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Medicinal plants used for Sinusitis (Peenisam) in Siddha system – A review

Dr. B. Balarasheeda¹, Dr. K. Mani¹, Dr. S. Victoria²

*¹PG Scholar, Department of Noi-Naadal, Govt. Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli, Tamil nadu, India.

²Head of the Department, Dept of Noi-Naadal, Govt. Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai, Tirunelveli, Tamil nadu, India.

Abstract

Siddha medicine is an ancient and holistic system practiced in Tamilnadu. Siddha system deals with variety of treatment techniques to cure manage and prevent diseases. It has 32 types of internal and 32 types of external therapies. Mostly the treatment were based of medicinally useful plants. Medicinal plants play a major role in treating the diseases. The siddha medical text book referred as "Siddha Materia medica" gives information about the plants used for the treatment of sinusitis. This review article is about the medicinal plants used in the management of treating peenisam i.e, sinusitis. The results were about 59 plants used in the management of sinusitis belonging to various families. About 25 plants uses were given in therapeutic manner and other plants have properties to cure sinusitis. Specifically, thaivelai plant cures bleeding peenisam. Eating gooseberry daily in the morning cures sinusitis. Notchi leaves were made to dry and used as pillow cures sinusitis. The main objective of this study is to document the medicinal plants used for sinusitis.

Keywords: Peenisam, Mookadaippu, Sinusitis, Siddha Management.

1. Introduction

Siddha medicine is an unique system, comprising various types of diagnostic methods and traditional practices followed over many years both in the treatment and prevention of diseases which has been mostly practiced in southern parts of India. Sinusitis is a very common disease in India affecting approximately 15% of the population⁽¹⁾. More than 120 million people suffer from sinusitis at least once in their life time⁽²⁾.

Sinusitis does not kill the affected person rather exploits the health and quality of life. The theory of Siddha is panchaboothapancheekaranam (theory of fivefold combination), 96 thathuvas (fundamental principles). Siddha pharmacology called Gunapadam medicinal plants division "SIDDHA MATERIA MEDICA" describes herbal remedies for many diseases.

According to Siddha quote,

"VER PARU THAZHAI PARU"(3)

Siddha medicines predominantly use medicinal plants in the treatment of diseases. More than treating a disease it equally helps in the prevention of diseases and helps to lead a better living in this modern era. Medicines prepared from plants were more effective. This article describes the medicinal plants used in the management of sinusitis in Siddha. The term sinusitis refers to inflammation of the mucosal lining of the paranasal sinuses. However, as sinusitis is invariably accompanied by inflammation of the adjacent nasal mucosa, a more accurate term is rhino sinusitis.

The European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology defines acute rhino sinusitis as, Inflammation of the nose and the paranasal sinuses characterized by two or more of the following symptoms:

- 1. Blockage or congestion
- 2. Discharge (anterior or postnasal drip)
- 3. Facial pain/pressure
- 3. Reduction or loss of smell, lasting less than 12 weeks.

The European Academy also suggests that worsening symptoms after five days or persistent symptoms beyond 10 days (but less than 12 weeks) indicate non-viral rhino sinusitis, whereas viral disease lasts less than 10 days. (4).

1.1. According to siddha concept

Sinusitis is mentioned under mookadaipu (nasal block) also known as peenisam, neerkorvai, mookuneer paaithal⁽⁴⁾. In Siddha, sinusitis comes under one among the kabam disease of head. Siddhar YUGI MUNI classified the disease into 9 types in the medical literature 'VAITHIYA CINTAMANI' namely,

- 1. Vazhimookadaipu
- 2. Azhalmookadaipu
- 3. Iyammookadaipu
- 4. Neer (watery) mookadaipu
- 5. Kuruthi (bleeding) mookadaippu
- 6. Seel(pus) mookadaipu
- 7. Sirai(lower) mookadaipu
- 8. Moolai(nasal polyp) mookadaipu
- 9. Kazhuthu (neck) mookadaipu (associated with throat) $^{(3)}$.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Data collected from — "Siddha materiamedica", - a translation of Tamil siddha text gunapadammooligai written by Vaidya Rathnam K. S. MurugesaMuthalitar, Edited by: Dr. Anaivaari R. Anandan, published by: Department of Indian Medicine & Homeopathy, Chennai 600 106, 1st edition - 1936, reprinted Year – 2013.

3. Results

Table 1 are the plants used to cure sinusitis

S.No	Tamil name	Botanical name	Family name	Part used	Use of formulation	Type of plant
1.	Agathi	Sesbania grandiflora	Fabaceae	Leaves	External application and Nasal drops	Tree
2.	Agil	Aquilaria agallocha	Thymelaeaceae	Wood	Hair oil	Tree
3.	Alishivithai	Linum usitatissimum	Linaeceae	Seed	Internal	Crop
4.	Aruvada	Ruta chalepensis	Rutaceae	Whole plant	Oil as Nasal drops	Herb
5.	Atandam	Capparis zeylanica	Capparaceae	Root	Head bath oil	Climbing
6.	Indu	Mimosa rubicaulis	Fabaceae	Creeper	Nasal drops	Shrub
7.	Perichehu	Phonex dactylifera	Arecaceae	Fruit	Internal	Tree
8.	Karisalankanni	Eclipta prostrata	Asteraceae	Leaves	Internal	Bulb
9.	Karuppura-valli	Anisochilus carnosus	lamiaceae	Leaves	External application	Shrub
10.	Kodiveli	Plumbago indica	Plumbaginaceae	Root	Head bath Oil	Shrub
11.	Chatha-kuppai	Anethum graveolens	Apiaceae	Leaves	Internal	Bulb
12.	Karunjchirakam	Nigella sativa	Ranunculaceae	Seed	To smell and external application	Herb
13.	Perunjchirakam	Pimpinella anisum	Apiaceae	Seed	Internal	Bulb
14.	Sundai	Solanum torvum	Solanaeceae	Root	External (To inhale)	Shrub or small tree
15.	Chempai	Sesbania sesban	fabaceae	Flower	External application	Shrub or small tree
16.	Manaththakkali	Solanum nigrum	Solanaceae	Fruit	Internal	Herb or small shrub
17.	Thumbai	Leucas aspera	Lamiaceae	Flower	External	Herb
18.	Palasu	Butea monosperma	Fabaceae	Bark	Internal	Tree
19.	Pitharohini	Coptis teeta	Ranunculaceae	Root	Nasal drops	Bulb
20.	Manjal	Curcuma longa	Zingiberaceae	Rhizome	External (To inhale)	Herb
21.	Vilvam	Aegle marmelos	Rutaceae	Leaf	Internal	Tree
22.	Vembu	Azadiracta indica	Meliaceae	Seed	External (to inhale)	Tree

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} Table~2: Some plants~which~also~cure~sinusitis~yet~their~uses~should~be~found~in~future~studies, they~are \\ \end{tabular}$

S.no	Tamil name	Botanical name	Family	
1.	Abini	Papaver somniferum	Papaveraceae	
2.	Arattai	Alpinia galanga	Zingiberaceae	
3.	Umattai	Datura metal	Solanaceae	
4.	Etti	Strychnos nux-vomica	Loganiaceae	
5.	Kaduugurohini	Helleborous niger	Ranunculaceae	
6.	Kandangkattari	Solanum surattense	Solanaceae	
7.	Kanduparangi	Clerodendrum	Lamiaceae	
		serratum		
8.	Karumbu	Saccharum officinarum	Poaceae	
9.	Kanchori	Tragiain volucrata	Euphorbiaceae	
10.	Kattukadugu	Cleome viscosa	Capparidaceae	
11.	Kunkumappu	Crocus sativus	Iridaceae	
12.	Kuppai-meni	Acalypha indica	Euphorbiaceae	
13.	Kurattai	Trichosanthes	Cucurbitaceae	
		tricuspidata		
14.	Kothumai	Triticum aestivum	poaceae	
15.	Shambirani	Styrax benzoin	Styracaceae	
16.	Chirakam	Cuminum cyminum	Apiaceae	
17.	Chevuiyam	Piper nigrum(black	Piperaceae	
		pepper root)		
18.	Thazhuthazhai	Clerodendrum	Lamiaceae	
		phlomoidis		
19.	Thippili	Piper longum	Piperaceae	
20.	Thulasi	Ocimum sanctum	Lamiaceae	
21.	Thuthuvalai	Solanum trilobatum,	Solanaceae	
22.	Nannari	Hemidesmus indicus	Apocyanaceae	
23.	Nirmulli	Hygrophila auriculata	Acanthaceae	
24.	Nel	Oryza sativa	Poaceae	
25.	Nelli	Phyllanthus emblica	Phyllanthaceae	
26.	Notchi	Vitex negundo	Lamiaceae	
27.	Pakal	Momordica charantia	Cucurbitaceae	
28.	Milagu	Piper nigrum	Piperaceae	
29.	Musumuskkai	Mukia maderaspatana	Cucurbitaceae	
30.	Mullongi	Raphanus sativus	Brassicaceae	
31.	Vellulli	Allium sativum	Amaryllidaceae	
32.	Vetrilai	Piper betle	Piperaceae	
33.	Nalvelai	Cleome viscosa	Cleomaceae	
34.	Thai velai	Cleome gynandra	Cleomaceae	

Specifically,

Thaivelai, whole plant is used to cure bleeding sinusitis.

Eating gooseberry daily in the morning cures sinusitis

Notchi leaves were made to dry and used as pillow cures sinusitis.

4. Discussion

According to siddha concept, Sinusitis occurs due to increase in iyam while azhal humor is increased in the body. The azal humor increases due to food or any other activity which induces heat.

'PANBANA PITHATHIL SETHUMA NAADI'

If kabam increases in pitham peenisam (sinusitis). Since pitham and kabam humors are deranged, the line of treatment should normalize these humors.

5. Conclusion

The medicinal plants used in the management of sinusitis revealed in siddha literature should be practiced and made for future research studies for the betterment of patients.

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