

Department of Dravaguna Vidnyan

Plant Name-Ashoka



Introduction

Botanical Name: Saraca asoca (Roxb.) DeWilde.

Family : Caesalpiniaceae

Introduction

We can see a clear description from Atharva veda parisita. This plant is known as friend of female also a good uterine tonic.

Synonyms

Kañkeli, Madhu puspa, Rakta pallava, Vanjulah, Hema puspa, Gatasoka, Ashoka, Ashoku, Hempushpa, Taamrapallava, Pindapushpa, Gandhapushpa, Saraca indica auct. non L

Classification according to Charaka, Susrutha & Vagbhataz

Charaka:

Kasāya skañdha, Vedanāsthapana

Susrutha: Rodhrādi

Vagbhata -Rodhrādi

Varieties & adulterants – (CV – controversy, AD – adulterants):

It is being adulterated with the barks Polyalthia longifolia , Shorea robusta , Bauhinia variegata Cynometra travancorica – AD

Morphology

It is a small ever green tree with drooping glabrous branches, 8-10 m. in height. Bark- with warty surface, dark-brown to grey or almost black

Leaves pinnate, 10-20 cm. long; leaflets 2-3 pairs, rigidly subcoriaceous, oblong or oblong- lanceolate.

Flowers- in dense axillary corymbs, fragrant, orange or orange-yellow, finally turning vermillion-red. Fruits- pods, flat, oblong, woody, about 8 x 20 cm.

Seeds- 4-8, ellipsoid oblong, compressed (Flowers in March-April and fruits in August- September).

Distribution & Habitat

All over India, abundant in South India. The tree is found in abundance in Bengal and Burma. Cultivated about 700 m. above height

Chemical constituents

Apigenin, O-beta-D-glucoside, cyaniding, diglucoside, kaempferol, pelargonidin-, diglucoside, quercetin, epicatechol, leucocyanidin, leucopelargonidin, procyanidin, derivatives, methyl- and ethylcholesterol, rhamnoside, amyirin, ceryl alcohol and beta-sitosterol.

Properties

Rasa : Kasaya, Tikta

Guna : Laghu, Rūkṣa

Virya : Sita

Vipāka : Katu

Karma -Pittahara, Hrdya, Varnya, Grāhi, uterine tonic, constipating, blood purifier.

Srotogamitva:

Dosha

Rapha, pittā kṣhayakarak.

Dhatus

Rakta (haemostasis), meda, rasayana. Mala : Purisha (astringent), diuretic.

Organ

Uterus Ashoka is 'specifically used for rakta-pradara is called a friend of women

Indication

Gulma, udavartha, Apaci, Trisnā, Dāha, Krimi, Visaroga, Hrdroga, Rakta Pradara, Mutraghata, Asmari fever, burning sensation, visceromegaly, colic, leucorrhoea, piles, menorrhagia.

Part used

Stem bark, seeds, root

Dosage

Leaf juice 10-15 ml Powder 2-4 g

Decoction 50-100 ml

External uses

The bark has analgesic and antidotal properties. Hence its paste is used in pains and poisoning for local application.

Internal uses:

Nervous system

It has effect on the nerves and therefore is used in painful vata disorders.

Digestive system

Due to its astringent, anethmintic and antidyspeptic prospective & it is useful in diarrhoea, dysentery, helminthiasis

Circulatory system It has haemostatic, blood purifying and antioedematous effects Hence It is used in diseases of the blood and oedema, its lowers are used in internal bleeding.

Reproductive system

It strengthens the muscles of the uterus and reduces uterine discharge and pain in the uterus and so it is useful in rnenorrhagia, leucorrhoea and dysrnenorrhoea Since the decoction of the bark acts as a tonic for the endometrium of the uterus, it is useful in many diseases of the uterus.

Urinary system

By virtue of its diuretic property, it is useful in dysuria and calculi, It prevents the formation of a calculus.

Temperature

It reduces the burning sensation frequently associated with pyrexia

Important Yogas or Formulations:

Asokaghrtam, Ashokarishta.

Therapeutic Uses:

1. Rakta Pradara- Cold milk boiled with the decoction of Asoka bark is useful.
2. Asmari-Seed powder of Asoka is administered with water.

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