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APAMARGA: A CONCISE AYURVEDIC REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Ayurveda is gaining popularity because it effectively treats many chronic illnesses. Ayurvedic remedies are often used in conjunction with and/or after traditional medical techniques as the majority of patients start taking conventional pharmaceuticals as soon as their diagnoses are made. Understanding food, spices, and medicinal plants' actions in-depth is necessary to fully appreciate their potential effect. The use of highly concentrated products derived from single plants, sometimes in the form of teas or pills, is of more concern, even though society uses ayurvedic herbs and Indian spices frequently and without incident. The methods by which polyherbal medications and their extracts work differ from those of single ingredients or synthetic pharmaceuticals in several important ways. Even though ayurvedic medications are made from natural herbal ingredients, their effectiveness depends on how they are administered, taking into account the requirements of the patient and the nature of the ailment being treated. A member of the *Amaranthaceae* family, *Achyranthes aspera Linn*. Also known as *Apamarga* in Ayurveda is a crucial medicinal plant. The following article provides information about *Apamarga*, including its history, Ayurvedic properties, activities, and medical usefulness as stated in various sources.

KEYWORDS: Ayurveda, ayurvedic herbs, *Apamarga*, Ayurvedic properties, activities.



INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda, which stands for the traditional Indian medical system, is based on prehistoric literature that emphasizes a "natural" and holistic approach to physical and mental health. One of the oldest medical systems in the world, ayurvedic medicine is still used in India as a kind of traditional medicine.

Ayurvedic medicine has an ancient tradition of treating illnesses going back around three thousand years. The three basic concepts, known as doshas (Vata, Pitta, and Kapha), and each of the five elements(Akasha, Vayu, Jal, Agni, Prithvi) form the human body's constitution. Vata and its sub-doshas regulate input/output processes and motion, pitta and its sub-doshas regulate throughput, turnover, and thus energy, and Kapha and its sub-doshas regulate storage, structure, and lubrication. These fundamental physiological processes in living systems maintain their identity throughout biological history. [1] However, elements including diet, activity, the environment, and stress have the power to impair or even kill these processes. With a variety of therapies, including suggestions on diet and exercise, internal herbal cleansing preparations, treatments (panchakarma), and surgical procedures (shalya chikitsa), ayurveda aims to restore normal bodily processes.

Before prescribing internal remedies, dietary limitations, or habit restrictions, Ayurveda attempts to identify the problems of patients. In the Ayurvedic therapeutic method, plant-based remedies are crucial. Any substance in the world can be utilized as a possible drug. [2] About

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90% of Ayurvedic remedies are made from plants. But only 1200 to 1500 of the over 10,000 plants utilized for therapeutic reasons on the Indian subcontinent have been officially included in the ayurvedic pharmacopeia over the course of more than three thousand years. Every plant or herb has a unique property that may be utilized to cure a wide range of maladies and symptoms. One such magical plant is *Apamarga* about which we are going to have a concise review of its Ayurvedic aspects.

Achyranthes aspera Linn. is a weed widely distributed in India and tropical environments and a very versatile therapeutic plant. The letters AP + A + Mrj + Karane Ghaj, which means "to wipe," make up the term Apamarga as it is described in Sabdakalpadruma. In other words, it purifies the body by removing illnesses from a different site. [3] It belongs to the Amaranthaceae family and is referred to as Rough chaff flower/ devil's horsewhip in English and Ayurveda as Apamarga. This

herbaceous plant, Achyranthes aspera, has received significant attention in Ayurvedic texts. Even cult Ayurvedic scriptures like the *Charaka Samhita* have a chapter devoted to this plant called "Apamarg Tanduliya" that details the various ways it may be utilized to cure the human body. The plant known as Apamarga is notable for its spores, which stick to clothing and are challenging to remove due to their pointed spicules. These spores, which develop to cover the entire plant stalk from the outside and serve as a shield of protection for it, are the fruit component of the plant. It is a great plant for both internal and external body detoxification.

SYNONYMS

Markati, MarkataPippali, Kapi Pippali, ParakPushpi, PratyakShreni, Mayuraka, Kinihi, Shikhari, AdhahShalya, KharaManjari, Kubja, Vasheera, DurabhiGraha, Durgraha^[4], Kharamanjari, Nandi.^[5]

VERNACULAR NAMES^[5] Table 1.

Arabic	Atkumah
Bengali	Apang
Burmese	Kune-la-mon
English	Rough Chaff / Prickly Chaff – flower, devil's horsewhip
Gujarati	Aghedo
Hindi	Latjira,Aghara, Apamarga, Chirchira, Chirchit
Kannada	Uttatane
Konkan	Uttatene
Malayalam	Katalati/Kadaladi
Marathi	Aghadha/Pandhara– agada
Persian	Khare– Vazhun
Punjabi	Kutri
Tamil	Nayurivi/Shiru-kadaladi
Telugu	Uttareni/Antisha/Apamargamu
Sanskrit	Apamarga/Aghata/Kharamanjari
Sinhala	Karala heba
Urdu	Chirchita

HISTORY

- 1. Vedic Kala
- 2. Samhita Kala
- 3. Nighantu Kala
- 4. Adhunika Kala

1. Vedic Kala

- *Yajurveda* has mentioned *Apamarga* by saying "*Apamarga*, please prevent us from ill actions and bad dreams". Accordingly, *Apamarga* can boost willpower and control the minds of those who use it. (*Yajurveda* 35.11). [6]
- Atharvaveda refers to Apamarga at about eleven places. It considers this herb as the "Lord of all plants on earth" because it can elongate the life span by wiping away all diseases. Apamarga is beneficial in curing diseases caused by thirst and hunger, defects of the organs, speech; sterility, physical

- debility, and all other disorders. (A.V. Kanda IV. 17.6-8).
- In addition, *Atharvaveda* defines that *Apamarga* can sweep away chronic diseases, the evil custom of using foul language, and ailments that cause severe pain and a decrease in vitality. (A.V. Kanda IV.18. 7 & 8 and 19. 4 & 5).
- About the similar plant *Atharvan* one context mentions, "The life-giving one I have brought the well-known plant of *Kanva*, the all-healing one, may it quench this man's unseen maladies" (A.V. Kanda VI.52.3).
- According to Mr.V.W. Karambelker the son of Narsad, was the first person to discover the medicinal properties of Apamarga. (Atharvaveda and Ayurveda, pp.21).
- Atharvaveda has all praise to Apamarga that it can eliminate all the Doshas and cleanses sins from the body. (A.V. Kanda VII 65. 1). Atharvaveda also

says that if people have feasted with the cripple whose teeth are black and nails deformed, this plant can remove all that Doshas away from them(A.V. Kanda VII. 65-3).

2. Samhita Kala

In all the "Brihatrei", Apamarga has been mentioned a lot of times for its valuable medicinal uses.

Table 2.

S.No.	Samhita	Varga	Karma
1.	Charaka Samhita ^[8]	Krimighna, Vamanopaga, Sirovirecanopaga	Sirovirecana
2.	Susruta Samhita ^[9]	Varunadi gana, Viratarvadi gana, Arkadi gana, Kakolyadi gana	Preparation of <i>Kshara</i> from different drugs, <i>Utsadana</i>
3.	Astanga Samgraha ^[10]	Sodhanadi gana, Tikta Skanda	Sirovirecana dravya
4.	Astanga Hridaya ^[11]	Tiktavarga	Pumsavana Karma

3. Nighantu Kala

The *Nighantu* (lexicon) plays a major role in Ayurvedic literature to identify and know the properties and uses of medicinal plants mentioned in *Brihatrayi*.

Table 3.

S. No.	Nighantu	Varga	Karma
1.	Saushrut Nighantu ^[12]	Arkadi gana	
2.	Ashtanga Nighantu ^[13]	Arkadi gana	
3.	Madanadi Nighantu ^[14]	Chaturtha gana	Kaphamedaanilhara,
			chedana, samsrana
4	DI . N. 1 . [15]		Kaphanashana, Arsha, Kandu Udara
4.	Dhanvantari Nighantu ^[15]	Guduchyadi varga	,Amaghano ,Rakta, Hrida,GrahiVantikruta
5.	Shabdachandrika ^[16]	Vrikshadi varga	
6.	Nighantu Sesh ^[17]	Gulma kaand	
7.	Shodhal Nighantu ^[18]	Guduchyadi varga	
8.	Madhava dravyaguna ^[19]	Vividh Oshadhi varga	Agnikriteekshana
9.	Abhidhan Ratnamala ^[20]	Tikta Skandha	
10.	Hrudaydeepak Nighantu ^[21]	Tripaad varga	
11.	Madanpal Nighantu ^[22]	Abhayadi varga	Deepana, Kaphavatajita, Nihanti Dadru, Sidhama, Arsha, Kandu, Shoola, Udara, Aruchi
12.	Kaideva Nighantu ^[23]	Oshadhi varga	Deepana,Pacana,Vamanshchedi, Kaphamedoanilapaha, Nihanti Shoola, Hidhma, Arsha, Kandu, Dadru, Udara, Apachi
13.	Bhavprakash Nighantu ^[24]	Guduchyadi varga	Deepana, Pacana, Rocana, Chardi, Kaphamedoanilpaha, Nihanti Hrida, Dadru, Adhamana, Kandu, Shoola, Udara, Apachi.
14.	Guna ratnamala ^[25]	Guduchyadi varga	
15.	Raj Nighantu ^[26]	Shatahwaadi varga	Kaphanashana, , Arsha, Kandu Udara ,Amaghano ,Rakta, Hrida, GrahiVantikruta
16.	Rajvallabha Nighantu ^[27]	Oshadha ashrayaparichhed	Kledana, Samsrana
17.	Shaligram Nighantu ^[28]	Guduchyadi varga	
18.	Priya nighantu ^[29]	Shatpuspadi varga	
19.	Nighantu Adarsha ^[30]	Apamargadi varga	
20.	Saraswati Nighantu ^[31]	Ullap varga	
21.	Laghu Nighantu ^[32]		Krimi, Shirshavishodhanam, Vamaka, Raktasamgrahi, Raktaatisaranashanam
	Prayayaratnamala ^[33]		Kakiasamgrani, Kakiaalisaranashanam

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4. Adhunik kala

Various other literary books like

- "Dravya gun Vigyan" "Vanaushdhinirdeshika", and "Dravya gun hastamalak" has also described their antitoxic and anti-helminthic property along with their Raspanchaka description.
- In Modern botanical texts it is identified as *Achyranthes aspera*.

VARIETIES

In *Nighantu*(Ayurvedic Lexicons), in general, *Apamarga* is defined in two types.

- 1. Shweta (White variety)
- 2. Rakta (Red variety)

But in *Kaideva Nighantu*, 3 varieties of *Apamarga* are mentioned. [34]

- 1. Apamarga (White variety)
- 2. Raktapamarga (Red variety)
- 3. Toyapamarga (Blue variety)

Raaj Nighantu has also mentioned 3 varieties that are a bit different from *Kaidev Nighantu* which is^[35]

- 1. Apamarga
- 2. Raktapamarga

3. Kshudrapamarga

Apamarga vishesh

RASA PANCHAKA^[36]

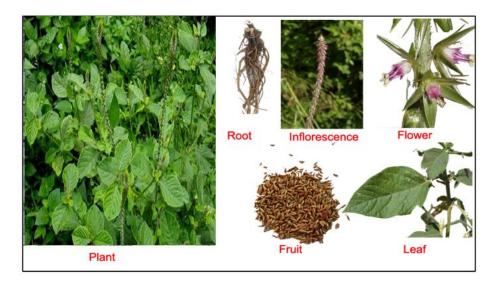
Rasa :Katu, Tikta Guna :Teekshna, Sara

Virya : Ushna Vipaka :Katu

Dosha Karma: Kapha-Vatahara

KARMA

- Medohara,
- Chedana,
- Deepana,
- Pachana,
- Vamaka
- Sodhahara,
- Vedanasthapana,
- Lekhana,
- Vishaghna,
- Tvak Dosahara,
- Vrana Sodhana,
- Sirovirecana



The fruits of *Apamarga* are *Madhura* in *rasa* and *Vipaka* in nature, yet they are *vistambhi* since they cause constipation. [37]

BENEFICIAL PARTS: Tandula, Patra, Mula, Panchanga.

THERAPEUTIC DOSE

Svarasa: 10 - 20 ml
Kwatha: 50 -100 ml.
Mula Churna: 2 - 4 gm.
Beeja Churna: 500 -700 gm.

• *Kshara:* 0.5 -2 gm.

IMPORTANT FORMULATIONS WITH INDICATIONS Table 4.

S.No.	FORMULATIONS	INDICATIONS	REFERENCES
1.	Apamargaksara taila	Karnanada (tinnitus), Badhirya	Sha. U. 11/145
1.	Tipamai gansara tatta	(deafness) (Ear diseases)	
2.	Apamargadi taila	Nasya in Krimiroga (Worm infestation),	Chakradatta Shirogadhikara/34,
	1 0	Sidhma	A.S.Chi.21/64
		Rasayana (Rejuvenation), Jvara, Kasa	C CL: 19/57
	A a gathu a Hauit aki	(cough), Hrdroga, Pratisyaya; Rajayakshma, Grahani, Shopha,	C.Chi.18/57, Su. U. 52/43,
3.	Agasthya Haritaki Rasayana	Agimandya, Svarabheda, Kasa,	Su. O. 32/43, A.S.Chi. 5/83,
	Kasayana	Pandu, Svasa, Shiroroga, Hrudroga,	Sha. Ma. 8/31
		Hikka, Vishamajvara	Situ. Mar. 6/81
	77 1 1 1	Vataroga, Gulma Pliha, weak digestion,	GL GL: 10/57
4.	Kalyanaka lavana	Ajirna, Arsha, Aruci, Kasa, Krimi.	Ch. Chi. 18/57
5.	Apamarga Varti	Asragdara (Excessive menstrual flow)	B.R. 66/35-41
6.	VranaSamshodaka taila	Vrana shodhana (For cleansing wounds)	S.Su. 36/19
		For Pratisaraniya kshara (caustics for	
7.	Apamarga kshara	external use) in <i>Plihodar</i> and various	Su. Chi. 14/13
		other diseases.	
		Jwara, Kasa, Svasanaka Jwara, ,	
8.	Gorochanadi Gulika	Shwasa, Kantharoga, Sannipata Jwara,	AFI Vol 1 Part B 12:9
		Smṛṭinasa, Sravana Lopa, Drsti Lopa,	
0	7 . 1 1	Sanjnanasa	AFLV:111 D. 4 D 0:10
9. 10.	Jyotishmati tail Abhaya Lavana	Abhyanga in Shwitra	AFI Vol 11 Part B 8:18 B.R. Yakrit pleeharoga 34-33
11.	Guda pippali	Yakrit Pliha roga, Ashmari Yakrit Pliha Roga, Jalodara	B.R. Yakrit pleeharoga 44-48
12.	Kushthaghna Yoga	Kushtha	Ch. Chi. 7/124
13.	Jivantyadi churna	Rajyakshma	Ch. Chi. 8/175
14.	Apamargadi varti	Anjana Unmada	Ch. Chi. 9/66
15.	Mahapanchgavya ghrut	Apasmara	Ch. Chi. 10/18
16.	Triphaladi tail	Nasya Apasmara	Ch. Chi. 10/44
17.	Agnimanthadi tail	Udar roga	Ch. Chi. 13/171
18.	Muktadya churna	Hikka-Swaas	Ch. Chi. 17/126
19.	Apamarga moola with tandulodak	Arsha	Su. Chi. 6/13
20.	Tiladi Kshar	Ashmari	Su. Chi. 7/22
21.	Apamarga beeja	Kaphaja Nadi vrana	Su. Chi. 17/25
22.	Suvarchikadi tail	Karnapali vardhana	Su. Chi. 25/26
23.	Amrit sarpi	Sarpa visha	Su. Ka. 6/12
24.	Panchgavya ghrut	Atisara	Su. U. 61/34
25.	Parijatadi kwatha	Agnimandya	A.S.Chi.17/34
26.	Varshabhuadi kshir	Aamdosha	A.S.Chi.19/4
27.	Lakshadi churna	Kushtha	A.S.Chi.21/35
28.	Sarjarasadi tail	Paalipaka	A.S.U. 22/51
29.	Saraladi tail	Krimij Siroroga	A.S.U. 28/22
30.	Jivantyadi udvartana	Rajyakshma.	A.S.Chi. 7/107
31.	Pashanbhedadi ghrut	Ashmari	A.S.Chi.13/11, B.P.Ma. 37/13
32. 33.	Muktadi leha Virtarvadi gana kwatha	Swaas- Hikka Ashmari	A.S.Chi. 6/45 Sha. Ma. 2/105
34.	Apamarga kalka	Raktarsha	Sha. Ma. 2/105 Sha.Ma. 5/19
35.	Grihadhoom tail	Nasarsha	Sha. Ma. 9/184
36.	Marichadi lepa	Linga- Stana Vriddhi	Sha.U. 11/113
37.	Sringyadi kwatha	Abhinyasa sannipataja jwara	B.P.Ma. 1/654
38.	Bharangyadi pralepa	Updamsha	B.P.Ma. 51/33
39.	Kushadya tail	Ashmari	B.P.Ma. 37/59
40.	Ksharashtaka	Gulma	B.P.Ma. 32/34
	Dhaturadya tail	Vatarakta	B.P.Ma. 29/148

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42.	Dvipanchmooladya tail	Vata Vyadhi	B.P.Ma. 25/38
43.	Mahanarayana tail	Vata Vyadhi	B.P.Ma. 24/295
44.	Apamarga mool	Visuchika	B.P.Ma. 6/110
45.	Sidhartakadi lepa	Apasmara	B.P.Ma. 23/13

THERAPEUTIC INDICATIONS

Kandu (itching), Kushtha (skin disorders), Visha (scorpion & snake bites), Vrana (Wound), Karna Roga (ear diseases), Netra Roga (eye diseases), Aruchi (anorexia), Chardii(vomiting), Agnimandya, Shoola (pain), *Udararoga* (abdominal diseases), *Krmi* (worm infestation), Hridroga (heart disease), Pandu (anemia), Gandamala (lymphadenitis), Amavata (rheumatoid arthritis), Kasa (cough), Shwasa (asthma. breathlessness), Mutraghata (urinary obstruction), Visuchika, Sidhma, Nidranasa, Ashmari, Arsha, Kaphaja Timira^[38], Praklimavartma (eyelid disease)^[39], Vataja nadi (sinuses)^[40], Paripotaka (ear lobule diseases)^[41], (splenomegaly)^[42], Pleehodara Apaci Lymphadenopathy)^[43], Sharkara, Utpataka (ear lobule complications)^[44], Utsadana^[45]

THERAPEAUTIC & TRADITIONAL USES

- Apamarga root is taken with water in Visuchika.
- In Sidhma, seeds of Mulaka and fresh juice of Apamarga are made to paste and applied externally.
- Decoction of Kakjangha, Apamarga, Kokilaksa, and Suparnika is useful in Nidranasa(insomnia).
- The root of Apamarga and Piper nigrum is used in snake poison.
- The decoction of Apamargaa, Yastimadhu, Gokshura, and Patha is used for urinary tract infections.
- Apamarga kshara is used in chronic cough disease with Pippali, Ativisha, Kupilu, Ghrit, and Madhu.
- Apamarga root is made as a paste with Tanduloodak and used with honey in Arsha. The paste of seed of Apamarga is used for Raktrasha externally.
- In Ashmari, Apamarga kshara is used with sheep milk.
- The juice of *Apamarga* is painted on gums in toothache.
- Apamarga is one of the essential plants in the management of Kaphaja Timira as fumigation.
- Apamarga seeds powder as an avapidanasya helps cure Apachi (cervical Lymphadenopathy).
- The collyrium prepared with Flowers of *Apamarga* is useful in *Praklinnavartma* (eyelid disease). [46]
- Decoction of powdered leaves with honey or sugar candy is useful in the early stages of diarrhea and dysentery. [47]
- Crushed plant is boiled in water and is used for pneumonia. Infusion of the root is a mild astringent in bowel complaints. The flowering spikes or seeds, ground and made into a paste with water, are used as an external application for bites of poisonous snakes and reptiles, used in night blindness and cutaneous diseases.^[48]

CONTRAINDICATIONS AND SIDE EFFECTS OF APAMARGA^[49]

- Apamarga may result in nausea and vomiting if taken more than the permitted dosage.
- For a longer period, male patients receiving therapy for infertility must refrain from taking *Apamarga*.
- Children under the age of 12 and pregnant or nursing women should only use *Apamarga* under physician supervision.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The name "Apamarga" (Achyranthus aspera) refers to a plant that blocks the way for passersby. The plant Apamarga (Achyranthes Aspera Linn.) is widespread across the tropical world and grows as a common weed. It has received a lot of attention in ancient literature.

It is one of the eight Ksharas in the main group.

According to historical evaluation, references to Apamarga date back to the Vedic era; for example, Apamarga's powder, or saktu, was employed in Yajurveda for its antibacterial properties. A description of Apamarga may be found in numerous chapters of the Samhitas, and nearly every Nighantus mentions the plant. Sweta, Rakta, and Jala Apamarga are the three forms of Apamarga according to Kaivadeya Nighantu. Among the properties of Apamarga are Katu, Tikta Rasa, Laghu, Ruksha, Sara, Tikshna Guna, Usna Virya, and Katu Vipaka. It has Amaghana, Deepana, Mutrala, Pachana, Kapha-pitta samsodhaka, and Kapha-vata shamaka qualities.

Since the time of the Vedic civilization, *Apamarga* has been used to treat a variety of illnesses. To get a more comprehensive understanding of the plant and its applications, this study aims to highlight its Ayurvedic origin, significance, and considerable but potent therapeutic benefits for a variety of illnesses. Nevertheless, rigorous clinical study and scientific investigation along with the awareness of the safe selection and consumption of these above-mentioned features of *Apamarga* are required that will provide further information on this significant traditional medication in the fields of pharmaceutical sciences and medical research.

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