



NEELIKARANJADI KASHAYAM: A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Kerala has a wide traditional knowledge of treating various poisonous conditions. visha vaidya sara samuchaya and vishavaidya jyotsnika are two main books which mentions all types of poisoning and its management. Rat poisoning is an emergency condition which has to be treated immediately. Many formulations are mentioned in these books and one important amongst is neelikaranjadi kashayam which is easily available and widely used. This paper is an attempt to review on rat poisoning, ingredients and mode of action of neelikaranjadi kashayam.

Key words: Rat poisoning, neelikanjadi kashayam, visha vaidya sara samuchaya, vishavaidya jyotsnika

INTRODUCTION

Kerala has got its own traditional knowledge in the treatment of all poisonous conditions. Neelikaranjadi kashaya is a very effective yoga mentioned in treating rat poisoning. It is mentioned only in visha vaidya sara samuchaya and vishavaidya jyotsnika in the context of mooshika visha (rat poisoning). This kashaya yoga is capable of relieving all the manifestations caused due to rat poisoning immediatly¹.The formulation consists of 9 ingredients

and the sloka starts with the drugs neeli (*Indigofera tinctoria*) and karanja (*Pongamia pinnata*) hence the name has be given for the yoga. In the text book of visha vaidya sara samuchaya one of the drug mentioned is devadaru (*Cedrus deodar*) which is replaced by chandana (*Santalum album*) in vishavaidya jyotsnika book. There is one more formulation in the name neelikaranjadi kashayam² in visha vaidya sara samuchaya mentioned in the treatment of dog bite also neelikaranjadi ksheera³ is a formulation mentioned for dog bite in vishavaidya jyotsnika.

Name of yoga: Neelikaranjadi kashyam

Table 1: lists of ingredients of Neelikaranjadi kashayam⁴

Sl no	Name of drug	Botanical name	Part used
1	Neeli	<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i>	Root
2	Karanja	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i>	Bark
3	Nimba	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Bark
4	Shireesha	<i>Albizia lebbeck</i>	Bark
5	Shigru	<i>Moringa oleifera</i>	Bark
6	Musta	<i>Cyperus rotendus</i>	Rhizome
7	Vacha	<i>Acorus calamus</i>	Rhizome
8	Shunti	<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Dried rhizome
9	Devadaru	<i>Cedrus deodar</i>	Bark

The drug devadaru (*Cedrus deodar*) is replaced by chandana (*Santalum album*) in the reference of vishavaidya jyotsnika.

Dose: General dose of kashaya (48ml) can be administered or according to the condition.

Method of preparation: All ingredients are taken in equal quantity and made into course powder. 8 parts of water is added to it and made to boil and reduced to 1/4th part⁵.

Indication: All conditions of mooshika visha (rat poisoning).

KARMUKATHA (PHARMACOKINETICS) OF NEELIKARANJADI KASHAYAM

Table 2: List of Rasapanchaka (factors determining the function of this formulation) of ingredients of Neelikaranjadi kashayam

Sl no	Name of drug	Rasa (taste)	Guna (property)	Virya (potency)	Vipaka	Karma (mode of action)
1	Neeli ⁶	Tikta	Laghu, ruksha	Usna	Katu	Kapahavatahara, vishagna
2	Karanja ⁷	Tikta, katu, kashaya	Laghu, teekshna	Usna	Katu	Kaphavatahara, sothahara, bhedana
3	Nimba ⁸	Tikta, kashaya	Laghu, ruksha	Sita	Katu	Kapapittahara, deepana, grahi, krimigna, vishagna
4	Sireesha ⁹	Kashaya, tikta, madhura	Laghu, ruksha, teekshna	Usna	Katu	Tridoshahara, vishagna, varnya, sothahara, vedanasthapana, vranaropana
5	Sigru ¹⁰	Katu, tikta	Laghu, ruksha, teekshna	Usna	Katu	Kaphavatahara, deepana, hridya, krimighna, grahi, vishagna, vedanasthapana
6	Musta ¹¹	Tikta, katu, kashaya	Laghu, ruksha	Sita	Katu	Kaphapittahara, deepana, pachana, grahi, lekha
7	Vacha ¹²	Katu, tikta	Laghu, teekshna	Usna	Katu	Kaphavatahara, lekhaneeya, vedanasthapana, sothahara, deepana, krimigna
8	Shunti ¹³	Katu	Guru, ruksha, teekshna	Usna	Madhura	Vatakaphahara, deepana, bhedana
9	Devadaru ¹⁴	Tikta, katu, kashya	Ruksha, laghu	Usna	Katu	Kaphavatahara, deepana
10	Chandana ¹⁵	Tikta, madhuara	Laghu, ruksha	Sita	Katu	Kaphapittahara, varnya, dahaprasamana

Mooshika visha lakshana (signs and symptoms of rat poisoning): Emergence of nodules all over the body, swelling at the site of bite, circular lesions on different parts of body followed by itching, macular formation, emergence of visarpa, skin disorders similar to psoriasis, breaking type of pain in joints, severe pain all over body, loss of consciousness, debility, weakness, anorexia, difficulty in breathing, vomiting and horripulations¹⁶.

The mode of action of neelikaranjadi kashayam in condition of rat poisoning can be understood by the pharmacological action of each ingredient.

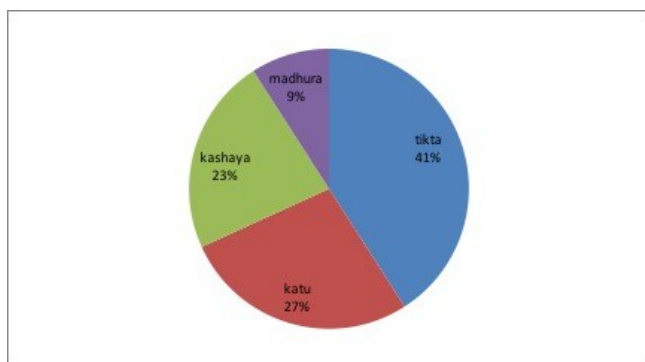
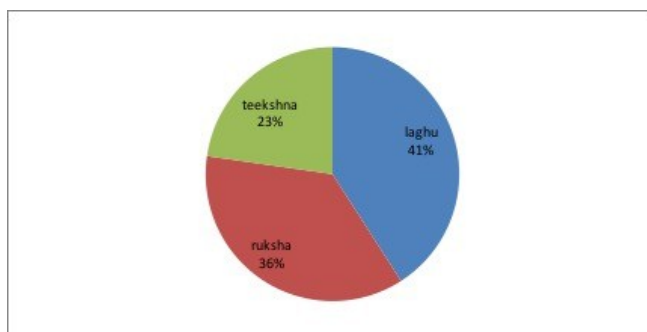
Based on rasa (taste): In this formulation 41% of the ingredients have tikta rasa (bitter), 27% of ingredients have katu rasa

(pungent), 23% of ingredients have kashaya rasa (astringent) and 9% of ingredients have madhura rasa (sweet).

Based on guna (property): In this formulation 41% of the ingredients have laghu guna (lightness), 36% of ingredients have ruksha guna (dryness) and 23% of ingredients have teekshna guna (sharpness).

Based on veerya (potency): In this formulation 70% of the ingredients have ushna veerya (hot) and 30% of ingredients have sita veerya (cold).

Based on karma (action): In this formulation 15% of ingredients are vatakaphahara and deepana, 8% are kaphapittahara, krimigna and vedanasthapana, 5% are varnya, grahi, bhedana and sothahara, 3% of the ingredients are dahaprasamana, hridya, pachana, vranaropana and tridoshahara.

**Figure 1: Rasa of the ingredients****Figure 2: Guna of the ingredients**

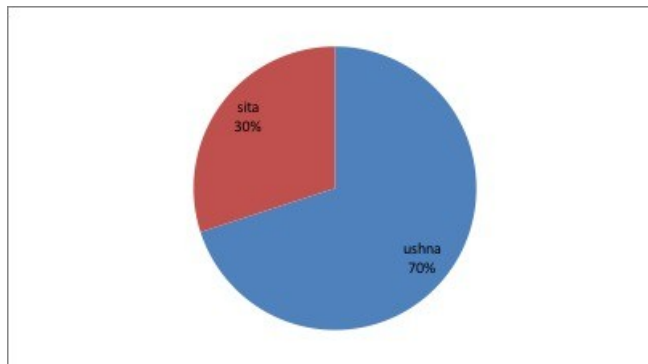


Figure 3: Veerya of the ingredients

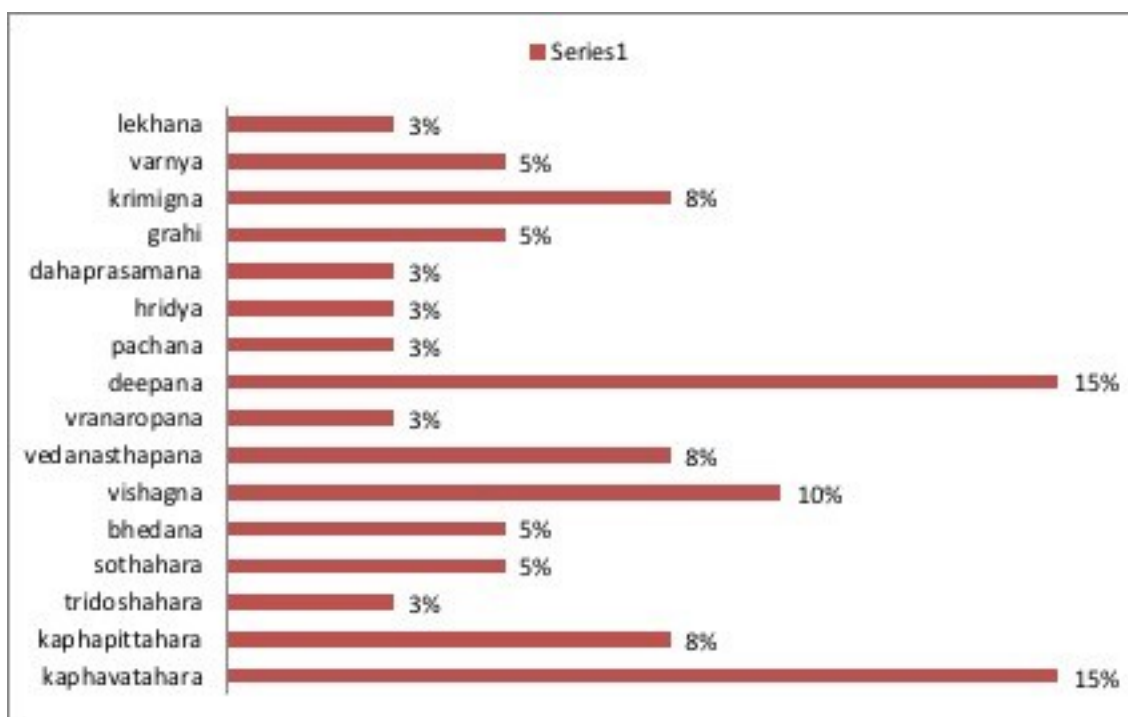


Figure 4: Action of ingredients

DISCUSSION

Neelikaranjadi kashayam is mentioned for the treatment of all conditions caused due to rat poisoning. The signs and symptoms seen in rat poisoning are like nodules, swelling, psoriasis like skin diseases, various types of pains, itching, anorexia, vomiting etc. the ingredients of neelikaranjadi kashayam has got properties which relieves all these signs and symptoms like vatakapahara property relieves nodules, swelling, itching and skin lesions. The properties like vedanasthapana, vatahara and shulahara will reduce any kind of pain. Most of the ingredients have got usna veerya which makes it to act against the pain. Some of the drugs are having deepana, pachana, hridya grahi properties which act against anorexia, vomiting and weakness. The formulation is having multiple properties which act together in the condition of rat poisoning.

One more formulation in the name neelikaranjadi kashayam which is mentioned in dog bite condition in the book visha vaidya srara samuchaya is having the ingredients like neeli (*Indigofera tinctoria*), Karanja (*Pongamia pinnata*), nimba (*Azadirachta indica*), tulsi (*Ocimum sanctum*), lodra (*Symplocos racemosa*), daruharidra (*Coscinium fenestratum*), brihathi (*Solanum indicum*), kantakari (*Solanum xanthocarpum*), musta (*Cyperus rotendus*), parpata (*Mollugo cerviana*), shunti (*Zingiber officinalis*), pippali (*Piper longum*), maricha (*Piper nigrum*), sireesha (*Albizia lebbeck*) and devadaru (*Citrus deodara*). Each ingredient is taken in equal quantity to make kashaya and administered for 90 days from the day of bite continuously.

Other formulation named neelikaranjadi ksheeram mentioned in vishavaidya jyotsnika in the context of dog bite is having the ingredients same like that of neelikaranjadi kashayam mentioned for dog bite in visha vaidya sara samuchaya but the method of

preparation mentioned is kheerapaka means by added milk to the course powder of equal quantity of ingredients.

CONCLUSION

Neelikarajadi kashayam is a formulation which is mentioned for treating rat poisoning. It is mentioned in two books with a difference of one ingredient i.e in one reference it is devadaru which is replaced by chandana in the other. Totally it contains 10 ingredients which are easily available and having properties which relieves the signs and symptoms of rat poisoning. It can be used in any condition which is having signs and symptoms similar to rat poisoning. It is a very common formulation which is available and widely used in the treatment of rat poisoning in Kerala.

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