

A DRUG REVIEW ON PALASHA (*BUTEA MONOSPERMA.LINN*) IN SLESHMALA YONI VYAPAT W.S.R. VAGINITIS

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ABSTRACT

Palasha is a deciduous tree 40-50 feet in height, worshipped as a sacred tree in India. Botanical Name is *Butea monosperma.Linn* belongs to Family Fabaceae, Sub Family Papilionaeceae. English name is Flame of the forest, *Muttuga* in Kannada, *Dhak* in Hindi. Parts used are bark, flower, seed, gum, leaves. Its Seeds are extensively used. The chemical constituents are palasonin, monospermoside, somonospermoside, proteolytic and lypolytic enzymes. It is best for *krimighna* both externally and internally. It is indicated in *kusta*, *gulma*, *vrana*. Because of its alkaline properties it is used in *arsha*, *udara rogas*, *prameha* and *yoni rogas*. Many researches have proved the antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial and hepatoprotective activity. *Sleshmala yoni vyapath* correlates to vaginitis in modern. The *lakshanas* of *sleshmala yoni vyapath* are *picchilasrava*, *sheetasrava*, *alpavedana* and *kandu*. Vaginitis is inflammation of vagina characterized by discharge, itching, and irritation with or without pain. Common pathogens are bacterial, fungal, protozoal or viral. *Palasha* is one of the drugs in *lodhradhi gana* of *sushrutha* having *krimighna*, *kusthagna karma* indicated in *yoni rogas*.

Keywords: *Palasha*, *Sleshmala yoni vyapath*, Vaginitis

INTRODUCTION

Palasha is an erect medium size tree, 40-50 feet high with crooked trunk and irregular branches, belongs to Family Fabaceae, Sub Family Papilionaeceae. Bark rough, gray coloured, gum oozes out from the cracked bark which is known as Bengal kino.^{1,2} Leaf compound Trifoliolate, deciduous with reticulate venation. Flower-Raceme inflorescence, zygomorphic, papilionaceous. Corolla-flame or salmon coloured, blooms in summer. Fruit is a pod, length 12-20cm

long, 2-4cm wide. Seed single, reddish brown colour, diameter is 3-3.5 cm, 2-2.5mm thickness.^{11,1}

HABITAT²

Grown all over India, Srilanka and Myanmar.

VERNACULAR NAMES^{9,13,14}

In English Flame of the Forest, Kannada-Muttuga, Hindi-Dhak, Malayalam-Chamata, Telugu- Midug Chettu, Tamil-Moduga, Marathi-Palasha.

MYTHOLOGY- References of ‘Palasha’ is available since Vedic period.¹ In Vedic period it was known as *shanta vriksha* and *brahma varchas*, Plant was used in different homa and yagnas.

In *Rigveda kala*, *Palasha* leaves were used with *Ashwatha* and references of *Palasha* with *Nyagrodha* in *Atharvaveda*. In *upanayana samskara* the *dhand* which is used by *Brahmachari* was also used as *palasha* twig.

Table 1: *Nighantukaala*^{3,5}

<i>Bhavaprakasha nighantu</i>	<i>Vatadi varga</i>
<i>Shaligrama nighantu</i>	<i>Phaladi varga</i>
<i>Dhanvantari nighantu</i>	<i>Amradi varga</i>
<i>Kaiyadeva nighantu</i>	<i>Oushadhi varga</i>
<i>Madanapala nighantu</i>	<i>Vatadi varga</i>
<i>Raja nighantu</i>	<i>Karaveeradi varga</i>
<i>Shodala nighantu</i>	<i>Krimihara</i>
<i>Priya nighantu</i>	<i>Haritakyadi varga</i>

SAMHITA KALA⁴

Sushruta Samhita: *Palasha* is included in *Rodhradi*, *Mustakadi*, *Ambashtadi* and *Nyagrodhadi Gana*.

Astanga Sangraha and Astanga Hridaya: *Palasha* in *Rodhradi*, *Mustadi*.

PALASHA BHEDA^{7,8}- *Rakta*, *peeta*, *shweta* and *neela* according to *Raja Nighantu* and *Madanapala Nighantu*. *Palasha* & *valli Palasha* according to *Abhidanamanjari*. *Kimshuka*, *Hastikarnaka* according to *Shaligrama Nighantu*.

Table 2: Synonyms^{5,9,11}

Sl. No	Synonym	Sha	Cha	Su	AS	DN	RN	KN	BPN	AS. H	Sho. N
1	<i>Beejasneha</i>	+				+					+
2	<i>Bramhapadaka</i>	+									
3	<i>Bramhavruksha</i>	+				+	+		+		+
4	<i>Bramhopanetha</i>	+					+				
5	<i>Kaashtaka</i>	+					+				
6	<i>Karaka</i>	+	+								
7	<i>Kharaparna</i>										
8	<i>Kimshuka</i>	+		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
9	<i>Krimigna</i>	+				+					+
10	<i>Ksharashreshtha</i>	+				+			+		+
11	<i>Palasha</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+
12	<i>Palashaka</i>										
13	<i>Parna</i>	+							+		
14	<i>Poothadru</i>	+				+	+				
15	<i>Pruthushimbhi</i>										+
16	<i>Rakthapushaka</i>	+				+	+		+		+
17	<i>Samidwara</i>	+				+			+		+
18	<i>Suparni</i>	+					+				
19	<i>Tripatra</i>	+				+	+				+
20	<i>Vaanaprastha</i>										
21	<i>Vaathahara</i>								+		

22	<i>Vaathapootha</i>	+					+				+
23	<i>Vakrapushapa</i>	+					+				+
24	<i>Yagnika</i>	+				+	+	+	+		+

Table 3: Synonyms Utility^{9,10}

Si. No	Synonyms Utility	
1	<i>Beejasneha</i>	seed which is oily
4	<i>Bramhapadaka</i>	like the paada of Brahma
3	<i>Bramhavruksha</i>	used as religious and sacrifices
4	<i>Bramhopanetha</i>	follower of Brahma
5	<i>Kaashtaka</i>	bark
6	<i>Karaka</i>	which does krimigna action
7	<i>Kharaparna</i>	leaf is rough
8	<i>Kimshuka</i>	flowers like a parrots beak
9	<i>Krimigna</i>	which destroys the krimi
10	<i>Ksharashreshtha</i>	best among kshara
11	<i>Palasha</i>	a sacred tree
12	<i>Palashaka</i>	which has flowers
13	<i>Parna</i>	trifoliate leaves
14	<i>Poothadru</i>	which destroys pootana
15	<i>Pruthushimbhi</i>	fruit is thick
16	<i>Rakthapushaka</i>	<i>palasha</i> which posses red flowers
17	<i>Samidwara</i>	used in religious rites
18	<i>Suparni</i>	leaves has the odour
19	<i>Tripatra</i>	like trinity
20	<i>Vaanaprastha</i>	which grows in forest area
21	<i>Vaathahara</i>	one which pacifies vata
22	<i>Vaathapootha</i>	flowers are like potha
23	<i>Vakrapushapa</i>	flowers which are curved
24	<i>Yagnika</i>	bark which is used in yagnas, homa

PARTS USED-Root, Bark, Gum, Leaves, Flowers, Seeds.²

RASA-katu, tikta, kashaya, **GUNA**-laghu,snigdha, **VEERYA**-ushna, **VIPAKA**-katu. **DOSHAGNATA**-kaphapittashamaka.

Chemical Constituents: Leaves: The leaves contain Glucoside, Kino-oil containing oleic and linoleic acid, palmitic and lignoceric acid.^{1,15}

Flower: Monospermoside (butein 3-e-d-glucoside) and Isomonospermoside, aureoles, flavonoids (palasitrin, prunetin) and steroids, triterpene, butein, butrin, isobutrin, coreopsin, isocoreopsin (butin 7-glucoside), sulphurein.

Seed: A nitrogenous acidic compound, along with palasonin is present in seeds. It also contains monospermoside (butein 3-e-d-glucoside) and somonospermoside, oil (yellow, tasteless), Butrin. Isobutrin, proteolytic and lypolytic enzymes, plant proteinase and polypeptidase.

Gum: tannins, mucilaginousmaterial, procatechin.

ACTIONS OF PALASHA:*Krimighna, kushtagna, Sangrahi, Deepana, Rasayana vrushya,*^{2,10}

USES AND INDICATIONS OF PALASHA-*Prameha, arsha, krimi, kushta, gulma, yonirogas, udararogas, twak rogas, kandu, pleeha, shoola, raktapitta & vatarakta.*^{8,11,12,15}

Externally

Paste of seed used in skin diseases, ring worm, tinea and Scorpion sting. Used as *Nasya* in *Apasmara*.

Leaves are warmed and tied in *shotha* and *vedana*.

Pushpa, *twak niryasa* used as *sthambana*.

Internally

Palasha given for (mala *shodana*), as pitta shamana.⁸

Kshara of *palasha* is beneficial in *jalodara*, *udara shoola*, and in *arshas*.

Pachana samsthana Karma-Deepana, *grahi*, *yakruth uttejaka*. *Pushpa-trishnashamaka*, *stambana*, *Niryasa-grahi*, *Beeja-Bhedana*, *krimighna*, *Kshara-anulomana*, *bhedana*.

Raktavaha samsthana-Pushpa, *niryasa-sthambhana*, *Beeja-rakta shodaka*.

Mutravaha samsthana-Pushpa is *mutrala*, *Beeja* and *twak-pramehagna*.

Prajanana samsthana-niryasa-sukradourbalya, *pushpa* in *pradara*.

Twacha-pushpa beeja in *twak rogas*.

Satmeekarana-Niryasa in *kshaya roga*, *Beeja-sandhaneeya*, *Panchanga-vishagna*, *rasayana*.

Taapakrama- Jwaragna.

DOSE: *Beeja churna*-3-6gm^{2,5,11}.

Different parts of extract of *Butea monosperma* shows various biological and pharmacological activities such as antimicrobial, antifertility, anticonvulsive, antihelminthic, antidiarrhoeal, wound healing, anti-giardiasis and hepatoprotective, antihypertensive, antitumor, antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory, free radical scavenging activity- antioxidant.^{5,6}

YONI VYAPATH-The term is made up of 2 words. *Yoni* & *Vyapath*. *Yoni* denotes the whole reproductive system as well as the individual organs separately

The word *yonis* is derived from the word 'yuj' which means to join or unite. This is suffixed by 'ni' to form the word *yonis*. According to *parishadyam shabdārtha shareeram* with respect to woman, the word *yonis* refers to three entities.

Apathyapath (vagina)¹⁶

Garbhashaya (uterus)

Stree jananendriya patha (reproductive tract)

Vyapath refers to disorders or ailments, pathological conditions of the body, affliction, injury, diseases, dearrangement and death. Disease affecting the *yonis* has been grouped together under *yonis vyapath* in Ayurvedic classics.

The number of *yonis vyapath* has been mentioned as twenty by all acharyas.

SLESHMALA YONI VYAPATH:

The causative factors for *sleshmala yonis vyapath* are *mithyaahara*, *mityavihara*, *sukradushti*, *beejadusti*, *daiva*, *vishamasthana shayana*. Special causes for *sleshmala yonis vyapath* is *abhishyandi aahara* & *kaphaprakopakara ahara* and *vihara*. *Purvarupa* of *Yonis Vyapat* are not mentioned in the classics.^{15,16}

So, signs of *Kapha Dosha* in *Sanchya Avastha* (stage of accumulation) can be considered here. *Rupa* is defined as the absolute revelation of the disease i.e. signs like *kandu*, *srava*.

Signs of *sleshmala yonis vyapath* are *picchila*, *kandu*, *sheeta*, *alpavedana* or *avedana*, and *pandutvam*.

Pratyatma lakshanas are *picchila yonis*, *sheeta yonis*, *kandu*, *alpavedana/avedana*, *sheetala*.

Local symptoms are *sheetasrava*, *picchilasrava*. General symptoms are *panduvarnata*, *sthoulya*, *shaitya*, *aruchi* and *shweta varnata*.

Artava lakshanas are *pandu* and *picchila artava*.

Upashaya-causes relief that which is opposite to *kapha gunas* can be taken as *upashaya*.

Samprapthi-due to *nidana*-Due to *Mithya Ahara* and *Vihara*, *Kapha Prakopa* occurs and this causes *Agnimandya* leading to formation of *Amarasa*. Further it leads to *Rasa Dhathu Dushti* causing *Mala Dushti* (as *Kapha* is *Mala* of *Rasa*). It ultimately leads to *Sthanasamshraya* in *Yonis* which is already vulnerable. Then *Dosha Dushya Samurchhana* takes place and it manifests as *Sleshmala Yonis Vyapat*. According to modern it can be correlated to vaginitis.¹⁶

Main characteristic features of this condition are presence of itching in vagina, unctuous discharges.

There may be menstrual irregularity, strawberry coloured patches, and yellowish thick curdy discharges.

The author has also suggested the pain or painless condition of vagina.

Table 4: Samprapti Ghataka^{11,16}

Dosha	Kapha
Dushya	Rasa, Rakta, Mamsa
Agni	Jataragnimandya, Rasadhatvagnimandya
Ama	Jataragnimandyajanya
Srotas	Rasavaha, Raktavaha, Mamsavaha, Artavaha
Srotodusti	Atipravritti
Adistana	Yoni
Vyaktasthana	Yoni
Rogamarga	Abyantara and Bahya
Sadya asadyata	Sukhasadya

VAGINITIS¹⁷

Vaginitis is the infection and inflammation of vagina. It can result in discharge, itching, and pain. Four main causes are-Bacterial, Fungal, Protozoal and Viral. Many triggers can cause infection in the vulva and vaginal areas. The most common cause is bacteria.

Bacteria-Certain bacteria can multiply and cause vulvo-vaginitis. These bacteria includes streptococcus, Gardnerella, staphylococcus. A bacterial infection can cause a grayish white discharge that smells fishy.

Fungal-One of the cause is Candida albicans. Yeast infection can cause genital itching and a thick white vaginal discharge that is similar to cottage cheese. Protozoal-scabies and lice can cause inflammation of the vulva and vagina.

Viral-that can cause vulvovaginitis are typically sexually transmitted. These include herpes and human papilloma virus.

DISCUSSION

Though there are many drugs indicated in Ayurveda for *sleshmala yoni vyapath* taking into consideration, various *karmas* like *krimighna*, *kushtagna* & *kaphahara* properties is present in palasha. The signs and symptoms of vaginitis closely resemble *sleshmala yoni vyapath* mentioned in all Ayurvedic

references. *Nidanapanchaka* is discussed in the above concept of *sleshmala yoni vyapath*. Modern medical treatment may temporarily reduce inflammation but cause recurrent episodes. So, potent alternative treatment is utmost need.

CONCLUSION

Palasha beeja is one of the specific drugs in *krimighna*, *kushtagna* and *kaphahara* as per our classics and all other researches conducted. So, *palasha beeja* can be externally used in *yoni prakshalana*, *yoni pichu* and as *varthi*. Internally as *choorna*.

Further studies can be done in-vitro and clinical to validate *palasha* in *sleshmala yoni roga* with special reference to vaginitis.

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