



A LITERARY REVIEW ON KADAMBA (*ANTHOCEPHALUS KADAMBA*)- AN AYURVEDIC HERB

Ayurveda

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ABSTRACT

In india, the use of different parts of the medicinal plant to cure specific ailments has been given in vogue since of the time immemorial.Nature has bestowed on us a very rich herbal wealth and a large number of diverse types of plants in different parts of the country. *Anthocephalus Kadamba* (*Rubiaceae*) is one of such ayurvedic remedy that has been mentioned in many Indian medicinal literatures. This article discusses about the medicinal values of *Anthocephalus Kadamba*. In this communication, we reviewed the Literary research of *Anthocephalus Kadamba* in various nighantu as well as thereapeutic index, Distribution, Etymology derivations, Synonyms according to properties and actions, Propagation and cultivation.This review discusses the investigations made by various researchers related to chemical constituents, pharmacological action and toxicological studies of this plant.

KEYWORDS

Kadamba, Ayurveda, Medicinal plants, Research,Pharmacological action, Cultivation, Toxicological

INTRODUCTION^{1,2}

Anthocephalus Kadamba is commonly known as “Kadamba” in Sanskrit and Hindi and as “Kodom” in Bengali. It is an evergreen tropical tree found in different parts of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Laos, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Australia¹. The *Kadamba* is a large tree with height of - 45 m with a broad umbrella-shaped crown and straight cylindrical bole. It grows very quickly in length but takes 6-8 years to increase its girth. Its trunk has a diameter of 100-160 cm, while the leaves are 13-32 cm long. Flowering usually begins when the tree is 4-5 years old. The fruits of the *Kadamba* are small, containing fleshy capsules packed closely together to form a yellow-orange infructescence.²

RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATION OF KADAMBA

The Kadamb tree is popularly associated with Lord Krishna, who is usually depicted playing his flute under it. Many of Lord Krishna's 'Leelas' (His pranks) are said to have taken place under a Kadam tree. In the southern part of India, the Kadam tree is associated with Goddess Parvati, who is believed to dwell in a Kadam forest (Kadamba-vanasini). The tree is hence referred to as 'Parvati's tree' here. The worship of the tree is supposed to ensure wealth and progeny. The flower is also sacred to Lord Kartikeya. The twigs of the tree are offered to Lord Shiva³. Various religions in India have strongly believed that God lives inside a *Kadamba* tree based on its enormous significance to humankind. It has been said in the Sanskrit shloka, “*Ayi Jagadamba Mad-Amba Kadamba Vana-Priyavaasini Haasa-Rate,*” that is, Goddess Durga likes to live in the forest of *Kadamba* trees. *Kadamba*.⁵

ETYMOLOGICAL DERIVATION⁶ -

कदति हिनस्ति बद्धकोशतां सरत्वात् इति ॥

(Due to its *Sara* property *Kadamba* are lives *Baddhakoshata*.)

IN MODERN ETYMOLOGY⁷

Anthocephalus

- Anthos (Greek) – A flower
- Cephal (Greek)- Head

Kadamba

- *Kadamba* (Sanskrit), name of the plant

SYNONYMS⁸

According Properties and Actions -

1. नीपः – नयति, नीयते वा ।

Kadamba is having very good properties so it is liked by many people.

1. प्रियकः – प्रीणति इति प्रियकः ।

Kadamba is very good nutrient.

VERNACULAR NAME⁹

VERNACULAR NAME⁹

English	Kadam
Hindi	<i>Kadam, Kadamba</i>
Beng.	<i>Kadam</i>
Guj.	<i>Kadamb, Kadam</i>
Kan.	<i>Arsenatige, Kadamba, Kadamba, mara, Kadavala, Neirumavinamara, Kaada, vailu, Kadwal, Kaduvalatige</i>
Mal.	<i>Attutekka, Katampu</i>
Mar.	<i>Kadamb, Kadam, Nhiv</i>
Punj.	<i>Kadamb</i>
Tam.	<i>Vellaikka-tampu, Arattam, Indulam, Kadappai, Vellai kadambam, Kadambu, Needam, Vellai kadambu, Kolaoyila</i>
Tel.	<i>Kadambamu, Kadimi, chettu, Kadamba, Rudraksha-kamba, Rudraksha-kadamba, Kadambamuchettu, Pedda kambo</i>
Assam	<i>Roghru, Kadam</i>
Oriya	<i>Holiptiya, Kadamba nipo, Kadambal, Kadamba</i>
Sing.	<i>Kadamba</i>

DISTRIBUTION¹⁰

The tree is frequently found in moist and warm type of deciduous and evergreen forest.

- It is found in the Sub-Himalayan tract from Nepal eastwards on the lower hills of Darjeeling terai in West Bengal, in Karnataka, Kerala and in the western ghats.
- In the Andamans, it is very common in damp places along large streams.
- It is also frequently cultivated for ornament, and as a shade tree in plantations throughout the country.

Taxonomy Classification of *Kadamba*¹¹

Kingdom	Plantae
Class	Dicotyledons
Sub class	Gamopetalae
Series	Inferae
Order	Rubiales
Family	Rubiaceae
Genus	<i>Anthocephalus</i>
Species	<i>Kadamba</i>

BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION¹²

It is a tall tree growing up to the height of 30 meters tall with a broad crown and horizontally spreading branches.

- Bark – dark grey, longitudinally fissured, exfoliating in thin scales.
- Leaves- Simple, ovate, elliptic-oblong with prominent veins.
- Flowers – Bisexual, small, orange in colour.

- Seedlings raised from the seeds are transplanted during the first rainy season.
- The tree grows very rapidly first 6-8 yr. and attains its maximum size in about 20 yr.

SPECIES OF *KADAMBA*⁴²

- *Anthocephalus chinensis* (Lamk.) A. Rich. ex Walp
- *Sarcocephalus kadamba* (Roxb.) Kurz
- *Anthocephalus macrophyllus* (Roxb.) Havil
- *Anthocephalus indicus* A. Rich.
- *Nauclea cadamba* (Roxb.)
- *Anthocephalus morindaefolius* Korth.
- *Neolamarckia cadamba* (Roxb.) Bosser

Research corner⁴²

Antimicrobial potential of *Anthocephalus kadamba* against a wide range of micro-organisms was studied. To validate the ethanotherapeutic claims of the plants in skin disease wound healing activity was studied, besides antioxidant activity to understand the mechanisms of wound healing. The alcoholic and aqueous extract showed significant antibacterial and antifungal activity against almost all the organisms: *Micrococcus luteus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and four fungi *Candida albicans*, *Trichophyton rubrum*, *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus nidulans*. The results show that a *Kadamba* extract has potent wound healing capacity and antioxidant activity. Umachigi SP et al. "Antimicrobial, wound healing and antioxidant activities of *Anthocephalus Kadamba*. Afr. J. Tradit Complement Altern Med. 2007 Jun 10;4(4):481-7

CONCLUSION

The *Kadamba* is an important plant having tremendous medicinal properties. Research in medicinal plant has gained a renewed focus recently. The main reason is that the other system of medicine associated with number of side effects that often cause to serious problems. Though *Anthocephalus kadamba* has various medicinal activities but it is time to explore its medicinal values at molecular level with the help of various biotechnological techniques. In this article *kadamba* is broadly used in various disease.⁴³

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