



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Ayurveda

KANCHANAR (BAUHINIA VARIEGATE)- A TRADITIONAL INDIAN HERBS AND ITS MEDICINAL IMPORTANCE-AN AYURVEDIC VIEW.

KEY WORDS: Kanchanar, *Bauhinia variegata*, Ayurveda, Samhita

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ABSTRACT

Bauhinia variegata (variegated orchid tree) a member of family Fabaceae and sub family Caesalpinoideae is commonly known as mountain ebony (English) or kachnar (Hindi). It is a well known ornamental tree of tropical and sub-tropical climate with hot and dry summers and mild winters. Various plant parts of the species like stem, stem bark, leaves, seeds, roots, flower buds and flowers are used in various indigenous systems of medicine and popular among various groups in India for cure of variety of ailments. *B. variegata* is considered as an ornamental and fodder tree; has started gaining popularity and increase in demand because of the medicinal properties it possesses. Various compounds, such as cyanidin glucoside, malvidin glucoside, peonidin glucoside and kaempferol galactoside, isolated from *B. variegata* are believed to inhibit growth and spread of various cancers of lung, liver, oral cavity, larynx and malignant ascites. The ancient Indian medical system, also known as Ayurveda, is based on ancient writings that rely on a "natural" and holistic approach to physical and mental health. Ayurvedic medicine is one of the world's oldest medical systems and remains one of India's traditional health care systems. Here the present review study is an attempt to provide reported detail information of this drug from various Samhitas.

INTRODUCTION

Bauhinia variegata (Leguminosae) is a medium sized deciduous tree, bark dark brown, nearly smooth, young shoots brown pubescent. Leaves 10- 15cm long, broader than long, cleft 1/4 to 1/3 of the way down into 2 obtuse lobes, pubescent beneath when young. Flowers large, fragrant, white or purplish, appearing when the tree is leafless¹. *Bauhinia variegata* Linn is a widely used plant in Ayurvedic medicine for the treatment of several illnesses such as leucoderma, leprosy, menorrhagia, asthma, wounds and ulcers. In various indigenous systems of medicine, bark of the plant is described as astringent to the bowels, tonic to the liver^{2,3}. During last two decades, the drug has been subjected to extensive phytochemical, pharmacological and clinical investigations and many interesting findings in the areas of chemoprotective antitumor activity, anti-inflammatory, anti-diabetic, antioxidant are reported. Kanchanar is used in various Ayurvedic formulations which are frequently used by Ayurvedic Practitioners. The present article gives the literary information regarding the different uses of Kanchanar in Samhita Granthas.

Source of Literature

Literature search on multidimensional uses of medicinal plant *Bauhinia variegata* from different sources of Ayurvedic Samhita Granthas, as it contains beautiful literature of plants and their role in biological system of Indian traditional system has been cited.

PLANT PROFILE

It is a small to medium-sized deciduous tree growing up to 17 m tall. The bark is ashy to dark brown, nearly smooth, young parts brown-pubescent. The leaves are 7.5-15 cm long, rather than longer than broad, cleft about half way down into 2 acute or rounded bilobed very minutely pubescent beneath when young, base usually cordate, 9-11 nerved; petiole 2.25-3.8 cm long. The flowers are conspicuous, pink and fragrant with five petals. Pedicels 5-13 mm long, stout, tomentose, bract and bracteoles small tomentose, deltoid. Calyx tomentose, tube 7.5-10 mm long, limb long as the tube. Petals 3.8 to 5 cm long, oblanceolate, long clawed, spreading veined. Stamens usually 3 fertile, others reduced to antherless filaments. Ovary downy, long-stalked; style long; stigma large, oblique. Pod 15-25 by 1.5-2 cm on a tomentose stipe 1.5 to 2.5 cm long, linear, flat, pointed, greenish, tinged with

purple till ripe, late in dehiscing. Seeds 12-15 suborbicular, flattened, 1.3 cm. wide and dark brown smooth¹.

Kanchanara in Charak Samhita^{4,5}

S.N.	Name of the drug	Chapter	Prakarana	Slok No.	Page No.
1.	Kovidar, Karbudar	C.S.Su.- 4	Vamnopaga, Kashaya varga	23	86
2.	Kovidar	C.S.Su.- 27	Supaya shak	98-103	512
3.	Kovidar, Karbudar	C.S.Su.- 27	Supaya shak, guna karma	104	513
4.	Kovidar, Karbudar	C.S.Vi.- 8	Kashaya skandha	135	776
5.	Kovidar	C.S.Chi.- 3	Chandanaditail	25	196-197
6.	Kovidar	C.S.Chi.- 4	-	38-40	228
7.	Karbudar	C.S.Chi.- 14	-	203	541
8.	Kovidar	C.S.Chi.- 23	-	242-248	801
9.	Kovidar, Karbudar	C.S.K.- 1	Vamnopaga-kalp	14-16	1080
10.	Kovidar	C.S.K.- 5	-	8	1101
11.	Kovidar	C.S.K.- 6	-	10	1104
12.	Karbudar	C.S.Si.- 10	-	34	1305

Kanchanara in Susruta Samhita^{6,7}

S.N.	Name of the drug	Chapter	Prakarana	Slok No.	Page No.
1.	Kovidar	S.S.Su.- 29	-	65	153
2.	Kovidar, karbudar	S.S.Su.- 39	-	3	190
3.	Kovidar	S.S.Su.- 42	Nyogradhadivarga	23	205
4.	Kovidar	S.S.Su.- 43	-	5	206
5.	Kovidar	S.S.Su.- 46	Guna karma	249-281	249-266
6.	Kovidar	S.S.K.- 5	Sarpadanshyoga	17	59
7.	Kovidar	S.S.U.	-	20	391
8.	Kovidar	S.S.U.	-	37	395

Kanchanara in Astang Hridaya⁸

S.N.	Name of the drug	Chapter	Prakarana	Slok No.	Page No.
1.	Kovidar	A.H.Chi.- 8	-	31	661
2.	Kovidar	A.H.Chi.- 9	Guna karma	96	690-691
3.	Kovidar, Karbudar	A.H.K-Si.- 1	-	6-8	827
4.	Kovidar	A.H.K-Si.- 1	-	10	827

Kanchanara in Astang Sangrah⁹

S.N.	Name of the drug	Chapter	Prakarana	Slok No.	Page No.
1.	Kovidar	A.S.Su.- 3	Dantapavan	20	23
2.	Karbudar	A.S.Su.- 7	-	24-26	72
3.	Kovidar, Karbudar	A.S.Su.- 14	-	3	131
4.	Kovidar	A.S.Su.- 36	-	19	243
5.	Kovidar	A.S.Chi.- 3	-	36	19
6.	Kovidar	A.S.Chi.- 10	-	43	66
7.	Kovidar, Karbudar	A.S.K.- 1	-	6	138
8.	Kovidar	A.S.K.- 1	-	7	139
9.	Kovidar	A.S.K.- 4	-	16	154
10.	Kovidar	A.S.U.	Suryodaya agada	57	345
11.	Kovidar	A.S.U.	Suryodaya agada	100	349

Kanchanara in Bhel Samhita¹⁰

S.N.	Name of the drug	Chapter	Prakarana	Slok No.	Page No.
1.	Kanchan	B.S.Su.- 28	Bhojan vidhi	4	51
2.	Kovidara	B.S.Su.- 28	Tailguna	34	54
3.	Kovidara	B.S.K.	Ikkhhavaku kalapa	7	239
4.	Kovidara	B.S.K.	Ikkhhavaku kalapa	11	240
5.	Kovidara	B.S.K.	Dhamargva kalapa	6	241
6.	Kovidara	B.S.K.	Dhamargva kalapa	9	241
7.	Kovidara	B.S.K.	Gulikayoga	19	242
8.	Kovidara	B.S.K.	Sangrahakala vidhi	4	242
9.	Kovidara	B.S.K.	Sangrahakala vidhi	7	243
10.	Kovidara	B.S.Si.	Pichhabastayaha	49	277

Kanchanara in Sharngadhar samhita¹¹

S.N.	Name of the drug	Chapter	Prakarana	Slok No.	Page No.
1.	Kachanara	Srg.S.	Kachanarakwatha	26	154
2.	Kachanara	Srg.S.	Kachanaraguggulu	100	206
3.	Kachanara	Srg.S.	Kachanaraguggulu third method	12	248
4.	Kachanara	Srg.S.	Kachanaraguggulu fourth method	13	249

Kanchanara in Kashyap samhita¹²

S.N.	Name of the drug	Chapter	Prakarana	Slok No.	Page No.
1.	Kovidar	K.S.Khi.- 4	Yusha nirdesiya	47-48	252

Kanchanara in Gadanigraha^{13,14}

S.N.	Name of the drug	Chapter	Prakarana	Slok No.	Page No.
1.	Kachanara	Gadanigrah-1	Kachanarguggulu	408-412	278
2.	Kachanara	Gadanigrah-1	Kachanargutika	413-415	279
3.	Kachanara	Gadanigrah-2	Kachanarayoga		253
4.	Kachanara	Gadanigrah-2	Kachanarayoga		255
5.	Kovidar	Gadanigrah-3	Updhanshaadhikar	23	355
6.	Kachanara	Gadanigrah-3	Mushak vish chikitsa aadhikar	8	594

Kanchanara in Harita Samhita¹⁵

S.N.	Name of the drug	Chapter	Prakarana	Slok No.	Page No.
1.	Kachanara	H.S.Dutiya stana – 7	Shantivikara	4	153
2.	Hem	H.S.Tritiya stana – 2	Mustakadikwatha	120	193
3.	Kovidara	H.S.Tritiya stana – 2	Rakatapitta Chi.	3	287

Kanchanara in Yog Ratnakar¹⁶

S.N.	Name of the drug	Chapter	Prakarana	Slok No.	Page No.
1.	Kovidara	Y.R.	Rakataatisara Chi.		266
2.	Kovidara	Y.R.	Rakatpitta Chi.	49	355
3.	Kovidara	Y.R.	Rakatpitta Chi.	2	357
4.	Kovidara	Y.R.	Rakatpitta Chi.	3	357
5.	Kachanara	Y.R.	Gandamala aapachi chi.	3	149
6.	Kachanara	Y.R.	Triphaladha guggulu	2	150
7.	Kachanara	Y.R.	Kachanaraguggulu	5	150
8.	Kanchani	Y.R.	Gandamala aapachi chi.	5	150
9.	Kanchani	Y.R.	Gandhakadiyoga	5	151
10.	Kachanara	Y.R.			
11.	Kanchani	Y.R.	Gandhakadi lapa	1	152
12.	Kachanara	Y.R.	Gandamala aapachi chi.	4	152
13.	Kanchani	Y.R.	Snayuk chi.	5	256
14.	Kachana	Y.R.	Vatavyadhi chi.	8	537
15.	Kachanara	Y.R.	Masurika chi.		
16.	Kachanara	Y.R.	Dantaroga chi.	7	304

Kachanara in Rasaratna Samuchchaya¹⁷

S.N.	Name of the drug	Chapter	Prakarana	Slok No.	Page No.
1.	Kachani	R.R.S.	Gulma pliha chi.	99	412
2.	Kachanara	R.R.S.	kustha roga chi.	205	482
3.	Kachanara	R.R.S.	kustha roga chi.	206	482
4.	Kachani	R.R.S.	Galaroga chi.		570

Kanchanara in Bhaishya Ratnavali¹⁸

S.N.	Name of the drug	Chapter	Prakarana	Slok No.	Page No.
1.	Kachanara	B.R.	Vidangarishttha	82	373
2.	Kovidara	B.R.	Khadiradipushapa churna	13	390
3.	Kachanara	B.R.	Pashanabhedadi grita	60	693
4.	Kachanara	B.R.	Kachanara sunthi	14	801
5.	Kachanara	B.R.	Kachanara and varuna kwatha	19	801
6.	Kachanara	B.R.	Kachanaraguggulu vati -2	68	806
7.	Kachanara	B.R.	Kachanaradi kwatha	22	926

Kanchanara in Bharat Bhaishhya Ratanakar¹⁹

S.N.	Name of the drug	Chapter	Prakarana	Slok No.	Page No.
1.	Kachanara	B.B.R.	Kachanaradi kwatha		205
2.	Kachanara	B.B.R.	Kachanara kwatha		205
3.	Kachanara	B.B.R.	Kachanaradi kwatha		205
4.	Kachana	B.B.R.	Kachana Gutika Guggulu		232
5.	Kachanara	B.B.R.	Kachanara Guggulu		232

Kanchanara in Sahastrayogam²⁰

1.	Kachanarak	S.Y.	Usiraasava	170-171
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CONCLUSIONS

All the classical references in this paper emphasize the need for an objective research on the plants mentioned in the Ayurvedic classical literature and study their pharmacognosy, pharmacology and clinical aspects to make them acceptable in modern medical practice. This can be achieved by comparative analysis of all the botanical sources of a drug. Such a coordinated research programme will render far reaching benefits in emphasizing the significance of Ayurvedic drug Kanchanar in terms of modern medicine.

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