: Roots[13,18] & whole plant[18,22,30]

Doses:

Panchanga: 1/2 to 1 Tola[18]

Mulachurna: 1-2 g[22]

Kwatha: 60-120 ml[22] (20-50 g powder)[29]

Mula Kwatha: 50-100 ml[13]

Important formulations[30]

1. *Dasmularishta*
2. *Dasmula Taila*
3. *Vyaghri Taila*
4. *Angamardprasamana Kashaya Churna*

Adulterants and Substitutes[34]

Prishniparni is widely used herb in *Ayurvedic* pharmaceutical industry, particularly for its roots, which are included in numerous classical formulations. Due to its high demand, plant is often harvested destructively, leading to overexploitation. As result, genuine herb is frequently adulterated or substituted with other species. *Prishniparni mula* is one of key components of *Dashamula* group, with *Uraria picta* being authentic botanical source. However, in trade & practical use, other species such as *Uraria lagopodioides* (L.) DC, *Desmodium gangeticum* (L.) DC, & *Pseudarthria viscida* (L.) Wight & Arn are comm. found as substitutes or adulterants.

Controversy surrounding *Prishniparni*

There exists some controversy regarding botanical identity of Ayurvedic drug *Prishniparni*, primarily due to regional variations in its identification. According to the textbook *Some Controversial Drugs in Indian Medicine*[35], *Prishniparni* is identified as *Uraria picta* (Jacq.) Desv. Ex DC. in North India, while in South India, it is identified as *Desmodium gangeticum* (Linn.) DC. The texts *Indian Medicinal Plants*[36] and *The Wealth of India*[37] also recognize *Uraria picta* as *Prishniparni*. Furthermore, the *Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India*[30] officially considers *Uraria picta* to be *Prishniparni*.

However, several other authoritative sources, including the *Compendium of Indian Medicinal Plants*[38], *Pharmacognosy of Ayurvedic Drugs*[39], and *Indian Medicinal Plants: A Compendium of 500 Species*[40] identify *Prishniparni* as *Desmodium gangeticum* (Linn.) DC.

Review of historical insights in literature

Vedic period

Information regarding the plant *Prishniparni* (*Uraria picta* Desv. ex DC.) can be traced back to ancient Vedic literature, notably *Atharvaveda* (*Kanda-2/Sukta 25*).[41] In the text 'The *Atharva -Veda* and The *Ayur-Veda*[42], *Prishniparni* is described as possessing protective properties against malevolent forces (Evil beings). Based on its *Guṇa-Bheda*[39] (classification according to properties), it is referred to by various names such as *Devi*, *Sahamana*, *Sahasvati*, and *Kanvajambhani*. Therapeutically, the herb is recognized for its utility as a *Krimighna* (Anthelmintic), *Rakshoghna* (protective against external harmful influences), *Raktashodhaka* (blood purifier), *Charmarogahara* (effective in skin disorders), as well as for its *Deepana-Pachana* (digestive stimulant) and *Brimhana* (nourishing) actions.

Samhita period

Prishniparni is mentioned in the *Brihatrayee*[43] as a drug with multidimensional uses.

Table 2: References of *Prishniparni* in *Brihatrayee*.

SN	Reference	Karma / indications / uses
Charaka Samhita[4] Sutra Sthana		
1.	2/12 (Apamargantanduliyam Adhyaya)	Asthapana Vasti (therapeutic enema) help relieve bloating (Udavarta) and constipation (Vibandha).
2.	2/20 (Apamargantanduliyam Adhyaya)	Yavagu (medicated gruel) is beneficial in diarrhoea caused by excess Pitta and Kapha.
3.	2/21 (Apamargantanduliyam Adhyaya)	Yavagu is also helpful in treating bloody diarrhea (Rakta Atisara).

4.	4/5 (Shadvirechanshatashritiya Adhyaya)	Sandhaniya Mahakashaya Dravya (herb promote healing and help unite fractured tissues).
5.	4/38 (Shadvirechanshatashritiya Adhyaya)	Shothhara Mahakashaya Dravya (herb useful in reducing swelling and inflammation).
6.	4/44 (Shadvirechanshatashritiya Adhyaya)	Angamarda Prasamana Mahakashaya Dravya (herb in relieve body aches and fatigue).
7.	5/65 (Matrashitiya Adhyaya)	Anu Taila Dravya useful as Tridoshghna (balance all three Doṣas) and Indriyabalaprada (strengthen the sense organs).
8.	25/40 (Yajjapurushiya Adhyaya)	Agraya Dravya are useful in managing diarrhea (Sangrahika), calming Vata (Vatahara), improving digestion (Deepniya), and enhancing fertility or strength (Vrishya Karma).
Charaka Samhita[4] Vimana Sthana		
1.	8/139 (Rogabhishagajitiya Adhyaya)	Madhur Skanda Dravya useful in Vataja Vikara with Ghrita Taila etc. and Pittaja Vikara with Madhu Sarpi etc.
Charaka Samhita[4] Chikitsa Sthana		
1.	1.1/42 (Abhyasa - Amalakiya Rasayana Pada)	Pratham Brahmarasayana Dravya
2.	3/182 (Jvara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Peya Dravya (light rice gruel) is useful in treating fever with diarrhea (Jvara-Atisara).
3.	3/ 186 (Jvara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Peya Dravya is useful in fever with burning pain in the anal region (Jvarita Parikartika).
4.	3/224 (Jvara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Baladi Ghrita is useful in treating fever (Jvara).
5.	3/245 (Jvara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Niruha Vasti Dravya (medicated enema) is helpful in fever (Jvara).
6.	3/247 (Jvara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Niruha Vasti Dravya is useful in fever and also improves strength (Bala), sweating (Sveda), and appetite (Anna-Ruchi).
7.	3/267 (Jvara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Agravadi Taila is beneficial in cold-type fevers (Shita Jvara).
8.	4/44 (Raktapitta Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Yavagu Dravya is helpful in bleeding disorders like Raktapitta.
9.	4/46 (Raktapitta Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Yavagu Dravya is helpful in Raktapitta (bleeding conditions).
10.	4/85 (Raktapitta Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Ksheera preparations (milk-based) are useful in painful bleeding from the urinary tract (Mutramargagata Raktapitta).
11.	8/69 (Rajayakshama Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Kvatha preparations (herbal decoctions) are useful in tuberculosis (Yakshma).
12.	8/107 (Rajayakshama Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Duralabhadhya Ghrita is helpful in managing tuberculosis (Yakshma).
13.	8/114 (Rajayakshama Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Baladi Ksheera is useful in fever and cough (Jvara-Kasa) associated with tuberculosis.
14.	9/37 (Unmada Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Kalyanaka Ghrita is useful in mental disorders (Unmada).
15.	9/42 (Unmada Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Mahakalyanaka Ghrita is effective in treating mental illness caused by all three Doshas (Sannipataja Unmada).
16.	11/43 (Kshatashina Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Amritprash Ghrita is helpful in tissue-wasting conditions (Kshatashina).
17.	14/199 (Arsha Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Laajpeya preparation is beneficial in bleeding piles (Raktarsa).
18.	14/234 (Arsha Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Sunishannaka Changeri Ghrita is useful in painful and inflamed piles, diarrhea (Atisara), and prolapse of rectum (Gudabhrams).
19.	18/77 (Kasa Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Peya Dravya is helpful in dry cough caused by Vata (Vataja Kasa).
20.	18/ 101 (Kasa Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Sthiradi Ksheerapaka is beneficial in cough (Kasa), fever (Jvara), and burning sensation (Daha).
21.	19/23 (Atisara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Pramathya preparations are useful in diarrhea (Atisara).
22.	19/26 (Atisara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Sangrahi Gana Dravya are helpful in stopping diarrhea (Atisara).
23.	19/54 (Atisara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Yavagu Manda is useful in Pitta-type diarrhea (Pittaja Atisara) after complete fasting (Purna Langhana).
24.	23/213 (Visha Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Paramagada is effective in poisoning caused by Vishambhar and similar toxins.
25.	23/245 (Visha Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Amrita Ghrita is useful in treating all types of poisoning (Sarva Visha).
26.	24 /149 (Madatyaya Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Shita preparations are helpful in alcohol-related disorders caused by Pitta (Pittaja Madatyaya).
27.	24/165 (Madatyaya Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Kvatha preparations are beneficial in alcohol-related disorders caused by Kapha (Kaphaja Madatyaya).
28.	25/75 (Dvivraniya Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Malham preparations are useful in wound pain (Vrana Shula).
29.	26/88 (Trimarmiya Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Trayushnadi Ghrita is helpful in heart diseases caused by Vata (Vataja Hridaroga).
30.	30/280 (Yonivyapada Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Stana Lepa preparations are useful in treating breast milk-related disorders (Guru Stanya Dosha).
Charaka Samhita[4] Siddhi Sthana		
1.	7/13 (Vastivyapadasiddhi Adhyaya)	Vasti preparation is useful in treating complications of excessive Vasti therapy (Vasti Vyapada – Atiyoga).
2.	10/19 (Vasti Siddhi Adhyaya)	Vatanashak Vasti Dravya helps in reducing Vata-related disorders.
3.	10/38 (Vasti Siddhi Adhyaya)	Vasti preparation is useful in treating complications of Vasti therapy (Vasti Vyapada – Jivadan).
4.	12/15-2 (Uttarvasti Siddhi Adhyaya)	Erandmuladi Yapan Vasti is useful in managing chronic piles (Chira-Arsa).
5.	12/15-5 (Uttarvasti Siddhi Adhyaya)	Pratham Baladi Yapan Vasti helps in quickly restoring strength (Sadhya Bala Janana) and acts as a rejuvenator (Rasayana).
6.	12/15-8 (Uttarvasti Siddhi Adhyaya)	Hrisva Panchmuladi Yapan Vasti is helpful for weak patients suffering from irregular fever (Visham Jvara).
7.	12/15-11 (Uttarvasti Siddhi Adhyaya)	Salaparnyadi Yapan Vasti is also beneficial for weak patients with irregular fever (Visham Jvara).
Sushruta Samhita[3] Sutra Sthana		
1.	19/29 (Vranit Upashaniya Adhyaya)	Rakshogna Dravya useful in Vrana Ropana (wound healing) on head application.
2.	36/26 (Mishraka Adhyaya)	Ropana Ghrita Dravya useful in Vrana Ropana (wound healing).

3.	38/4 (Dravya Sangrahnaya Adhyaya)	Vidarigandhadi Gana Dravya is helpful in conditions like emaciation (Sosha), abdominal lumps (Gulma), body ache (Angamarda), breathing difficulty (Urdhva Shvasa), and cough (Kasa).
4.	38/27 (Dravya Sangrahnaya Adhyaya)	Haridradi Gana Dravya is useful for purifying breast milk (Stanyavishodhan), treating diarrhea due to toxins (Aamatisara), and digesting accumulated doshas (Doshapachaka).
5.	38/67 (Dravya Sangrahnaya Adhyaya)	Laghupanchamula Dravya helps in nourishing the body (Brimhana), increasing strength (Balavardhana), reducing Vata (Vataghna), and calming pitta (Pittashamaka).
Sushruta Samhita[3] Sharira Sthana		
1.	10/4 (Garbhini Vyakarana Adhyaya)	Prathakparnyadi Ghrita is used in the 7th month of pregnancy to nourish and support the fetus (Garbha Aapyayana).
2.	10/18 (Garbhini Vyakarana Adhyaya)	Vidarigandhadi Siddha Yavagu is useful in postnatal care (Sutika Chikitsa) to help the mother recover.
3.	10/64 (Garbhini Vyakarana Adhyaya)	Prishniparnyadi Yoga is used in the 6th month to manage the risk of miscarriage (Garbha Shrava Chikitsa).
Sushruta Samhita[3] Chikitsa Sthana		
1.	5/7 (Mahavatavyadhi Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Taila preparation useful in Vata Pradhan Vatarakta (Vata dominant gout)
2.	5/10 (Mahavatavyadhi Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Pradeha and Lepa useful in Kaphaja Vatarakta (Kapha dominant gout)
3.	6/9 (Arsa Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Ghrita preparation is useful in piles (Arsa) caused by excess Pitta.
4.	16/9 (Vidradhi Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Trevrita Sneha helps in healing abscess wounds (Vidradhi Vranaropana).
5.	16/15 (Vidradhi Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Ropaka Ghrita is also useful for wound healing in abscess conditions (Vidradhi).
6.	17/11 (Visarpa-Nadi-/Stanaroga Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Goryadi Ghrita is effective in treating skin disorders like Pitta-type erysipelas (Visarpa).
7.	21/14 (Sukaroga Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Prathakparnyadi Taila useful in Shatponaka Chikitsa (diseases caused due to artificial penile size enhancers).
8.	37/24 (Anuvasanuttarbasti Adhyaya)	Jivantyadi Anuvasana Vasti helps to increase semen (Shukra), digestive fire (Agni), strength (Bala), nourishing (Brimhana) and helps relieve abdominal lumps (Gulma), bloating (Anaha), and diseases above the neck (Urdhvajatru Rogahara).
Sushruta Samhita[3] Kalpa Sthana		
1.	8/51 (Keetakaalpa Adhyaya)	Dhavadi Agada is useful in treating poisoning caused by Vishambhar and similar toxins.
2.	8/102	Prishniparnyadi Yoga is effective against poison from spider poison (Trimandala Luta Visha) and can be used as Nasya (nasal drops), Anjana (eye application), and Paan (oral intake).
Sushruta Samhita[3] Uttar Sthana		
1.	17/93 (Drishtigataroga Pratisheda Adhyaya)	Prathakparnyadi Ghrita is used as an eye wash (Netra Shinchana) to relieve burning and pain (Daha-Shula).
2.	40/91 (Atisara Pratisheda Adhyaya)	Prishniparnyadi Peya is helpful in treating diarrhea (Atisara).
3.	40/114 (Atisara Pratisheda Adhyaya)	It is also mentioned as a dietary preparation (Ahara Sanskara Dravya) suitable for patients with diarrhea (Atisara).
4.	42/112 (Gulma Pratisheda Adhyaya)	Erand Dwadasha Kwatha is effective in relieving abdominal pain (Shula) caused by Vata, Pitta, Kapha, or all three Doshas (Sannipataja).
5.	58/33 (Mutraghata Pratisheda Adhyaya)	Prathakparnyadi Ksheera preparation is useful in treating urinary retention (Mutraghata) caused by Vata and Pitta.
6.	58/59	Bala Ghrita is helpful in correcting urinary disorders (Mutradosha-Hara).
Ashtang Hridhya[2] Sutra Sthana		
1.	10/23 (Rasabhedhiya Adhyaya)	Madhura Gana Dravya are sweet-tasting herbs that are nourishing and strengthening.
2.	15/35 (Shodhanadisangraha Adhyaya)	Haridradi Gana is useful in treating toxic diarrhea (Aam-Atisara), and helps reduce fat (Meda), Kapha, gout (Adhyavata), and impurities in breast milk (Stanyadosha).
3.	20/38 (Nasyavidhi Adhyaya)	Anu Taila Dravya is used as nasal drops (Nasya) to promote balance and clarity.
4.	29/31 (Sastrakarmavidhi Adhyaya)	Rakshogana Dravya are applied to the head (Murdha Dharana) after surgical procedures (Shastra Karma) to prevent infection and promote healing.
Ashtang Hridhya[2] Sharira Sthana		
1.	2/56 (Garbhavyapadvidhi Adhyaya)	Prishniparnyadi Yoga is used in the sixth month of pregnancy to help in the treatment and prevention of miscarriage (Garbhasrava).
Ashtang Hridhya[2] Chikitsa Sthana		
2.	1/32 (Jvara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Gokshuradi Ksheera preparation helps in treating bleeding urinary tract disorders (Mutra Margagata Raktapitta).
3.	1/28 (Jvara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Prishniparnyadi Peya is useful in fever with diarrhea (Jvara-Atisara).
4.	2/18 (Jvara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Prishniparnyadi Peya also helps in bleeding piles (Raktapitta).
5.	1/32 (Jvara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Koladi Peya is useful in treating fever with burning pain in the anal area (Jvarita Parikarti Koshta Chikitsa).
6.	1/90 (Jvara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Pippalyadi Ghrita helps in managing fever, irregular digestion (Visham Agni), and weak digestion (Halimaka).
7.	1/121 (Jvara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Chatuhaparni Siddha Vasti is useful in treating fever (Jvara).
8.	2/16 (Jirnajvara Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Kamal-Utpaladi Peya helps in bleeding disorder (Raktapitta).

9.	3/102 (Raktapitta Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Svadanshtradi Ghrita is useful in heart diseases caused by Vata and pitta (Vata-Pittaja Hridaroga), difficult urination (Mutrakrichra), diabetes (Prameha), piles (Arsa), cough (Kasa), and wasting diseases (Sosha).
10.	5/13 (Kshata-Kshayakasajit Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Chatuparni Siddha Jala preparation is useful in tuberculosis (Yakshma).
11.	9/13 (Madatyaya Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Salparnyadi Siddha Peya helps in diarrhea caused by Kapha and pitta (Kapha-Pittaja Atisara).
12.	9/86 (Madatyaya Chikitsa Adhyaya)	Peya is useful in bloody diarrhea (Rakta Atisara).
Ashtang Hridhya[2] Uttar Sthana		
1.	2/39 (Bala-Amaya Pratisheda Adhyaya)	Rajnyadi Churna is helpful in treating weakness and developmental disorders in children (Bala Roga).
2.	3/50 (Bala Grah Pratisheda Adhyaya)	Anantadi Ghrita useful in Bala Grah Roga (Child disorder).

Nighantu period

Prishniparni is extensively described in various classical *Nighantus*, detailing its synonyms (drug identification), properties (*Rasapanchaka*), actions (*Karma*), and therapeutic indications (*Rogaghnata*). These *Nighantus* include *Ashtanga Hridaya*[2], *Ashtanga Nighantu*[6], *Amarkosh*[7], *Madanadi Nighantu*[8], *Dhanvantari Nighantu*[9], *Sausruta Nighantu*[10], *Saligrama Nighantu*[11], *Sodhala Nighantu*[12], *Madanapala Nighantu*[13], *Kaiyadeva Nighantu*[14], *Raja Nighantu*[15], *Bhavaprakash Nighantu*[16], *Sarasvati Nighantu*[17], *Nighantu Adarsha*[18], *Abhidhanamanjari*[19], *Mahaushadha Nighantu*[20], *Priya Nighantu*[21], *Ayurvediya Oushadi Nighantu*[22], *Rajavallabha Nighantu*[23], *Hridya Deepak Nighantu*[24], *Paryaymuktavali*, *Siddha Mantra Nigantu*[25], *Sabdachandrika*[26], *Nigantu Shesha*[27], *Abhidhana Ratnamala*[28] has mentioned about *Prishniparni* and *Prishniparnivishesha*. The *Raja Nighantu*[15] specifically mentions the use of *Prishniparni* in *Vatkarogas* (Vata disorders). The *Nighantu Adarsha*[18] is the first to specify the *Upapayukthaanga* (appropriate part of the plant) and the dosage range of 0.5 - 1 *Tola*. Additionally, *Priya Nighantu*[21] highlights the drug's property as *Balaprada* (strength-giving).

Table 3: Classification of *Prishniparni* in Various Texts

SN	Name of the text	Skanda / Varga / Gana
1.	Charaka Samhita[4]	Sandhaneeya (Bone healing), Sothahara (Anti-inflammatory) and Angamardaprasamana (pain relief) Varga
2.	Susruta Samhita[3]	Vidarigandhadi Gana, Laghu Panchamula
3.	Ashtanga Sangraha[5]	Madhura Skandha, Vidaryadi Gana, Hraswa Panchamula, Sandhaneeya Mahakashaya, Shothahara Mahakashaya, Angamardaprashamana Mahakashaya
4.	Ashtanga Hridaya[2]	Madhura Skandha, Vidaryadi Gana, Hraswa Panchamula
5.	Ashtanga Nighantu[6]	Vidaryadi Gana
6.	Amarkosh[7]	Vanaushadi Varga
7.	Madanadi Nighantu[8]	Tritiya Gana
8.	Dhanvantari Nighantu[9]	Guduchyadi Varga
9.	Sausruta Nighantu[10]	Vidarigandhadi Gana
10.	Saligrama Nighantu[11]	Guduchyadi Varga
11.	Sodhala Nighantu[12]	Guduchyadi Varga
12.	Madanapala Nighantu[13]	Abhayadi Varga
13.	Kaiyadeva Nighantu[14]	Oushadi Varga
14.	Raja Nighantu[15]	Shatahwadi Varga
15.	Bhavaprakasa Nighantu[16]	Guduchyadi Varga
16.	Sarasvati Nighantu[17]	Ulapa Varga
17.	Nighantu Adarsha[18]	Palashadi Varga
18.	Abhidhanamanjari[19]	Madanadi Gana (Durvadi Varga)
19.	Mahaushadha Nighantu[20]	Bilwadi Varga
20.	Priya Nighantu[21]	Hareetakyadi Varga
21.	Ayurvediya Oushadi Nighantu[22]	Prithukshupadi Varga
22.	Rajavallabha Nighantu[23]	Aushadhasraya Paricheda
23.	Hridya Deepak Nighantu[24]	Chatusa-Pada Varga, Doshagna Varga
24.	Paryaymuktavali	Tiktashak Varga
25.	Siddhamantra Nigantu[25]	Tridoshagna Varga
26.	Sabdachandrika[26]	Vrikshadi Varga
27.	Nigantu Shesha[27]	Gulma Kanda
28.	Abhidhana Ratnamala[28]	Svadu Skanda

Table 4: Rasa Panchaka (Pharmacological Properties) of Prishniparni

Samhitas & Nighantus	Rasa	Guna	Veerya	Vipaka	Prabhava
Madanadi Nighantu[8] Dhanvantari Nighantu[9] Madanapala Nighantu[13]	Madhura	Laghu	Ushna	-	-
Kaiyadeva Nighantu[14] Mahaushadha Nighantu[20] Bhavaprakasa Nighantu[16]	Madhura	Sara	Ushna	-	-
Raja Nighantu[15]	Katu, Amla, Tikta	-	Ushna	-	-
Nighantu Adarsha[18]	Madhura, Tikta	-	Ushna	Madhura	-
Priya Nighantu[21]	-	-	Ushna	-	-

Karma (Pharmacological actions) of Prishniparni

Action on Doshas -	Tridosahara[9,13,14,16,18, 20-22,30] (Balances all three Doshas)Vatahara[22] (pacify Vata Dosha)
Action on Dhatus -	Asthi Dhatu - Sandhaneeya[30] (Helps in bone and joint healing) Sukra Dhatu - Vrishya[9,13,14,16,20-22,30] (Enhances reproductive health and semen quality)
Action on Agni -	Deepana[30] (Improves digestion and appetite)
Action on Mala -	Sara[14] (Promotes movement and flow in the body) Anulomana[22] (Aids in proper downward movement of Vata, relieves constipation) Mutrala[22] (Acts as a diuretic, increases urine flow) Sangrahi[30] (Absorbs and binds, helps in stopping diarrhoea)
Action on Srotas -	Raktavaha: Asra Doshahara[9] (Purifies blood and corrects blood-related imbalances). Rasa Pradoshaja: Angamardaprashamana[30] (Relieves body pain caused by disorders of the Rasa Dhatu – primary nutrient fluid)
Action on Avayava -	Hridya[22] (Strengthens and supports the heart)
Action on Sthana -	Vranahara[15] (Heals wounds)
Action on Sarvasareera -	Dahahara[9,13-15,20,22] (Relieves burning sensation) Balaprada[21] (Improves strength and vitality)

Table 5: Rogaghnta (Therapeutic Indications) of Prishniparni

Indications	D.N	M.P	Ka.N	Ra.N	B.P	Ma.N	P.N	API
Annavaahasrotas								
Chardi		✓	✓		✓			✓
Udakavaahasrotas								
Trishna	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Pranavaahasrotas								
Kasa	✓			✓		✓		✓
Shwasa	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓
Rasaavaahasrotas								
Jwara	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Raktavaahasrotas								
Raktarshas								✓
Raktavikara								✓
Purishavaahasrotas								
Raktatisara		✓	✓		✓			✓
Atisara				✓		✓	✓	✓
Manovahasrotas								
Unmada				✓				✓

Discussion

Prishniparni (*Uraria picta* Desv. ex DC.) is frequently cited in Ayurvedic literature, underlining its wide-ranging therapeutic importance. This review consolidates its references from *Brihatrayee* (Charaka, Sushruta, and Ashtanga) and numerous *Nighantus*, offering insights into its traditional usage patterns. It is a critical member of *Laghu Panchamoola* and classified under multiple herbal groups such as *Sandhaneeya*, *Shothahara*, and *Angamarda Prashamana Mahakashaya*. Its documented actions span anti-inflammatory, rejuvenative, wound-healing, and digestive properties.

Ayurvedic texts consistently describe it as *Madhura* in *Rasa*, *Ushna* in *Veerya*, and *Laghuor Sara* in *Guna*. These properties correlate with its therapeutic actions like *Deepana* (digestive stimulant), *Balya* (strength-promoting), *Sangra hika* (absorbent), *Vrishya* (reproductive tonic), and *Tridosahara* (balancing all three doshas). *Prishniparni* is indicated in a range of *Srotovaha* systems: it supports respiratory, digestive, circulatory, and reproductive health, and is a core ingredient in classical preparations such as *Baladi Ghrita*, *Dasamularishta*, and *Vyaghri Taila*.

Modern pharmacological studies support its traditional claims. The presence of flavonoids, alkaloids, and other phytoconstituents contribute to its cardio protective, hepatoprotective, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory effects. These findings bridge the gap between traditional Ayurvedic knowledge and contemporary biomedical research.

A noteworthy point is the regional disparity in its botanical identification -*Uraria picta* is accepted in North India, while *Desmodium gangeticum* is often used in the South. Despite IUCN listing it as "Least Concern," regional assessments label it as rare or threatened due to overharvesting. This calls for urgent conservation strategies and sustainable cultivation.

Conclusion

Prishniparni (*Uraria picta* Desv. Ex DC.) is a revered medicinal plant deeply rooted in Ayurvedic literature and therapeutics. Its consistent mention across classical texts such as the *Brihatrayee* and various *Nighantus* highlights its multifaceted utility in managing disorders ranging from respiratory ailments to musculoskeletal conditions. Modern studies corroborate its pharmacological potential, validating its cardioprotective, antioxidant, and anti-inflammatory properties.

However, despite its classification as "Least Concern" on the IUCN Red List, the rising demand for its roots—particularly in formulations like *Dashamula* - has led to destructive harvesting practices, regional substitution, and increasing rarity in some habitats. This underscores the urgent need for integrative conservation strategies, including taxonomical clarity, sustainable harvesting, in situ and ex situ cultivation, and awareness among herbal practitioners and industries.

Conservation of such botanically and therapeutically significant plants is not only a matter of ecological balance but also of preserving Ayurvedic heritage for future generations. A collaborative approach involving classical wisdom, modern research, and environmental stewardship is the key to ensuring the sustainable use of *Prishniparni*.

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