



Review Article

VARIETIES OF CLASSICAL DRUG KADAMBA

Singh Sanjeev Kumar<sup>1</sup>, Mishra Hari Shanker<sup>2\*</sup>, Agarwal Ajay<sup>3</sup>, Shukla Anil Kumar<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>PG Scholar, <sup>2\*</sup>Sr. Lecturer, <sup>3</sup>Professor, PG Department of Dravyaguna, L.H. State PG Ayurveda College and Hospital, Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh.

<sup>4</sup>Professor, Department of Dravyaguna, R.A. Poddar Government Ayurveda College, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.

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ABSTRACT

*Kadamb* an indigenous plant described in classical texts of Ayurved has a wide range of therapeutic potential. In Charak Samhita, it has been classified in the group of drugs indicated in the management of pain (*Vednasthapan Mahakashya*). Among various indications, it has been reported to be used in the treatment of vitiated semen, as an astringent in healing of fractured wounds, hemorrhagic conditions, dyslipidaemia, diseases of female genital tract, as complexion promoting and alexipharmic. In classical texts, at least four varieties of *Kadamb* have been described. There has always been some controversy regarding botanical identity of different varieties of *Kadamb* described in classical texts. Present paper is a serious attempt towards establishment of botanical identities of different types of *Kadamb* described in classical text of Ayurved on the basis of exploration of literature substantiated by observations of field survey.

INTRODUCTION

*Kadamb* is an important medicinal plant being used for therapeutic purposes in *Ayurveda* since long. In Charak Samhita<sup>[1]</sup>, Acharya Charak has classified it in *Vednasthapan mahakashaya* (group of ten drugs indicated for the management of pain) (CS.Su.4.47), *Shukrashodhan* (group of drugs indicated for purification of semen) (CS.Su.4.20) and *Vamnopag Mahakashaya* (group of drugs indicated to be used as adjuvant in emesis therapy) (CS.Su.4.23), in *Kashaya*

*Skandh* (astringent drugs) (CS.Vi.8.144). In Sushruta Samhita<sup>[2]</sup>, it has been classified in *Nyogradhaadhi gana* (SS.Su.38.48)- group of drugs having *Sangraahi* (astringent action), *Bhagnasandhanak* (healing of fractured bone), *Raktapittahar* (alleviates haemorrhagic problems) properties, indicated in *Daah* (burning sensations), *Medorog* (dyslipidaemia), *Yonidosh* (diseases of female genital tract) and *Rodhradhi gana* (SS.Su.38.14) - group of drugs indicated in diseases caused by *Meda*, *Kapha*, as *Varnya* (complexion promoting) and alexipharmic (*Vishanaasan*).

Synonyms of *Kadamb* mentioned in Classical Texts of Ayurveda

Synonyms of *Kadamb* as mentioned in different texts of Ayurveda have been listed in Table number 1.

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Table 1: Synonyms of *Kadamb* mentioned in Classical Texts of Ayurveda

Synonym	Nighantu Texts							
	D.Ni. <sup>3</sup>	MP.Ni. <sup>4</sup>	R.Ni. <sup>5</sup>	K.Ni. <sup>6</sup>	BP.Ni. <sup>7</sup>	Sh.Ni. <sup>8</sup>	Ni.Ad. <sup>9</sup>	Pri.Ni. <sup>10</sup>
<i>Kadamb</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Neep</i>	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Halipriya</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+
<i>Vrittapushpika</i>	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+
<i>Priyak</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-
<i>Kutsitambu</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Shraavani</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Kadambpushpika</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Kaadambarya</i>	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Madadhya</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Haripriya</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pravrishneya</i>	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-
<i>Manounnati</i>	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
<i>Parvatahya</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Alipriya</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Girikadamb</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Vrinaharak</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Bhunimba</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Vishagna</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Laghupushpa</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Bhoomij</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Bhoomikadamb</i>	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-

### Classical Pharmacological Properties of *Kadamb*

*Kadamb* has been indicated to be used in a broad range of ailments in classical texts of Ayurveda. Pharmacological properties of *Kadamb* described in various texts of Ayurveda have been listed in table number 2.

**Table 2: Classical Pharmacological Properties & Therapeutic Indications of *Kadamb***

Properties	CS. <sup>1</sup>	SS. <sup>2</sup>	A.H. <sup>11</sup>	D.Ni. <sup>3</sup>	MP.Ni. <sup>4</sup>	Pri.Ni. <sup>10</sup>	Ni.Kalp. <sup>12</sup>	K.Ni. <sup>6</sup>
<i>Madhur, Amla, Lavana</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Tikta</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
<i>Kashaya</i>	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Veerya Sheet</i>	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-
<i>Vishad, Guru</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Rukshya</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
<i>Vaatnaashak</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Pittashamak</i>	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-
<i>Kaphashamak</i>	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-
<i>Kaphkarak</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
<i>Varnya, Sangrahi</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Bhagn sandhanak</i> <i>Raktapittahar</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Daahprashman</i>	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Medhoghan</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Yoni doshhar</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Vrana sandharan</i>	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-
<i>Kaashar</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Vishghan</i>	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+
<i>Soth-Shoolhar</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
<i>Vranadoshnashak</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Graahi</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Mutrakriccha nashak</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+

### Varieties of *Kadamb*

In *Charak Samhita*<sup>[1]</sup>, two terms *Kadamb* and *Neep* are mentioned. *Acharya Charak* has classified *Kadamb* in *Shukra Shodhan Mahakashaya* (CS.Su.4.20), *Vedana Sthapan Mahakashaya* (CS.Su.4.47). *Neep* has

been included in *Vamanopaga Mahakashaya* (CS.Su.4.23). *Acharya Charak* has included *Kadamb* in *Kashaya Skandh* (CS.Vi.8.144). In *Annapan vidhi adhyaya* (CS.Su.27.114), chapter dealing with dietary

substances, properties of *Kadamb* have been described as *Vishad* (clear) in *Guna* (property), *Sheet* (cool) in *Virya* (potency) and *Kaphakarak* (producing *Kapha dosh*). *Kadamb* has been variously used in therapeutic formulations like *Chandadi Tail* in *Jwar* (fever) *Chikitsa* (CS.Ci.3.258), in *Kaphaj prameh* (urinary disorders) *chikitsa* (CS.Ci.6.27), *Kshayaj kaas* (tuberculosis) *chikitsa* (CS.Ci.18.154), as a constituent of *Nyagrodhadhi ropan kwath* (healing decoction) (CS.Ci.25.87), in *Vat Rakta chikitsa* (in management of gout) (CS.Ci.29.99), *Kadamba* is a constituent of *Sukumarak tail*, in the management of complications of emesis and purgation (CS.Si.6.66) and as a constituent of *Anuvasan vasti* (oily enemata) (CS.Si.12.81-1).

Acharya Sushruta<sup>[2]</sup>, while describing characteristics of *Pravrit Ritu* (pre-monsoon season), has mentioned that *Kadamba* and *Neep* flower in *Pravrit Ritu* (SS.Su.6.34). Thus, he clearly considers *Kadamb* and *Neep* are two different plants. In Sushruta Samhita<sup>[2]</sup>, *Kadamb* has been included in *Rodhradi gana* (SS.Su.38.14) and *Nyagrodhadhi gana* (SS.Su.38.48). *Kadamb* has been used in the management of various diseases like in *Ashmari* (urinary calcula) (SS.Ci.7.18), management of *Karnapali vikar* (diseases of ear lobe) in the form of oil preparation (SS.Ci.25.17), in the management of *Pitika dasht* (sting of *Loota keet*) (SS.Ka.8.108) and in the management of *Shwaas* (asthma) (SS.U.5.39).

In Astang Hridaya<sup>[11]</sup> *Kadamb* has been classified in *Kashaya gana* (AH.Su.10.32) and *Nyagrodhadhi gana* (AH.Su.15.41). It has been used in the management of various diseases in the form of simple and compound formulations like in the form of *Ghrith* preparation in the management of *Kaas* (cough) (AH.Ci.3.155), root in the treatment of *Ashmari* (urinary calcula) (AH.Ci.11.29), as a constituent of *Mahavajrak tail* in *Kushtha* (skin disease) (AH.Ci.19.81), in *Baal griha* (disease of unknown origin in children) (AH.U.3.46), in *Utpat karnarog* (disease of ear lobule) (AH.U.18.44) and in the management of *Asthi bhagna* (fractured bone) (AH.U.27.14).

*Neep* has been included in *Vamanopag mahakashaya* (CS.Su.4.23), fruits have been said to pacify *Doshas* and alleviate *Garvisha* (slow poison) (CS.Su.27.145.), indicated in treatment of *Krimi* (worm) (CS.Vi.7.21), included in drugs for *Vaman* (emesis) (CS.Vi.8.135), used as constituent of

*Parikartika nashak vasti* (enemata used to heal fissure-in-ano) (CS.Si.10.36).

In Sushruta Samhita<sup>[2]</sup>, *Neep* has been said to flower in *Pravrit ritu* (SS.Su.6.34), included in *Phalvarga* (group of fruit) (SS.Su.46.139) and said to be *Garavishanashak* (detoxificant) (SS.Su.46.158). *Neep* has been used as a constituent of *Kalyanak lavan* in *Vat vyadhi* (disease of nervous system) (SS.Su.4.32).

In Astang hridaya<sup>[11]</sup>, *Neep* has been used as a constituent of *Mahavajrak tail* (AH.Ci.19.81) and in management of *Switra* (Vitiligo), *krimi* (worm infestation) (AH.Ci.20.30), included in drugs used for emesis (AH.Ka.1.7), used in preparation of medicated oil in the management of *Guhaya rog* (disease of anal region) (AH.U.34.2).

Term *Priyak* has been used for the preparation of *Saarasav* (CS.Su.25.49) and in the management of alcoholism (SS.U.47.62).

In Sushruta samhita, term *Kadambpushpi* has been used in context of preparation of *Paaniya kshar* (alkali dissolved in water) in treatment of *Shleepad* (Filariasis) (SS.Ci.19.63) and as constituent of *Vrihatyadi ghrith* in *paandu rog* (anaemia) (SS.U.44.22). Term *Kadambpushpi* has been considered to be synonym of *Kadamba* in Dhanvantari Nighantu<sup>[3]</sup>.

In Ashtang hridaya<sup>[11]</sup>, term *Kutsitambu* has been used for a drug included in *Rodhradi gana* (AH.Su.15.26) which has been used as a synonym for *Kadamb* in *Kaiyadeva Nighantu*<sup>[6]</sup>.

### **Kadmb - Neep - Priyak**

On the basis of exploration of Samhita texts, all the three terms appear in different contexts. In Sushruta Samhita<sup>[2]</sup>, *Kadamb* and *Neep* have been mentioned in the same context in features of *Pravrit Ritu* (SS.Su.6.34). Description of classical drugs *Kadmb- Neep- Priyak- Kadambapushpi- Kutsitambu* has been summarized in table number 3. In Nighantu texts, terms *Kadmb- Neep- Priyak- Kadambapushpi* and *Kutsitambu* have been considered to be synonymous.

### **Properties and Indications of different varieties of Kadamb as per Brihatrayi Texts**

Properties and indications of different varieties of *Kadamb* as per *Brihatrayi* Texts have been mentioned in table number 3 which is being annexed here.

**Table 3: Properties and Indications of different varieties of Kadamb as per Brihatrayi**

S.N.	Classical Drug	Properties / Indications as per Brihatrayi Texts		
		Charak Samhita <sup>1</sup>	Sushruta Samhita <sup>2</sup>	Ashtanga Hridaya <sup>11</sup>
1	<i>Kadmb</i>	<i>Vednasthapan, Sukrasodhan Mahakashaya, Jwarhar, Pramehhar Kaasaghan, Vranahar, Vaatrakt shamak, Parikartika naashak</i>	<i>Ashmarihar, Utpaat pali rog nahak, Peetika dasht (Luta visha nashak), Shwash har</i>	<i>Shodhan, Kaashar, leaf used in Sastrakarma, indicated in Mutraghat (retention of urine), kushtha (skin disease), Baal grah, Karnarog, Asthibhagn.</i>
2	<i>Neep</i>	<i>Vamanopag Mahakashaya,</i>	<i>Garavisha nashak,</i>	<i>Kushtha chikitsa, Shvitra krimi</i>

		<i>Krimi chikitsa, Garvisha nashak, Parikartika nashak</i>	<i>Vaatvyadhi naashak</i>	<i>nashak, used in Vaman, oil used in Guhya rog.</i>
3	<i>Priyak</i>	Described in <i>Saarasav</i> in 84 types of <i>Aasav</i> in <i>Yajjaha - Purushiya adhayay</i>	In <i>Panatyay</i> (alcoholism) <i>Pratished</i>	Not described
4	<i>Kadamba pushpin</i>	Not described	Alkali indicated in <i>Sleepad</i> , cooked <i>Ghrit</i> in <i>Paandu</i>	Not described
5	<i>Kutsitambu</i>	Not described	Not described	<i>Rodharadhi gana</i>

## DISCUSSION

While establishing botanical identities of different varieties of *Kadamba*, following points must be taken into consideration -

- *Bhookadamb* has been used as a constituent drug in *Prameh* (diabetes mellitus) *Naashak ghrita* (AH.Ci.12.20) and *Siddha tail* (medicated oil) indicated in *Dant shool* (Toothache) (AH.U.20.22). *Bhoomi Kadamb* has also been used in the treatment of infected wound (*Dooshit vrana*) (SS.Ci.2.90).
- Commenting on Sushruta Samhita<sup>[2]</sup> Chikitsa 19.63, Acharya Dalhana has equated *Kadambpushpi* with *Alambusha* popularly known as *Mundika* and *Bhoomi kadamb*.
- Terms *Shraavani* and *Mahashravaani* have been used in *Brihatrayi*. Chakrapaani dutta has equated *Mahashraavani* with *Alambusha* and Dalhan has equated *Shraavani* with *Mundi*.
- Thakur Balwant Singh and K.C. Chunekar<sup>[13]</sup> have considered *Kadamb Pushpi*, *Bhoo-Kadamb* and *Bhoomi Kadamb* as synonyms.
- *Shraavani* has been identified as *Spheranthus indicum* Linn., popularly known as *Gorakh Mundi*.
- Commenting on *Alambusha* (CS.Vi. 8.146 and CS.Ci. 8.12), Thakur Balvant Singh and K.C. Chunekar<sup>[13]</sup> have equated *Shravani* and *Mahashravani* with *Mundi* as its synonyms. They are of the view that *Alambusha* is some different drug than *Mundi* and indicated *Biophytum sensitivum* Linn.D.C. as probable botanical source of *Alambusha*.
- *Kulahal* and *Kulhal* (SS.Su.38.17; 46.221; and AH.Su.15.30) has been equated by Dalhan with *Mundika* (*Spheranthus* species) while some other experts considered it *Kukursingha* which appears to be other name of *Kukrontha* (*Blumea* species).
- According to *Desai*<sup>[13]</sup>, *Kukrontha* is called *Kalhaad* in Gujrat and thus some species of *Blumea* like *Blumea balsamiferi* D.C. or *Blumea lacera* D.C. may be considered as probable botanical source for *Kulahal*<sup>[13]</sup>.
- *Neep* has been called as *Dhuli Kadamb* or *Maha Kadamb* by Acharya Dalhan.
- Thakur Balwant Singh and K.C. Chunekar<sup>[13]</sup> have equated *Adina cardifolia* Benth & Hook.f. with

*Haridru* described in Raj Nighantu<sup>[5]</sup> and *Neep* described in Samhita text<sup>[13]</sup>.

- *Anthocephalous indicus* A. Rich. has been considered as botanical source of classical drug *Kadamb*.
- *Mitragyna parviflora* Koth. has been accepted as *Giri Kadamb*.
- *Priyak* considered as a synonym of *Kadamb* has been indicated to be a synonym of *Beejak*<sup>[13]</sup> (*Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb.).
- *Kutsitambu* has been considered as synonym of *Kadamb* (AH.Su.15.26).
- In Nighantu texts, varieties of *Kadamb* have been described.
- In Dhanvantari Nighantu<sup>[3]</sup>, two varieties of *Kadamb*, viz. *Dhara Kadamb* and *Dhuli Kadamb* have been described where as in Raj Nighantu<sup>[5]</sup>, three varieties of *Kadamb* namely *Dhara Kadamb*, *Dhuli Kadamb* and *Bhoomi Kadamb* have been described.
- *Neep* has been considered as a synonym of *Dhara Kadamb* both by Dhanvatari Nighantu<sup>[3]</sup> and Raj Nighantu<sup>[5]</sup>.
- Acharya P.V. Sharma<sup>[14]</sup> has considered two varieties of *Dhara Kadamba* and considered *Anthocephalus indicus* A.Rich. as its one variety. He has considered *Raj Kadamba* as its synonym.

## CONCLUSION

A thorough review of literature reveals that following terms have been used in context of *Kadamba* -

1. *Kadamba*
2. *Neep*
3. *Kadambapushpi*
4. *Kutsitambu*
5. *Bhoo/Bhoomi Kadamba*
6. *Dhara Kadamba*
7. *Dhuli Kadamba*
8. *Raj Kadamba*
9. *Maha Kadamba*
10. *Giri Kadamba*

Prefixes *Dhooli* and *Dhara* may be considered to indicate either some morphological feature, place of origin (habitat) or seasons of flowering. Acharya P.V. Sharma<sup>[14]</sup> has considered these prefixes indicators of

flowering season. On the basis of above discussion, it may be concluded that –

1. *Anthocephalus indicus* A.Rich. is the botanical source of classical drug *Kadamba* synonymous *Raj Kadamba* and *Dhuli Kadamba*. Name *Dhuli Kadamba* appears to be based on morphology of inflorescence which is covered with a thick layer of dust like pollens adhered to the round ball like inflorescence. This name may also be based on its flowering season at the end of summer season and starting of rainy season, when dust is carried away into the atmosphere by strong winds.
2. *Adina cordifolia* Hook.f., popularly known as *Haldu* (*Haridru* in Sanskrit) is *Neep* addressed by Dalhan as *Maha Kadamba* (due to big size of tree). It should be considered as *Giri Kadamba* on the basis of its habitat (growing abundantly in hilly areas).

3. *Mytragyna parviflora* should be considered as botanical source for *Dhara Kadamba* (on the basis of its habitat – it grows besides water bodies) while *Keli Kadamba* may be considered as its synonym.
4. *Kadambapushpi*, *Shravani*, *Bhoo-Kadamba*, *Bhoomi Kadamba* are synonymous to each other. *Spheranthus indicus*, popularly known as *Mundi*, *Gorakh Mundi* and *Mundika* should be considered as its botanical source.
5. Term *Kutsitambu* probably indicates spoilage of water bodies due to fall of aerial parts of the plant growing nearby. *Dhara Kadamba* of Nighantu text grows on the banks of water bodies. Thus both these terms, *Kutsitambu* and *Dhara Kadamba* may be considered as synonymous to each other.

Thus botanical identity of different varieties of *Kadamba* may be understood as per following table number 4.

**Table 4: Botanical Identities of Different Varieties of *Kadamba***

S.N.	Classical Name	Botanical Identity	Synonyms
1.	<i>Kadamba</i>	<i>Anthocephalus indicus</i> A. Rich.	<i>Raj Kadamba</i> , <i>Dhuli Kadamba</i>
2.	<i>Neep</i>	<i>Adina cordifolia</i> Hook.f.	<i>Haridru</i> , <i>Maha Kadamba</i> , <i>Giri Kadamba</i>
3.	<i>Dhara Kadamba</i>	<i>Mytragyna parviflora</i> Koth.	<i>Keli Kadamba</i> , <i>Kutsitambu</i>
4.	<i>Kadambapushpi</i>	<i>Spheranthus indicum</i> Linn.	<i>Shravani</i> , <i>Bhoomi Kadamba</i> , <i>Mundi</i> , <i>Gorakh Mundi</i> , <i>Mundika</i>

**Abbreviations:** CS.-Charak Samhita, SS.-Sushruta Samhita, D.Ni.-Dhanvantari Nighantu, MP.Ni - Madanpal Nighantu, K.Ni.-Kaiyadev Nighantu, Pr.Ni.-Priya Nighantu, AH.-Astang Hridaya, Ni.Kalp.- Nighantu Kalpdrum, R.Ni.-Raj Nighantu, BP.Ni.-Bhavprakash nighantu, Sh.Ni.-Shaligram Nighantu, Ni.Ad.-Nighantu Adarsh, Pri.Ni.- Priya Nighantu, Su. – Sutra Sthan, Ci. – Chikitsa Sthan, Vi.- Viman Sthan, Si.- Siddhi Sthan, Ka.-Kalp Sthan, U.- Uttar Sthan.

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#### \*Address for correspondence

**Dr. Mishra Hari Shanker**

Sr. Lecturer,  
PG Department of Dravyaguna,  
L.H. State PG Ayurveda College and  
Hospital, Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh.  
Email: [drhsmishra@gmail.com](mailto:drhsmishra@gmail.com)

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