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Review Articles

**STANDARDISATION OF VRISCHIKAGAD**

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**ABSTRACT-**

Authentication and Standardization are the two basic needs of any research. While doing research in *Ayurved* every one has to authenticate and standardize the raw material as well as the final product also. As there are many controversies amongst drugs. So, to overcome this issue Government of India has formulated the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India (API) stating standards for each drug and Ayurvedic Formulary of India (AFI) stating standards for final product formulations. But *Agad*(Antidotal/Anti Poisonous) formulations are not included in the AFI and still some addition of drugs are needed in the API also. In this study I have obtained values for such drugs which are not mentioned in the API as well as AFI. Based on the nature of the product or material the relevant tests were used and the values are obtained for *Matulung Phal Swaras*, *Paravat Shakrit* and the final product called *Vrischikagad*. Addition in the API and AFI is a continuous process and in the near future *Agad* will also get included in the Ayurvedic formulary of India.

**KEYWORDS:** *Ayurved*, *Agadtantra*, Standardization, Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India, Ayurvedic Formulary of India, *Vrischikagad*

**INTRODUCTION:**

In order to ensure the quality of the final product as well as raw materials used; it is necessary it should comply as per the quality parameters prescribed by government time to time. In *Ayurvedic* texts many formulations are described for various disease conditions. In *Agadtantra* (Branch of *Ayurved* which mainly deals with the treatment of poisoning); its special medication i.e. formulations of various *Agad*(Antidotal formulations) are described. Now a day before administering such medicines to human beings it is mandatory to state its authenticity. So, Government of India has prepared the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India (API) and Ayurvedic Formulary of India (AFI); in which standard quality parameters are stated for each drug and for each formulation. Each raw drug and prepared medicine should comply with standard given in API and AFI accordingly.

While going through Ayurvedic Formulary of India (AFI); it has covered the routine formulations which are in the

main stream of ayurvedic treatment. *Agad* are not mentioned in the AFI. So there is need to work on the *Agad* formulations to state its parameters and if possible to include the same in the AFI also.

Ingredients mentioned for *Vrischikagad*(Antidotal formulation used in scorpion envenomation) are easily available and it is easy to prepare also. So, I have chosen the drug named *Vrischikagad* mentioned in the *Ashtang Hridaya*(Ayurvedic Treatise) Treatise for standardization attempt.

**MATERIALS & METHODS:**

**Materials:-**

**For Preparation of *Vrischikagad* (Ingredients)**

- 1) *Paravat Shakrit*
- 2) *Pathya – Phala*(Fruit)
- 3) *Tagar – Moola*(Root)
- 4) *Vishwabheshaj –Kanda*(Rhizome)
- 5) *Matulunga Phala – Swaras*(Extract/Juice)

**Method:-**

**1. *Vrischikagad* (A. H. U. 37/34)<sup>i</sup>**

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**Table No. 1:Details of the drugs used in the formulation of *Vrischikagad* -**

Drug name	Synonyms	Botanical name	English name <sup>ii</sup>
<i>Paravat shakrit</i>	-	<i>Columbia lilia</i>	Excreta of Pigeon
<i>Pathya</i>	<i>Haritaki, Vijaya, Abhaya</i>	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	Chebolic Myrobalans
<i>Tagar</i>	<i>Kutil, Nata, Nahush</i>	<i>Valeriana wallichii</i>	Indian Varerian Rhioime
<i>Vishwabheshaj</i>	<i>Shunthi, Vishwa, Nagar</i>	<i>Zingiber officinale</i>	Dry Zingiber
<i>Beejapoor</i>	<i>Matulung, Ruchak</i>	<i>Citrus medica</i>	Citron

**Preparation of the *Vrischikagad*:**

As the quantity is not mentioned for the preparation of *vrischikagad* so the

basic principle as said in the *Sharangdhar Samhita* (Ayurvedic Treatise)is applied<sup>iii</sup>. All the above said ingredients except

*Beejapoor*(Citron) taken into equal quantity (10 gramseach). Each drug is triturated in *khalva yantra*(Mortar & Pestle) and filtered through the fresh and clean cotton cloth to obtain the fine powder. Thus obtained fine powder of each drug is again triturated into the *khalvayantra*and mixed thoroughly. The ripe *Matulung phal* (Citron) made into small pieces and grinded in a mixer and mashed material shifted to a piece of cotton and squeezed to obtain the *swaras* (Squash).

Then the mixture of fine powder is soaked with the *Matulung swaras*and trituration is started till it becomes dry, in this way the one *bhavana* (Assimilation of

liquid portion with solids) is given to that compound mixture and the brown coloured *Vrischikagad* is prepared. Dried powder form of *Vrischikagad* is stored in air tight glass container.

#### Standardization of Drug:

To ensure the quality of drug it is necessary to standardize that drug before using in experiment.

This standardization study was done in the standard Laboratory of the Yashwant Pharmacy College, Kodoli, Kolhapur.

**Table No. 2:Standardization of Drug -**

Tests	<i>Paravat shakrit</i>	<i>Matulung</i>	<i>Vrischikagad</i>
Foreign matter in %	0.56	0.63	0.89
Total Ash in %	26.2	9.65	11.13
Acid Insoluble Ash in %	9.53	0.53	1.2
Alcohol Soluble Extractives in %	12.91	30.0	25.12
Water Soluble Extractives in %	7.5	46.5	36

#### DISCUSSION:

The raw drugs *Paravat shakrit*, *Haritaki*, *Tagar*, *Shunthi* in the powder form from the market of *Kolhapur* city of Maharashtra and *Matulung phal* is brought from Dr. *Koparkar's* Nursery at *Dapoli*, Maharashtra. Thus collected raw drugs identified from the *Dravyaguna* experts from Department of *Dravyaguna*, Yashwant Ayurved College, P.G.T.& R.C. Kodoli, Kolhapur. Standard values for *Shunthi*, *Tagar* and *Haritaki* are already mentioned in Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of

India (API)<sup>iv</sup>. Each of them is subjected to the standardization procedures like Foreign matter, Acid insoluble ash, Total ash, Alcohol soluble extractives and Water soluble extractives. Values checked in our college Research lab of Yashwant Ayurved College, Kodoli, Kolhapur and from Department of Chemistry, Shivaji University, Kolhapur and correlated with the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India standard values; they came within the normal limits.

**Table No. 3:Standard values of *Haritaki*&*Tagar***

Test	Observed Values		As per Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India (API) standards	
	<i>Haritaki</i>	<i>Tagar</i>	<i>Haritaki</i>	<i>Tagar</i>
Foreign matter in %	0.56	0.89	Not more than 1 %	Not more than 2 %

Total Ash in %	3.2	11.13	Not more than 5 %	Not more than 12 %
Acid Insoluble Ash in %	2.7	4.3	Not more than 5 %	Not more than 10 %
Alcohol Soluble Extractives in %	54.4	25.12	Not less than 40 %	Not more than 30 %
Water Soluble Extractives in %	68.3	36	Not less than 60 %	Not less than 19 %

Table No. 4: Standard values of *Shunthi*

Tests	Observed Value	As per Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India
	<i>Shunthi</i>	<i>Shunthi</i>
Foreign matter in %	0.56	Not more than 1 %
Total Ash in %	4.65	Not more than 6 %
Water soluble Ash in %	9.53	Not less than 1.5 %
Alcohol Soluble Extractives in %	8.91	Not less than 3 %
Water Soluble Extractives in %	11.5	Not less than 10 %

Ingredients like *Paravat shakrit* and *Matulung Phal Swaras* of which standard values according to Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India are not available in any of the volume, so the values for *Paravat shakrit* and *Matulung Phal Swaras* obtained with the standardization procedures.

All the drugs were cloth filtered first mixed in a fine powder form and triturated by adding the *Matulunga swaras*. Before adding *Matulung swaras* the weight of mixture was 40 gms after triturating the weight increased upto 45 gms. This increase in weight is due to the *Bhavana sanskar* (Procedure of assimilating liquids with solids by trituration).

After preparing the *Vrischikagad* the standardization is done for the final product and the values are obtained.

This *Vrischikagad* is prepared in the Yashwant Ayurved College Teaching Pharmacy, Kodoli, Kolhapur which is as per Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).

#### CONCLUSION:

*Vrischikagad* is the drug of choice as the ingredients mentioned are easily available. Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India already describes Quality parameters for *Shunthi*, *Tagar* and *Haritaki*. From this study we are successful in determining the values for *Matulung* and *Paravat Shakrit*.

There are no any mentions of any *Agad* formulation in Ayurvedic Formulary of India. So from this study we are also successful in obtaining the values for *Vrischikagad*. There is need of more additions of Ayurvedic drugs especially *Agadas* (Antidotal formulations) in API and as well as AFI.

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<sup>ii</sup>Chunekar K, Pandey G. Bhavprakash Nighantu. 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. Varanasi; Chaukhamba Bharati Academy, 1999, p.7, 13, 199, 593

<sup>iii</sup> Srivastava S. Sharangdhar SamhitaPurv Khand. 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. Varanasi, Chaukhambha Orientalia, 2005, Chapter 1; p.11 (संस्कृतस्य संज्ञासंज्ञा, संज्ञासंज्ञा संज्ञ/संज्ञ)

<sup>iv</sup>The Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India. 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. Vol. 1. New Delhi: Govt. of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dept. of ISM & H.; 1989; p.47-48, 103-104, 109-110