

IMPORTANCE OF AGNIMANTHA (*PREMNA INTEGRIFOLIA* WALL): A REVIEW
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ABSTRACT

Agnimantha or botanically *Premna integrifolia* is an important ingredient of Dashmool plants. Dashmool has two subcategories Brihat pachmoola and Laghu pachmoola. Agnimantha is included under Brihat pachmoola. All these plants have anti-rheumatic, anti-inflammatory and analgesic properties. Agnimantha is used in the treatment of all types of Vata Disorders (diseases related to the nervous and musculoskeletal system), inflammatory disorders, neuralgia, rheumatoid arthritis, anemia, piles, constipation, common cold and loss of appetite. It is also useful in eruptive fevers, which include infections like scarlet fever (Scarlatina), measles, small pox, varioloid eruptions and erysipelas.

KEYWORDS: *Dashmool, Brihat pachmoola, Vata disorders, eruptive fevers.*

INTRODUCTION

Agnimantha (*P. integrifolia*) is a scandent, erect shrub or small tree, more or less thorny on the trunk and large branches. It is large shrub or small tree up to 10 m tall, bole up to 30 cm in diameter, much-branched and sometimes spiny, bark fissured-flaky, brownish-grey and branches are spinous usually. Fruits are drupe, black coloured, obovoid–globose, 3-6 mm long, green turning black, pear shaped, its endocarp being ridged, bony, and 4-celled. Fruits appearing in Aug.–Sept. Flowers having pedicel 0–0.5 mm long, dense corymbs, corolla greenish white with unpleasant smell or disagreeable odour, in terminal pubescent paniculate corymbose cymes, bracts minutes, lanceolate. Calyx 2.5 mm long, thick, glabrous, 2-lipped, one lip 2-toothed, and the other sub entire. Corolla is glabrous outside, tube 3 by 2 mm, cylindrical, hairy inside of the throat, lobes are four in number, oblong, rounded, 1.2 mm long. Stamens slightly exerted filaments hairy at the base. Ovary and style is glabrous, stigma of 2 equal divaricate lobes. Flowering occurs in April–June. Leaves are 5–9 by 3.2–6.3 cm, broadly elliptic, oblong or ovate, obovate to sub-orbicular, obtuse, very shortly acuminate, glabrous, and entire or the upper part dentate, base rounded or sub-acute, main nerves 4–5 pairs, petioles 1–1.6 cm long. Seeds are pear-shaped and oblong. Roots are yellowish brown in colour, woody, branched and somewhat tortuous to cylindrical in shape. Surface gets exfoliated easily and shows prominent longitudinal striations and wrinkles. Roots

possess bland taste and slightly aromatic odour. The transverse section of *P. integrifolia* root shows rhytidoma made up of 15–20 layers of interrupted cork and 2–3 layers of cortex containing small stone cells packed with calcium oxalate prisms. Stone cells are pitted and show thickening on three sides. Inner cork is made up of about 8–10 layers of thin walled tangentially elongated suberised cells. The cortex is made up of collenchymatous parenchyma and shows a single discontinuous layer of elongated lignified, thick walled stone cells (80–125 μ) lodged with 3–5 prisms of calcium oxalate (16–30 μ). Phloem is comparatively wide and parenchymatous. The elements of wood occur in thin radial wedges. Xylem vessels are small (50–138.1 μ) and numerous. Medullary rays are 1–4 seriate, lignified and pitted. Starch (8–30 μ) is found in cortex, phloem and xylem. Powder of root of *P. integrifolia* is brown in colour having slight aromatic odour and bland taste. Starch is simple, spherical and cup shaped with distinct hilum. Stone cells are small, rectangular to oblong in shape and lodged with prisms, which are found scattered also

Botanical name – *Premna integrifolia* Linn**Family** - Verbenaceae**Genus** – *Premna***Distribution** – India – Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh etc.

Common name – Agnimantha (Brihad agnimantha), Headache tree

Name in Another Languages

Sanskrit – Agnimantha, Jaya, Shreeparn, Ganikarika

Gujarati – Arani

Telugu – Nellichet

Marathi – Takali

Ayurvedic Properties

Rasa – Tikta, Katu, Kashyaya, Madhura

Guna –Rukhsa, Laghu

Virya – Ushna

Vipaka – Katu

Dosha karma – Paciefies Kapha and Vat dosha

Main Indication – Vata Disorders (disease related to nervous and musculoskeletal system)

Medicinal Parts

1. Roots
2. Leaves
3. Bark

Generally, Agnimantha roots and root bark is used in the management of Vata disorders, its leaves are used in fevers and infections.

Benefits and Uses

Agnimantha is useful in neurological diseases, musculoskeletal disorders and disease related to the lungs, heart, blood, skin and kidneys. It acts as a protective agent for blood vessels, heart, liver, skin, muscles, joints and other connective tissues.

Agnimanth roots act as appetizer and digestive. It improves appetite and aids in proper digestion. It is the best natural ayurvedic herb for people feeling the inability to digest foods, heaviness in the abdomen, drowsy or tiredness after having a meal. It reduces all these symptoms and improves digestion and promotes proper assimilation of the food.

Agnimantha is also very effective for alleviating the pain, inflammation and swelling of the lymph nodes occurring in lymphadenitis. It has anti-inflammatory. Antibacterial and antiviral actions that help to inhibit the growth of microbes, fights against infections and reduce inflammation. However, if tuberculosis is the underlying cause of lymphadenitis, then Agnimantha may not alone help.

The decoction prepared from Agnimantha is used in sitz bath instead of simple for relieving pain occurring in hemorrhoids.

Agnimantha leaves have anti-obesity effects and metabolism booster properly. The juice extracted from the fresh leaves is very helpful for reducing weight and improving metabolism of the fats and prevents fat accumulation.

Pharmacological Actions

All parts of Agnimanth have following pharmacological actions or medicinal properties:

- Digestive
- Stomachic
- Febrifuge
- Anti-constipation
- Uterine tonic
- Carminative
- Digestive Stimulant
- Stomachic
- Cardiac Stimulant

Therapeutic Indications

Agnimantha is helpful in following health conditions

1. Vata Disorders (disease related to nervous and musculoskeletal system)
2. Inflammatory disorders
3. Neuralgia
4. Rheumatoid arthritis
5. Hemorrhoids or piles
6. Common cold
7. Constipation
8. Nausea and vomiting
9. Indigestion

Chemical Constituents

1. Linalol
2. Linoleic acid
3. p-mthoxy cinnamic acid
4. aphelandrine
5. caryophellen
6. glerodendrin-A
7. Ganikarine
8. Pentacyclic terpenebutalin
9. Premnazole
10. Ganiarine

Ayurvedic Formulations

1. Dashmoola
2. Agnimanthadi Kashayam
3. Agnimanthmool Kalka

4. Dasamulakatutrayadi Kashayam
5. Dashmoola Haritaki
6. Dashmool oil
7. Dashmularishta
8. Dhanwantharam Kashayam
9. Dashmoola Shatpala Ghrita
10. Maharasnadi Kwath

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