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# An Ayurvedic review on *Hartala* (yellow orpiment) : A *Dhatuja Visha*

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## ABSTRACT

In Ayurveda, usage of '*Dhatuja Visha*' is given in different formulations which are having therapeutic significance. *Hartala* comes under *Dhatuja Visha* mentioned by *Acharya Sushrut*. It is inorganic irritant poison and has a *Lomshatana* property. It is known as yellow orpiment or arsenic trisulfide ( $AS_2S_3$ ) and used as depilatory, coloring pigment and in flypaper. It is an Arsenic compound which is used in several skin diseases in spite of its toxic nature. *Hartala* or orpiment, a metallic drug, is taken as an ingredient in many Ayurvedic formulations in spite of its direct use, purification is necessary before use and these formulations are used externally as well as internally in chronic disorders. Here in the article an attempt has been made to collect the Ayurvedic review on *Hartala* from various Ayurvedic classics.

**Key words:** *Hartala*, *Shodhana*, *Ayurveda*, *Dhatuja Visha*, *Orpiment*.

## INTRODUCTION

Ayurvedic metallic medicines have been traditionally used for thousands of years in India. Presently Drugs & Cosmetic act of India to rule out and control the Ayurvedic medicines. However there is a large number of Ayurvedic formulations containing poisonous substance as an ingredient and these poisonous substances are placed under Schedule-E of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules 1945.<sup>[1]</sup> As per Ayurved, before use of poisonous drugs *Shodhana* process is required for preparing the Ayurvedic formulation. It is an Ayurvedic concept that the *Shodhana* procedures mitigate or eliminate the unwanted toxic effect and

increase the therapeutic importance of Ayurvedic formulation containing poisonous substances.

*Hartala* which is chemically arsenic tri-sulphide, also called yellow orpiment is an Ayurvedic compound is taken as ingredient in many Ayurvedic formulations. *Acharya Charaka* has told *Hartala* is a *Parthiva Dravya*<sup>[2]</sup> and given references to treat various skin disorders, *Hikka*, *Kasa*, *Swasa Chikitsa*, *Kustha Chikitsa*, *Unmada Chikitsa* etc. The references of *Hartala* are available in *Susrutha Samhita*, for cleansing wounds as *Vrana Sodhana*, *Pandu Karma*, *Arsha*, for various skin disorders, *Granthi*, *Upadamsa*, *Visarpa* and as a hair remover in different formulations. References are available regarding *Dhatuja Visha*<sup>[3]</sup> in *Lutadamsa Chikitsa* in *Kalpasthan*, simultaneously in *Uttara Tantra*, references are available in the subject of worms, eye diseases, skin diseases and several paediatric disorders in the form of oil, powder, and *Dhumapana*.

*Acharya Vagbhata* mentioned *Hartala* mainly in *Nasa Rogas*, *Sotha*, *Vrischika Damsa*, for *Vidarana* action. In *Rasashastra*, majority of *Rasacharyas* mentioned *Hartala* in *Uparasa* group. In *Sharangadhara Samhita* it is mentioned in *Upadhatu Varga*.<sup>[4]</sup>

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The present review are organised in various sections based on Ayurvedic view of *Hartala*.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The data which is related to *Hartala*, collected from Ayurvedic literatures and scientific journals.

### Historical Review

#### Vedic period

- Mythologically it is said that *Hartala* is originated from the discharge produced at the end of sexual act of lord *Shiva* and goddess *Parvati*.<sup>[5]</sup>
- In *Purana* it is said that, Lord *Narasimha* killed *Hiranyakashipu*. At this time the yellow vomitus of *Hiranyakashipu* is converted into flakes. This is considered as *Hartala*.<sup>[6]</sup>

#### Samhita period

- Charaka Samhita** has 14 references of *Hartala* in different places with different aspects. It was used to treat many diseases which are listed below,

**Table 1: Different references of *Hartala* in *Charaka Samhita*.**

SN	References in <i>Charaka Samhita</i>	<i>Sthana</i>
1.	Grouping under 'Parthiva Dravya'	<i>Sutrasthana</i> 1/71
2.	External application in various skin diseases	<i>Sutrasthana</i> 3/5, 3/12
3.	As an ingredient of <i>Dhumapana</i> in <i>Shirovirechana</i> ( <i>Aprajitadi Shiroviraichnik Dhuma</i> )	<i>Sutrasthana</i> 5/26
4.	Use of <i>Hartala</i> in <i>Kanakakshiri Tailam</i> for treating <i>Kustha</i> .	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 7/114
5.	As an <i>Anjanartha varti</i> for <i>Unmada Chikitsa</i>	<i>Chikitsa sthana</i> 9/66-67
6.	Uses of <i>Lepa</i> in <i>Arsha Chikitsa</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 14/56
7.	Used as <i>Dhoomavarthi</i> and <i>Manahshiladi Ghrita</i> in <i>Hikka</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 17/77-78,

	<i>Shwasa Chikitsa</i>	17/145
8.	Used as <i>Manahshiladi Dhuma</i> in <i>Kasa Chikitsa</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 18/69-70 18/74-75
9.	Used in <i>Mrita sanjeevani agada</i> and <i>Mahagandhastinam Agada</i> in <i>Visha Chikitsa</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 23/54, 23/78
10.	Used in <i>Peetaka Churna</i> for treating <i>Kantha</i> and <i>Mukha Rogas</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 26/196

- Sushruta Samhita** mentioned *Hartala* under *Dhatuja Visha*. Totally 29 times *Hartala* is quoted for various points of view as mentioned below,

**Table 2: Different references of *Hartala* in *Sushrut Samhita*.**

SN	References in <i>Sushruta Samhita</i>	<i>Sthana</i>
1.	<i>Vrana shodhana dravyas</i> as; <i>sanshodhani varti</i> & <i>sanshodhani kalka</i>	<i>Sutrasthana</i> 36/14-15
2.	<i>Vrana Shodhana Chikitsa</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 1/60
3.	<i>Vrana savarnikarana Lepa</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 1/97
4.	<i>Lomshatan Lepas</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 1/105, 1/107, 1/108
5.	Used as <i>Lepa</i> for <i>Arsha</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 6/12
6.	Used as a <i>Kusthahara Lepa</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 9/10
7.	Used as a <i>Shvitrahara Lepa</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 9/27
8.	<i>Updamshahara Churna</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 19/40
9.	Used as an <i>Updamsha</i> & <i>Visarpa</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i>

	<i>Chikitsa</i>	19/46
10.	<i>Lepa</i> used for <i>Arunshika</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 20/28
11.	Useful in <i>Ahipootna Chikitsa</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 20/59
12.	Said as a <i>Dhatuja Visha</i>	<i>Kalpasthan</i> 2/5
13.	Useful in treating <i>Lutadamsha Chikitsa</i>	<i>Kalpasthan</i> 8/112
14.	<i>Anjanvarti</i> in <i>Shleshmabhishtand Chikitsa</i>	<i>Uttaratantra</i> 11/10
15.	<i>Shakuni Pratishedha Chikitsa</i>	<i>Uttaratantra</i> 30/6
16.	<i>Taila Abhyanga</i> in <i>Poothana Pratishedha</i>	<i>Uttaratantra</i> 32/4
17.	<i>Taila Abhyanga</i> in <i>Andhapootana Pratishedha Chikitsa</i>	<i>Uttaratantra</i> 33/4
18.	Useful as <i>Mustadi Varti</i> as <i>Dhoompana</i> in <i>Kasa Chikitsa</i>	<i>Uttaratantra</i> 52/23

### Sangraha period

- *Acharya Vagbhatta* has explained *Hartala* on *Nasa Roga*, *Visha Pratishedha* etc. as per the actions and uses given by *Acharya Charaka* and *Sushruta*.

**Table 3: Different references of Hartala in Ashtanga Hridaya.**

SN	References in <i>Ashtanga Hridaya</i>	<i>Sthana</i>
1.	Used as an ingredient in the <i>Tikshna Dhoompana</i>	<i>Sutrasthan</i> 21/18
2.	Used as an ingredient in the <i>Dhoompana</i> in <i>Kaphaja Kasaroga</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 3/68
3.	Useful in <i>Arsha Chikitsa</i> as one of the component of <i>Kasisadi Taila</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 8/15

4.	<i>Dadrunashaka Churna</i> used in various skin disease	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 19/67
5.	Used as <i>Kusthanashaka Lepa</i>	<i>Chikitsasthana</i> 19/70
6.	Used as <i>Ghran Varti</i> on <i>Puyrakta Chikitsa (Nasa Roga)</i>	<i>Uttaratantra</i> 20/24
7.	Used it for <i>Kustha</i> , <i>Dushta-vrana</i> , <i>Nadi-vrana</i> , <i>Apachi</i>	<i>Uttaratantra</i> 30/22-24
8.	<i>Updamshar Churna-Lepa</i>	<i>Uttaratantra</i> 34/4
9.	Ingredient of <i>Chandroday Agada</i> in <i>Visha Pratishedha</i>	<i>Uttaratantra</i> 35/24
10.	<i>Vrischika Damsa-Nashak Agad</i>	<i>Uttaratantra</i> 37/40
11.	<i>Mandar Agada</i> in <i>Luta Damsa Chikitsa</i>	<i>Uttaratantra</i> 37/73

The author of *Sharangadhara Samhita*, *Yoga Ratnakara*, *Bhava Prakasha* and *Brihad Yoga Tarangini* described it in *Upadhatu Varga*.

### Rasa-shastra period

- Almost all *Rasagrantha* the literature of *Hartala* is available in detail, under *Uaparasa Varga*. Most of the *Rasa Shastra* texts have described *Hartala* with its synonyms, properties, indication, contraindication, *Shodhana*, *Marana*, *Satva Patana* etc.
- The text of 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries as *Rasa Prakasa Sudhakar*, *Rasendra Sarasamgrah*, *Rasa Sara*, *Rasa Chintamani*, *Rasa Ratnakara* have described alchemical and pharmaceutical processes.
- 13<sup>th</sup> century *Raskamdheni* compiled the uses of *Hartala* and remedies according to diseases.
- 20<sup>th</sup> century texts such *Rastarangini*, *Raschandashu*, *Rasajalanidhi* etc. have described about *Hartala*.

**Table 4: Different references of Hartala in various Rasashastra classics.**

SN	Name of classic	Reference available
1.	<i>Rasa Ratna Samuchaya</i> <sup>[7]</sup>	3/70-90
2.	<i>Rasa Prakash Sudhakar</i> <sup>[8]</sup>	6/1-10
3.	<i>Brihata Rasa Raj Sundara</i> <sup>[9]</sup>	<i>Hartala prakarana</i> Pg No-143
4.	<i>Rasendra Sara Sangraha</i> <sup>[10]</sup>	1/166
5.	<i>Yoga Tarangini</i> <sup>[11]</sup>	17/85
6.	<i>Rasendra Chintamani</i> <sup>[12]</sup>	7/77
7.	<i>Ayurveda Prakasha</i> <sup>[13]</sup>	2/173
8.	<i>Sharangdhara Samhita</i> <sup>[14]</sup>	<i>Madhyama khanda</i> 11/74-75
9.	<i>Anand kanda</i> <sup>[15]</sup>	<i>Prathama ullasa-Kriyakarana vishranati</i>
10.	<i>Siddha Prayoga Sangraha</i> <sup>[16]</sup>	6/3
11.	<i>Bhaishajya Ratnavali</i> <sup>[17]</sup>	3 <sup>th</sup> Chapter
12.	<i>Rasendra Manga</i> <sup>[18]</sup>	3/70
13.	<i>Rasendra Chudamani</i> <sup>[19]</sup>	11/29
14.	<i>Rasarnava</i> <sup>[20]</sup>	7/74
15.	<i>Rasendra Purana</i> <sup>[21]</sup>	8/3
16.	<i>Rasa Tarangini</i> <sup>[22]</sup>	11/1-103
17.	<i>Ras Kamdhenu</i> <sup>[23]</sup>	2/4/78
18.	<i>Rasa Hriday Tantra</i> <sup>[24]</sup>	9/4

- Text like *Kautilya Arthashastra* of 4<sup>th</sup> Century A.D also described about *Hartala*.<sup>[25]</sup>

#### Distribution

Generally occurs along with Realgar, at hot spring deposits at Arsenic veins. It is available at U.S.A., Peru, Hungary, Yugoslavia. In India, it occurs in very small quantity near Darjeeling and Kashmir and Kuman hills. Hence much of the orpiment is being imported to India.<sup>[26]</sup>

#### Vernacular Names

- Sanskrit - *Hartala, Tala, Ala*.
- Hindi - *Hartala*.
- Bengali - *Hartala*.
- Marathi - *Hartala*.
- Gujarati - *Hartala*.
- Arabia - Jarnikha asphara.
- Telugu - Haratalamu
- English - Yellow orpiment<sup>[26]</sup>

#### Synonyms

- Ala* : Ornament for ala.
- Chitranga* : Having different colours.
- Chitrangada* : Having different colours.
- Girija lalita* : Reddish yellow in colour.
- Kanaka rasa* : Looks like gold.
- Kanchanaka* : Looks like gold.
- Pinjaraka* : Looks like cage.
- Pinga* : Reddish yellow colour.
- Pingarasa* : It explains its colour i.e reddish yellow.
- Romaharana* : Removes hair from the root (*Karma vishesha*).
- Shailusha Bhushana* : Utpatti in mountain and looks like an ornament on mountains.
- Tala* : Talameva haritalam.
- Vidalak* : Used for eye disease (*Guna vishesha*)

**Table 5: Showing various synonyms of Hartala mentioned in the classics.**<sup>[27-35]</sup>

S N	Name of the text	R RS	R T	R C	RJ N	RS S	A P	R A	A K	B R
1.	Haritala	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
2.	Tala	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
3.	Alam	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+
4.	Talaka	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-
5.	Mallagand hajam	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Pinjara	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+
7.	Peetanaka	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Shailushu Bhushana	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-
9.	Romahara m	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+
10.	Vidalaka	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-
11.	Chitragand ha	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Vamshapat ra	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Natabhush ana	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+
14.	Natamand ana	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
15.	Dala	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
16.	Malla	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+

17.	Peetam	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-
18.	Pinjaka	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Vidalam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Godantam	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+
21.	Vangari	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
22.	Kharjuram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Atigandha m	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
24.	Girijalalit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
25.	Romanasha ka	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-

RRS = Rasa Ratna Samuchchaya, RT = Rasa Tarangini, RC = Rasa Chandhansu, RJN = Rasa Jala Nidhi, RSS = Rasendra Sara Samgrah, AP = Ayurved Prakash, RA = Rasa Amrit, AK = Anand Kand, BR = Bhaisajya Ratnawali.

**Types**

According to Rasgranthas 2 types (Patra Tala and pinda Tala) and 4 types of Hartala (Patra, Pinda, Godanti and Vakadala) are mentioned.

**Table 6: Showing types of Hartala according to various classics.**

Rasarnav, Rasa Tarangini, R.R.S. Ayurveda Prakash, Anand Kand, Rasa Chandasu, Rasa Amrit etc.	Raschikitsa, Rasjalanidhi
1. Patra Tala	1. Patra Hartala

2. Pinda Tala	2. Pinda Hartala
	3. Godanti Hartala
	4. Vakadala

**Lakshana**<sup>[36]</sup>**Table 6: Showing Lakshana of four types of Hartala.**

1) Patra Hartala	2) Pinda Hartala	3) Godanti Hartala	4) Vakadala Hartala
Thin layers and glazy	Having no layers	Soft, Heavy	Soft generally known as "Cold Hartala"
Golden yellow and shiny	Found in lumps and heavy.	Appears like cow's teeth	heavy in nature
Heavy and scaly form	It can stop the discharge of menses.	Yellow with blue stripes at the center	having layers
Best for medicinal preparation	It is said to be inferior for medicinal preparations.	Found in the form of long bars	cure Leucoderma and Leprosy.
Soothing and soft	Has a very little essence.		

**Toxicity of Ashuddha Hartala**

Ashuddha Hartala increases Vata and Kapha Dosha leads to disease like Prameha, Santap, cracks on skin, Jwara, and constriction of blood vessels and lastly leads to death. As it is considered as an arsenic compound that is having poisonous properties, hence always it should be used after Shodhana.<sup>[37]</sup>

**Antidote**

Jeeraka with equal quantity of sharkara in the Kushmanda Swarasa for 3 times a day or it can be

continued until the Ashuddha Haratala Lakshana diminishes.<sup>[38]</sup>

**Shodhana**

Small pieces of Hartala bundled in tied Pottali. This Pottali is placed in Dolayantra containing any of the Dravya mentioned in the following table or mixing with all. It is subjected to Agni for 3 hrs. Care should be taken that the Pottali should not touch the bottom of the Yantra. After 3 hrs the Pottali is removed. Then it is washed with hot water. Some author explains that after Swedana procedure, Mardana is done with water until it attains Nischandrika and then allows it to dry. This Shodhita Hartala is used for medicinal purpose.

**Table 7: Showing Shodhana of Hartala by giving Bhavna Dravya and Swedan in Dolayantra mentioned in various classics.**

SN	References	Dravya	Procedure	Time
1.	Rasa Ratna Samucchaya	Kushmanda Swarasa or Tila Kshara or Churnodaka.	Swedan in Dolayantra.	3hrs.
2.	Rasendra Sambhava.	Churnodaka and Kanji or Triphala Kwatha or Dugdha or Vata Dugdha.	Swedan in Dolayantra	3hrs.
3.	Rasa Chikitsa	Churnajala.	Bhavana or Swedana	1 day.
4.	Rasa Jala Nidhi	Churnodaka. Kushmanda Swarasa or Tila Kshara or Churnodaka or Tankan, lime juice,	Bhavana Swedan in Dolayantra	7 days. 3hrs.

		Kanji.		
5.	Rasamrit & Ayurveda Prakash.	Churnodaka & Kushmanda Swarasa Tila Taila & Triphala Kwath.	Swedan	in each for 1 Yama.
6.	Rasarnava.	Kushmanda Swarasa.	Swedan	100 times.
7.	Ras Tarangini	Shalmali mool swaras or nimbu swaras or kushmand or tilkshara jala.	Swedan and Bhavana	3 hrs 7 times

Here, it is seen that *Shodhana* process for *Hartala* as mentioned various classics of *Rasa Shastra*, *Churnodak* and *Kushmanda Swarasa* stands first which has been described by the maximum classics. *Triphala Jala*, *Tilaksara Jala* and *Kanji* are also used for *Shodhana* process.

#### Pharmacological properties<sup>[39]</sup>

<b>Rasa</b>	<i>Katu</i>
<b>Guna</b>	<i>Snigdha, Ushna</i>
<b>Veerya</b>	<i>Ushna</i>
<b>Vipaka</b>	<i>Katu</i>
<b>Doshaghnata</b>	<i>Kapha - Vata Shamaka</i>
<b>Karma</b>	<i>Sleshmarogahara, Raktadoshahara, Deepana, Twachya, Rasayana.</i>

**Rogaghnata** - *Kushta, Streepushpa Nashaka, Jwara, Krimi, Vatarakta, Rakta Dushti, Vishanashak, Kandu*

*Hara, Visarpa, Dadru, Pama, Prameha, Kaphapittaj Roga.*

**Matra** - 1/8 to 1 Ratti (15 mg to 30 mg)

**Table 8: Showing Pharmacological properties of *Hartala* mentioned in various classics.**

S N	Properties	RR S	R C	RP S	RS S	R T	RJ N	A P	R A
1.	<i>Katu</i>	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-
2.	<i>Kashaya</i>	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-
3.	<i>Tikta</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	<i>Snigdha</i>	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
5.	<i>Ushna</i>	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-
6.	<i>Guru</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	<i>Angadeepti (Varnadeepti)</i>	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-
8.	<i>Vishaharana</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-
9.	<i>Deepnam</i>	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-

RRS = *Rasa Ratna Samuchchaya*, RC = *Rasa Chandhansu*, RPS = *Rasa Prakash Sudhakar*, RSS = *Rasendra Sara Samgrah*, RT = *Rasa Tarangini*, RJN = *Rasa Jala Nidhi*, AP = *Ayurved Prakash*, RA = *Rasa Amrit*

**Table 9: Showing the therapeutic indication of *Shodhit Hartala* according to various classics.**

S N	Indication	RR S	R C	RP S	RS S	R T	A P	R A
1.	<i>Kushtha</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
2.	<i>Vatarakta</i>	-	+	-	-	+	-	-
3.	<i>Kandu</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+	-



4.	<i>Visarpa</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
5.	<i>Vicharchika</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
6.	<i>Phiranga</i>	-	+	-	-	+	-	-
7.	<i>Vishama Jwara</i>	+	-	-	+	+	-	-
8.	<i>Bhagandhar a</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	-

RRS = Rasa Ratna Samuchchaya, RC = Rasa Chandhansu, RPS = Rasa Prakash Sudhakar, RSS = Rasendra Sara Samgrah, RT = Rasa Tarangini, AP = Ayurveda Prakash, RA = Rasamrit

### Artificially prepared Hartala

Artificial preparation of *Hartala* in *Rasa Shastra* is given in *Rasatarangini* as follows:

Powders of (49) parts of purified Arsenic Oxide (*Somal*) and (24) parts of purified Sulphur (*Gandhak*) are to be mixed in a mortar and kept in "*Damaru Yantra*" with mild heat given to it. The time limit and the range of temperature are not described in this regard so, when it gets self-cooled this *Yantra* should be put off carefully from the fire and *Hartala* which is adhered to the upper surface of the *Yantra* is to be collected. This *Hartala* thus prepared doesn't require any further purificatory processes.<sup>[40]</sup>

### Formulations<sup>[41]</sup>

- *Kasturibhairav Rasa*
- *Krimikastanal Ras*
- *Gulmakalanal Rasa*
- *Chandkeshwar Rasa*
- *Talak Bhasm*
- *Talkeshwar Ras*
- *Talsindur*
- *Nityananda Ras*
- *Bhutankusa Rasa*
- *Manthana Bhairav Rasa*
- *Raktapittantak Rasa*

- *Rasmanikya*
- *Rasendragutika (Brihad)*
- *Vatagajankush Rasa*
- *Vataraktank Rasa*
- *Vidhyadhar Rasa*
- *Sannipatbhairav Rasa*
- *Sameerpannag Rasa*
- *Sarveswari Rasa.*

### DISCUSSION

Since ancient physicians Acharya Sushrut said that *Hartala* is *Dhatuja Visha* i.e. metal poison; therefore it is subjected to *Shodhana* process to make it least toxic and suitable for better human consumption. There have been several substances such as juice of *Benincasa hispida* fruit, *Churnodak* etc. which are used for detoxification of *Hartala*. It (Orpiment) is the sulphides of Arsenic having *Ushna Virya* (hot potency) drugs, *Kapha-Vata Shamak* and *Raktadoshhara*, So *Hartala* and its formulation are used in various diseases externally as well as internally such as *Kustha*, *Phiranga*, *Visham Jwara* etc.

### CONCLUSION

*Hartala* is *Romnashanam* which mean it is having hair removal property. It is known as yellow orpiment or arsenic trisulfide ( $As_2S_3$ ) and used as depilatory, coloring pigment etc. *Hartala* ( $As_2S_3$ ) is though a poisonous drug and its *Shodhana* is mentioned in all the *Rasashastra* classics. Ayurveda has unique concept of using many types *Visha* for treating in several varieties of diseases and *Shodhana* of poisonous drugs are necessary. This review article aims to understand the Ayurvedic aspect of *Hartala*.

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