

A REVIEW ARTICLE ON THE EFFICACY OF *KARKATSHRINGI* ON *KASAROGA*

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Article Received on 12/07/2021

Article Revised on 02/08/2021

Article Accepted on 22/08/2021

ABSTRACT

Ayurveda is the oldest science of medicine which includes thousands of medicines and procedures in it. Every medicine gives efficient results in particular disease condition and every procedure if efficient in healing. *Karkatshringi* is *Dravya* which not actually an herb or plant it's a *Dravya* which is horn-shaped like gall made by an insect on the leaves of a plant named *Kakkad*. This *Dravya* having many health benefits like *Deepana*, *Grahi*, *Avataanulomana*, *Balya* etc. Here, we are trying to enlightening properties of *Karkatshringi*.

KEYWORDS: *Karkatshringi* *Ayurveda*, *Dravya*.

INTRODUCTION

As we know on this earth there thousand of plant species some are known some are ignored. Also in *Ayurveda* medicine is known as by the name of *Dravya*. *Acharya*'s said everything on this earth which is made of *Panchmahabhuta*,^[1] weather it is subject matter or living organisms. The *Dravya Karkatashringi* is not as such a plant but it made by an insect on the leaves of a plant.^[2] This a gall type of structure which is in Horn-shape. This

is very interesting *Dravya* having many health benefits. As it is not as such plant but still it is *Panchbhautika* and helps in maintain a balance of *Panchmahabhuta*'s in our body. *Acharya Charaka* mentioned it is *Kasahara*,^[3] & *Hikkanigrahna*,^[4] *Mahakasaya*, as it is a part of *Mahakasaya Varga*.^[5] we could not having any doubt on its efficacy. *Acharya Susruta* mentioned it in *Kakolyadi*,^[6] *Gana*. It is described by many *Nighantukara* in there texts.

Classical categorization of *Karkatshringi*.

S. No.	Classical text	Gana & Varga
1.	<i>Bhavaprakash Nighantu</i> ^[7]	<i>Haritkyadi Varga</i>
2.	<i>Adarsha Nighantu</i> ^[8]	<i>Bhallatakadi Varga</i>
3.	<i>Dravyaguna Hastamalka</i> ^[9]	<i>Amrakula</i>
4.	<i>Priya Nighantu</i> , ^[10]	<i>Haritkyadi Varga</i>

Vernacular Names of *Karkatshringi*.^[11]

S. No.	Language	Names
1.	Sanskrit	<i>Kakrasingi</i>
2.	Hindi	<i>Kakdasingi</i>
3.	Punjabi	<i>Kakdashringi</i>
4.	Gujarati	<i>Kakdsingi</i>
5.	English	crab's claw

Synonyms of *Karkatshringi* in Different Classical texts.^[12,13,14,15]

S. No.	Synonyms	B.P.N	K.N.	N.A	D.H
1.	<i>Karkatshringi</i>	+	+	+	+
2.	<i>Shringi</i>	-	-	+	-
3.	<i>Kuleervishanika</i>	-	-	-	-
4.	<i>Ajshringi</i>	-	-	-	+
5.	<i>Vktra</i>	-	-	-	-
6.	<i>Kakkar</i>	+	-	-	-
7.	<i>Kakdashingi</i>	+	-	+	+
8.	<i>Kakrshingi</i>	+	-	-	-
9.	<i>Mahaghosha</i>	-	+	-	-
10.	<i>Maharava</i>	-	+	-	-
11.	<i>Natangi</i>	-	+	-	-
12.	<i>Karkatahvya</i>	-	+	+	-
13.	<i>Chakra</i>	-	-	+	+
14.	<i>Kuleer</i>	-	-	-	+
15.	<i>Vishanika</i>	-	-	-	+

Action & uses of *Karkatshringi* in Different Classical texts.^[16,17,18,19,20]

S. No.	Classical text	Action & Uses
1.	<i>Bhavaprakash Nighantu</i>	<i>Sawashara, kasahara, hikkaniqrhana, Atisarhara, Balya</i>
2.	<i>Kaidev Nighantu</i>	<i>Sawashara, kasahara, hikkaniqrhana, Kshyahara, Aruchinashaka, Chardinigrhna</i>
3.	<i>Adarsha Nighantu</i>	<i>Sawashara, kasahara, kamoudipana, hikkaniqrhana</i>
4.	<i>Priya Nighantu</i>	<i>Jwara, Kasa, Kshya, Swasa, Vamana, Hikka</i>
5.	<i>Dravyaguna Hastamalka</i>	<i>Shothara, kusthghna, grahniroghara, pradarhara, Sawashara, kasahara, hikkaniqrhana, Atisarhara, Balya</i>


Rasapanchaka of *Karkatshringi* in Different Classical texts.^[21,22,23,24]

S. No	Classical texts	Rasa	Guna	Virya	Vipaka	Dosh-Karma
1.	<i>Bhavaprakash Nighantu</i>	<i>Katu-Tikta</i>	<i>Guru-Ruksha</i>	<i>Ushna</i>	-	<i>Vatakaraka</i>
2.	<i>Nighantu Adarsha</i>	<i>Kasaya -Tikta</i>	-	<i>Ushna</i>	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Vata-Kapha-Samaka</i>
3.	<i>Priya Nighantu</i>	<i>Kasaya, Tikta</i>	-	<i>Usna</i>	-	<i>Vata-Kapha-Samaka</i>
4.	<i>Dravyaguna Hastamalka</i>	<i>Katu-Tikta-Madhua</i>	<i>Guru-Ruksha-Tikshna</i>	<i>Ushna</i>	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Pitta-Kapha-Samaka</i>

Taxonomical classification of *Karkatshringi*.^[25]

S. No.	Taxonomical Classification	<i>Pistacia integerrima</i> J.L. Stewart ex Brandis.
1.	Kingdom	Plantae
2.	Phylum	Tracheophyta
3.	Class	Angiosperms
4.	Family	Anacardiaceae
5.	Genus	<i>Pistacia</i>
6.	Species	<i>Pistacia integerrima</i> J.L. Stewart ex Brandis.

Botanical Description of Different varieties of *Karkatshringi*.^[26]

S. No.	Botanical description	<i>Pistacia integerrima</i> J.L. Stewart ex Brandis.
1.	Habit	A glabrous Tree.
2.	Leaves	Compound paripinnate, the leaflets are sub-opposite, leaflets petiolate, lanceolate with oblique base, entire margin, acuminate, apex, & unicoslate venation, with 10-18 actuate lateral leaves.
3.	Flowers	Unisexual, male-compact-pubescent, female-;lax-elongated.
4.	Fruits	Drupe.
5.	Seeds	About 1.3cm long tipped with a coma of light brown hairs.
6.	Galls	Galls are formed due to activity of insects which are foundin number in the close cavity of the gall even after it is removed from the trees. The galls are seen hanging from the branches of the trees of the <i>Pistascia intergerrima</i> Stew. The Shape of Galls resembles that of the curved horns of ram or curved like the claw of a crab. Reddish brown in color with few black patches. It is light and hallow & brittle. It yields pleasant smell like “Nutmeg”.
7.	Distribution	Native of China & Japan, but Also found in temperate Himalayas from Kashmir to Sikkim.
8.	Image ^[27]	

Therapeutic uses

1. **Vataja Kasa**^[28]- Licking the powder of Yavasa, karchura, Munakka, Adraka, Kakarkatshringi, & Mishri, with Tila Taila is beneficial.
2. **Kasa**^[29]- Licking *Aveleha Kalpana* of Bharangi, Karchura, Draksha, Karkatshringi, Pippal powder, jiggery and oil is beneficial.
3. **Kasa**^[30] Using powder of Sunthi, Pushkar, Kakadashingi, Karchura, Devedaru, Bharngi, Pippal, Nagarmoth & Rasna by mixing in Khand is beneficial.
4. **Kasa**^[31] Licking the powder of Vasa PAtra, Neem Patra, Tulsi Swrasa, Karchura, Kakkadashingi, Kali Maricha, with jiggery is beneficial.
5. **Kasa**^[32] Using powder of Talishpatra, Triphala, Gond, Pippalamoola, Nagarmotha, Karchura, Devdaru, Ela, Tehpatta, Nagkesar, Lavanga, Sunthi, Pippali, Kankol, Netrabala, Chavya, Murva, Atish, Kakadashingi, Draksha, Kutha, Daruhaldi, Chita, Kuda bark, Vasa, Gokhru, Kutki, Bijora Nimbu, Anardana, ripped Ber, with equal quantity of Khand in ½ Tola dosage is beneficial.
6. **Wound healing**^[33] Its paste also promotes wound healing.
7. **Kaphajanya Chardi**^[34]- Licking with Madhu, an equal quantity of Karkatshringi & Musta is beneficial.
8. **Swasansasthanagata Roga**^[35] In case of dry cough & other respiratory disease conditions the powder mixture of Karakatshringi, Bharangimoola, Sonth, Choti Pippal, Karchura, & Munakka is used along with madhu.

DISCUSSION

Karkatshringi is well known *Dravya* of Ayurvedic sciences. It is a gall made by the activity of an insect on the leaves of a plant named *Kakkad*. Because it is found of *Kakkad*,^[36] plant and having a horn like structure it become famous by the name of *Karkatshringi* or *Kakkadashingi* in public. It is found mostly of hilly areas and having vast medicinal properties like *Sawashara*,^[37] *Kasahara*,^[38] *Hikkanigrhana*,^[39] *Kshyahara*,^[40] *Aruchinashaka*,^[41] *Chardinigrhna*,^[42] *Kamoudipana*,^[43] *Shothara*,^[44] *Kusthghna*,^[45] *Grahniroghara*,^[46] *Pradarhara*,^[47] *Atisarhara*,^[48] etc. but it is most effective in *Swasa* and *Kasa Roga* as mentioned by *Acharya*'s. It is having properties like *Katu-Tikta-Rasa*,^[49] *Guru-Ruksha-Guna*,^[50] *Usna-Veerya*,^[51] *Katu-Vipaka*,^[52] and mainly it pacify the *Vata-Kapha*,^[53] *Dosha*. As we know all the respiratory disorders occurs due to increased condition of *Vata-Kapha Dosha* in the body. When *Vata-Kapha Dosha* get *Prakupita* then conditions like *Swasa*, *Kasa*, *Pratishya* etc are occurs and the *Dravya Karkatshringi* posses the qualities to control this *Kapha* and helps in maintenance of healthy condition. As we know our body is made of *Panchamahabhuta*'s, and all the *Dravya* in this world is also a composition of *Panchamahabhuta*'s. There is a theory in *Ayurveda* on which complete *Chikitsa Shastra* is dependent which states that “*Sarvadasarvbhavanam Samanyam Vridhikarnam Harshhetuvisheshch*,^[54] means similarity or which causes increase in substance while *Vishesh* is dissimilarity or which can cause decrease in substance; also *Vishesh* means specific. The normalcy of *Dhatu* i.e physiological homeostasis can be achieved through application of *Samanya-Vishesha Siddhanta*. On the basis of this *Siddhanta* in *Kasa Roga*,^[55] *Vata Dosha* is

involved which increases in the body and obstructed all the channels. *Vata* is mainly having *Laghu-Ruksha-Sheet-Chal-Guna* with the dominance of *Vayu Mahabhuta*; hence to overcome of this *Vata Dosha* one should use *Vishesh* qualities of *Dravya* which posses *Ushna-Tikshna-Guru-Guna*, *Katu-Madhura-Rasa*, *Ushna-Viryā*, *Katu-Vipaki* and the *Dravya Karkatshringi* is having all the qualities to maintain this *Vata Dosha* in normal ratio. Hence we can recommend this drug in *Kasa Roga*. Many *Acharya's* also recommended this in *Kasa Roga* either in single form or with the combination of other *Dravyas*.

CONCLUSION

By knowing the amazing qualities of *Karkatshringi* we recommended this drug this in *Kasa Roga* and also requested to research scholar kindly give attention to such drugs and do more research on this drug for more efficient results and data maintenance so that our future generation learn *Ayurveda* without any doubt.

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