



## ILLUSTRATIVE ATLAS ON ANATOMICAL AND PHYSICO-CHEMICAL STANDARDS OF KETAKI (*PANDANUS ODORATISSIMUS* L.) FRAGRANT MALE INFLORESCENCE USED IN AYURVEDA.

### Ayurveda

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### ABSTRACT

**About:** Fragrant inflorescence of *Pandanus odoratissimus* L. are used in various therapeutic condition in Ayurveda. **Materials and Methods:** Male Inflorescence of *test drug* were collected from their natural habitat subjected for macro-microscopy and physicochemical study. **Results:** Spadix of male flowers 25-30 cm long, enclosed in long, white, fragrant, caudate acuminate spathes. TS of peduncle show a typical character of a monocot stem with outer epidermis; the ground tissue is made up of thick-walled parenchyma cells and vascular bundles found scattered in the ground tissue. TS of spathe exhibit typical character of a monocot leaf, both epidermies are papillose with thick outer wall having thick coating of cuticle; about 2 to 3 layers under the epidermis shows drops of volatile oil; TS through lamina also show similar structure found in spathe. Physico-chemical constants of a fragrant corolla shown loss on drying as (13.97), total ash 9.885, acid insoluble ash 0.447 and extractive values as 2.533 and 13.159 in alcoholic and water respectively.

### KEYWORDS

*Pandanus odoratissimus* L., macro-microscopy, Physico-chemical

### INTRODUCTION:

*Pandanus odoratissimus* L. a source of Ketaki is a densely branched shrub; the fragrant spadices which are used in the extraction of Kewda attar, the most popular perfume extracted and used in India since ancient days<sup>1</sup>. This plant found commonly throughout the hotter moister parts of India, especially in coastal areas of Indian Peninsula on both sides and Andaman<sup>2</sup>. Banks of river, canals, fields, ponds are said to be its natural habitat, and these plants are considered to be good soil binder. Around 600 species are found in this pandanus genus all over the world whereas 40-60 are found in India<sup>3</sup>. Stem of this shrub is 6m high, supported by aerial roots<sup>4</sup>. The tree begins to flower 3 to 4 years after planting, matured tree gives flower during rainy season<sup>5</sup>. Flower may take minimum 15 days to mature depending upon geographical condition, and a fully mature tree may bear 30-40 spadices per year<sup>6</sup>. The male inflorescence valued for the fragrant smell emitted by the tender yellowish-white spathes covering the flowers and valuable attar obtained from them<sup>7</sup>.

All parts of this plants are reported to be used medicinally; like roots, flower, fruit. The fragrant flowers are said to be carminative, stomachic, cooling and antiseptic<sup>8</sup>. These are beneficial in headache, psychological illness, ulcers, dysuria, scabies and other skin disease<sup>9</sup>. The essential oil extracted out of the flowers (*Ketaki arka*) effective remedy in headache, rheumatoid arthritis, antispasmodic<sup>10</sup>. Methyl ether of beta- phenyl alcohol, diterpene, d-linalool, phenylethyl acetate, citral, ester of pthalic acid are chief constituent of the oil<sup>11</sup>. With all this background it has been planned to conduct macro-microscopic and physicochemical study of fragrant male inflorescence which is commonly used in oil extraction, which in turn used in many therapeutic procedures.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS:

Male Inflorescence of *Pandanus odoratissimus* L. were collected from their natural habitat, photographs were taken, authenticated using floras and botanist's opinion and samples deposited at SDM centre for research in Ayurveda and Allied sciences (Voucher No.12100801). Inflorescence were separated from their colourful bracts, shade dried. Few floral parts preserved separately in fixative solution FAA (Formalin- 5ml+acetic acid 5ml+ 70%ethyl alcohol -90 ml) for more than 48 hours<sup>12</sup>.

### Macroscopy:

External features of floral parts were documented using Canon IXUS digital camera. Organoleptic features like colour, taste, appearance,

smell recorded and tabulated according to standard guidelines<sup>13</sup>(Figure 1)

### Microscopy:

These preserved samples were cut into thin transverse section using a sharp blade and the sections were stained with safranin. Transverse sections were photographed using Zeiss AXIO trinocular microscope attached with ZiessAxio Cam camera under bright field light. Magnifications of the figures are indicated by the scale bars<sup>14</sup>. (Figure 2)

### Physico-chemical Standards:

The whole inflorescence was cut in to small pieces, including spathe, flowers etc. Some part was shade dried and powdered and subjected to record physicochemical standards<sup>15</sup>.

### RESULTS

#### Macroscopy

Spadix of male flowers 25-30 cm long, enclosed in long, yellowish-white, fragrant, caudate acuminate spathes. (Figure 1)



Figure 1. Macroscopy of Ketaki(*Pandanus odoratissimus* L.)

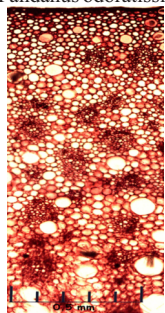


Figure 1.1. Fresh inflorescence Figure 1.2. Dried floral parts

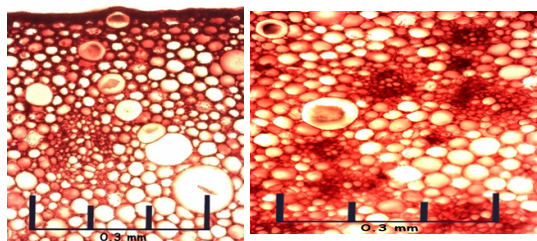
### Microscopy

*TS of peduncle:* Shows characters similar to a monocot stem; the outermost layer is an epidermis with thick cuticle; the ground tissue is made up of thick-walled parenchyma cells, several of them being idioblasts with bundle of acicular crystals; vascular bundles are scattered throughout the ground tissue, each vascular bundle comprises of vessels, groups of fibres and phloem patches. (Figure 2)

**Figure 2.** Microscopy of peduncle of inflorescence of Ketaki(*Pandanus odoratissimus* L.)



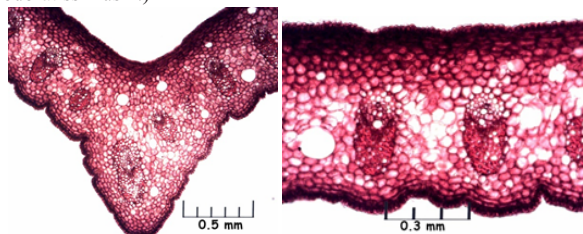
**Figure 2.1.** TS of Peduncle



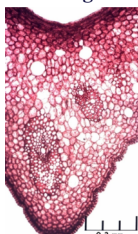
**Figure 2.2.** Outer region enlarged **Figure 2.3.** Inner region enlarged

TS of spathe: Shows characters similar to that of a monocot leaf; the outline of section through midrib is 'V' shaped, the lower elevation is more projected with slight broadening; there are upper and lower epidermis protecting the inner tissues; both the epidermis are papillose with thick outer wall having thick coating of cuticle; about 2 to 3 layers under the epidermis shows drops of volatile oil; the parenchymatous ground tissue shows idioblasts with bundles of acicular crystals, similar to those seen in the section of peduncle, but are less in number; there are elongated to oval shaped vascular bundles arranged perpendicular to the lamina, the one in the midrib is slightly bigger; each bundle has serially arranged vessels surrounded by phloem and encircled by thick-walled fibres; very minute grains of starch are observed in few of the parenchyma cells of the ground tissue. TS through lamina also shows features as that of leaf lamina. (Figure 3)

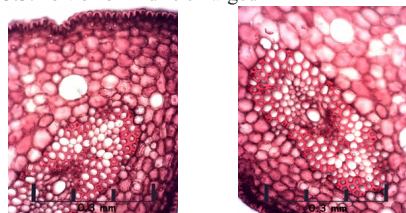
**Figure 3.** Microscopy of spathe of inflorescence of Ketaki (*Pandanus odoratissimus* L.)



**Figure 3.1.** TS of spathe – midrib **Figure 3.2.** TS of spathe – lamina



**Figure 3.3.** Portion of midrib enlarged



**Figure 3.4.** Cortex with acicular crystals **Figure 3.5.** Vascular bundle

### Physico-chemical Standards:

Herbs grow in different geographical condition and will be collected at different season. Physico-chemical constituents determine about their moisture content, carbonaceous matter, solubility in different media. The results obtained of a test drug are displayed in Table 1.

**Table 1. Physico-chemical parameters of Ketaki(*Pandanus odoratissimus* L.)**

Parameter	Result n = 3 (% w/w)
Loss on drying	13.97
Total ash	9.885
Acid insoluble ash	0.447
Alcohol soluble extractive	2.533
Water soluble extractive	13.159

### DISCUSSION

Ketaki (*Pandanus odoratissimus* L.) are densely growing shrub found along sea shores, pond, canals. Many parts of this plant are used in medicine like stem, essential oil, floral parts etc. Around 40 to 60 different species are said to be found in India. The fragrant yellowish flowers are chiefly used in medicine specially the oil extracted out of this corolla are used in headache, psychiatric diseases, antispasmodic. This oil known as kewda oil also said to be used in perfumery diseases. A macro-microscopic atlas prepared along with physico-chemical standard data definitely help in drug authentication for clinical researchers<sup>16</sup>.

Male flowers were collected and studied scientifically. Spadix of male flowers 25-30 cm long, enclosed in long, white, fragrant, caudate acuminate spathes. Transverse section of both peduncle and spathe were taken and observed under microscope. TS of peduncle show a typical character of a monocot stem with outer epidermis lined by thick cuticle; the ground tissue is made up of thick-walled parenchyma cells and vascular bundles found scattered in the ground tissue.

TS of spathe exhibit typical character of a monocot leaf; section through midrib is 'V' shaped, both epidermmii are papillose with thick outer wall having thick coating of cuticle; about 2 to 3 layers under the epidermis shows drops of volatile oil; the parenchymatous ground tissue shows idioblasts with bundles of acicular crystals, and elongated to oval shaped vascular bundles arranged perpendicular to the lamina, TS through lamina also show similar structure found in spathe.

Physico-chemical constants of a fragrant corolla shown high loss on drying value suggestive of high moisture content (13.97). Total ash was 9.885 indicates carbonaceous matter. Acid insoluble ash was 0.447 express their mineral content<sup>17</sup>. Extractive values were 2.533 and 13.159 in alcoholic and water respectively.

### CONCLUSION

Ketaki (*Pandanus odoratissimus* L.) a monocot shrub with fragrant corolla found beneficial in many pathological conditions. Many species of *Pandanus* found in India, commonly growing on bank of river, sea shore. In this paper pharmacognostic standard value recorded help in further studies in relation o drug authentication.

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