



Review Article

EFFECT OF *PATHASIRISHADI KWATHAM* IN *MOOSHICA VISHA*

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ABSTRACT

Agadatantra one of the eight branches of Ayurveda, focuses on the study and management of poisons and toxic substances. *Mooshika Visha* or *Akuvisha* is classified as a type of *Jangama Visha*. *Acharya Susruta* identifies eighteen distinct types of *Mooshika*. The *Adishtana* of *Mooshika Visha* is considered to be *Sukra*. The *Visha Vaidya Jyotsnika* is a renowned Malayalam text that focuses on *Visha Chikitsa* and offers valuable insights into various formulations and clinical practices. *Pathasirishadi Kwatham* is a preparation explained in *Visha Vaidya Jyotsnika* under *Mooshika Visha chikithsa adyaya* and is indicated in *Mooshika damsha*. This yoga contains 9 ingredients *Patha*, *Shirisha*, *Sarpagandha*, *Vacha*, *Haridra*, *Kushta*, *Mustha*, *Nagara*, *Madhuka*. This article explores the components, method of preparation, pharmacological properties and evaluates the therapeutic efficacy of the formulation in managing rat poison related diseases like leptospirosis.

INTRODUCTION

Agadatantra, one of the eight main branches of Ayurveda deals with treatment of various poisons. According to Ayurveda, *Visha* is any substance which pervades immediately the whole body. *Visha* is classified into different types, with *Sthavara* (plant poison) and *Jangama* (animal poison) being the most common classification. *Mooshika Visha* also known as *Akhuvisha* is classified under *Jangama Visha*^[1]. In modern science it can be correlated to the toxic substances either secreted by or associated with rat poisoning. In *Brihat Trayees* reference related to types, signs, symptoms and treatment is available.

Ayurvedic texts outline a scientific method for managing *Mooshika visha*, which includes numerous formulations for internal and external administration. *Pathasirishadi kwatham* is specifically recommended for *Mooshika visha* in the *Mooshikavisha Chikitsa* chapter of *Visha Vaidya Jyotsnika*. This review discusses the ingredients, method of preparation, uses, and effectiveness of *Pathasirishadi Kwatham*.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

This paper attempts to review the formulation *Pathasirishadi Kwatha* based on *Rasa Panchaka* in the management of *Mooshika visha cikitsa*.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Review of Literature

Acharya Susruta^[2] explained 18 types of *Mooshika* where Malayalam textbook *Prayogasamuchaya*^[3] mentioned 16 types. *Caraka* classified as *Sadya* and *Asadya* according to signs and symptoms^[4]. Spread of *Mooshika Visha* is by modes of Semen, faeces, urine, scratches by nails and bites with teeth of *Mooshika*. Of them *Mooshika sukra* is most poisonous. The signs and symptoms of *Mooshika visha* includes development of *Granti* (tumors), *Shopha* (glandular swellings), *Karnika* (round elevated patches having small eruptions), *Mandala* (discolored patches), *Pidakas* (profound multiple eruptions), *Visarpa* (erysipelas), *Kitibha*, (a kind of minor leprosy), *Parvabheda* (severe joint pain), *Murcha* (fainting), *Angasada* (debility on the body parts), *Jwara* (fever), *Daurbalya* (weakness), *Aruchi* (loss of taste), *Swasa* (dyspnea), *Vamatu* (vomiting) and *Lomaharsha* (horripilation).^[5]

Name of Yoga: *Pathasirishadi Kwatha*

In Ayurveda for *Mooshikavisha* treatment various Agada formulations are described in different literatures, *Visha Vaidya Jyotsnika* is one among them. The classical reference of this Yoga is mentioned in

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Visha Vaidya Jyotsnika, Mooshikavisha Cikitsa. The yoga consists of 9 herbs: *Patha*, *Shirisha*, *Sarpagandha*, *Vacha*, *Haridra*, *Kushta*, *Mustha*, *Nagara*, *Madhuka*. It is internally administered as *Kwatha*.^[6]

Table 1: Ingredients of Pathasirishadi Kwatha and Botanical Name

| Drug | Botanical name | Family |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Patha</i> ^[7] | <i>Cissampelos pariera</i> Linn. | Menispermaceae |
| <i>Sirisa</i> ^[8] | <i>Albizia lebbek</i> Benth. | Fabaceae |
| <i>Sarpagandha</i> ^[9] | <i>Rauwolfia serpentina</i> Linn. | Apocynaceae |
| <i>Vacha</i> ^[10] | <i>Acorus calamus</i> Linn | Araceae |
| <i>Haridra</i> ^[11] | <i>Curcuma longa</i> Linn. | Zingiberaceae |
| <i>Kushta</i> ^[12] | <i>Saussurea lappa</i> C.B.Clarke | Compositae |
| <i>Mustha</i> ^[13] | <i>Cyperus rotundus</i> Linn. | Cyperaceae |
| <i>Nagara</i> ^[14] | <i>Zingiber officinale</i> Roxb. | Zingiberaceae |
| <i>Madhuka</i> ^[15] | <i>Madhuca indica</i> J.F.Gmel. | Sapotaceae |

Table 2: Ingredients of Pathasirishadi Kwatha and its Properties

| Drug | Rasa | Guna | Veerya | Vipaka |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| <i>Patha</i> ^[16] | Tikta | Laghu, Tikshna | Ushna | Katu |
| <i>Sirisa</i> ^[17] | Madhura, Katu, Tikta, Kasaya | Laghu | Anushna | Katu |
| <i>Sarpagandha</i> ^[18] | Katu, Tikta | Laghu, Ruksha | Ushna | Katu |
| <i>Vacha</i> ^[19] | Katu, Tikta | Laghu, Tikshna | Ushna | Katu |
| <i>Haridra</i> ^[20] | Katu, Tikta | Ruksha | Ushna | Katu |
| <i>Kushta</i> ^[21] | Katu, Tiktha | Laghu | Ushna | Katu |
| <i>Mustha</i> ^[22] | Katu, Tikta, Kasaya | Laghu, Ruksha | Sita | Katu |
| <i>Nagara</i> ^[23] | Katu | Laghu, Snigdha | Ushna | Madhura |
| <i>Madhuka</i> ^[24] | Madhura | Guru | Sita | Madhura |

Table 3: Karma of Ingredients of Pathasirishadi Kwatham

| Drug | Dosha Karma |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Patha</i> ^[16] | Tridosahara |
| <i>Sirisa</i> ^[17] | Tridosahara |
| <i>Sarpagandha</i> ^[18] | Kaphavatahara |
| <i>Vacha</i> ^[19] | Kaphavatahara |
| <i>Haridra</i> ^[20] | Kaphapittahara |
| <i>Kushta</i> ^[21] | Vatakapahara |
| <i>Mustha</i> ^[22] | Pittakaphahara |
| <i>Nagara</i> ^[23] | Vatakapahara |
| <i>Madhuka</i> ^[24] | Pittakara Vatahara |

Table 4: Symptoms of Mooshikavisha (Rat bite poisoning), action of Pathasirishadi Kwatha and the responsible ingredients^[25]

| Symptoms | Action of Padasirishadi Kwatham | Responsible ingredients |
|--|--|--|
| <i>Granthi</i> (tumors) & <i>Shophā</i> (glandular swellings) | Kaphavatahara (alleviates Vata and Kapha), Shophagna (anti-inflammatory) | <i>Kushta</i> , <i>Nagara</i> , <i>Mustha</i> , <i>Sirisha</i> |
| <i>Karnika</i> (round elevated patches having small eruptions), <i>Pidaka</i> (profound multiple eruptions), <i>Visarpa</i> (erysipelas) | Pittahara (alleviates Pitta), Visarpagna (alleviates herpes) | <i>Madhuka</i> , <i>Kushta</i> , <i>Sirisha</i> |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <i>Mandala</i> (discolored patches), <i>Kitiba</i> (a kind of minor leprosy) | <i>Kushtagna</i> (alleviates skin disease) | <i>Patha</i> , <i>Haridra</i> , <i>Kushta</i> , <i>Sirisha</i> |
| <i>Ruja</i> (pain) | <i>Shoolagna</i> (analgesic), <i>Vatahara</i> (alleviates <i>Vata</i>) | <i>Patha</i> , <i>Vacha</i> , <i>Sarpagandha</i> , <i>Madhuka</i> |
| <i>Angasadana</i> (debility on the body parts), <i>Daurbalya</i> (weakness) | <i>Balya</i> (strengthens the body), <i>Rasayana</i> (rejuvenate) | <i>Madhuka</i> |
| <i>Aruchi</i> (loss of taste) | <i>Deepana</i> (gastro stimulant), <i>Pachana</i> (digestive), <i>Ruchya</i> (increases taste) | <i>Nagara</i> , <i>Vacha</i> , <i>Mustha</i> , <i>Sarpagandha</i> |
| <i>Jwara</i> (fever) | <i>Jwaragna</i> (antipyretic) | <i>Patha</i> , <i>Mustha</i> , <i>Sarpagandha</i> , <i>Sirisha</i> |
| <i>Swasa</i> (asthma) | <i>Swasahara</i> (alleviates asthma) | <i>Kushta</i> , <i>Nagara</i> , <i>Vacha</i> , <i>Madhuka</i> , <i>Mustha</i> , <i>Sirisha</i> , <i>Sarpagandha</i> |
| <i>Vamatu</i> (vomiting) | <i>Kapahavatahara</i> (alleviates <i>Vata</i> and <i>Kapha</i>), <i>Deepana</i> (gastro stimulant), <i>Pachana</i> (digestive) | <i>Kushta</i> , <i>Nagara</i> , <i>Mustha</i> , <i>Sirisha</i> , <i>Vacha</i> |

Method of Preparation

Traditional *Kashaya* preparation method mentioned in *Sarangadara Samhita* can be adopted here^[26]. Each drug in *Pathasirishadi kwatha* taken in equal quantity (1 *Pala*= 48gm) and boiled in 16 times (768ml) of water and reduced to its 1/8th quantity (96ml) then the divided dose of 48ml is to be taken twice daily in empty stomach.

Analysis

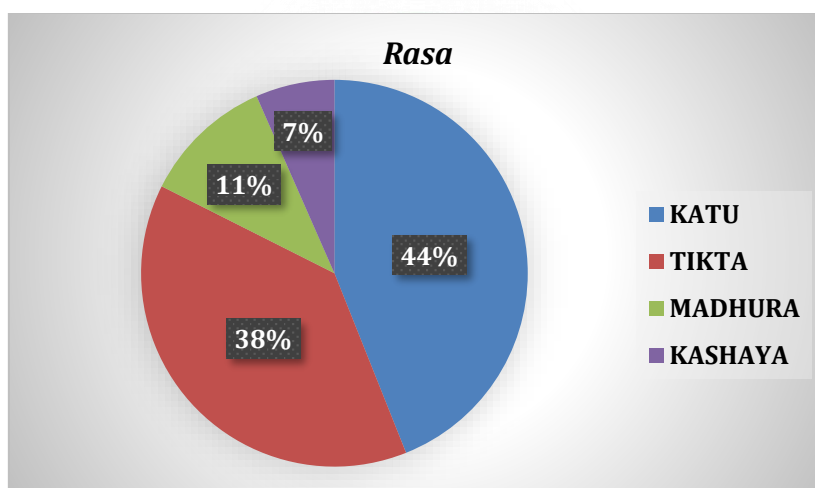


Fig 1: Analysis of Rasa of ingredients of *Pathasirishadi Kwatham*

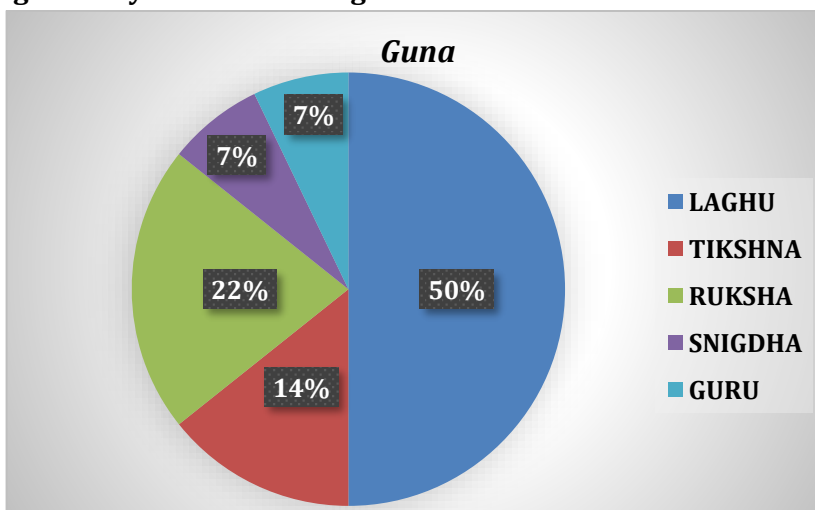


Fig 2: Analysis of Guna of ingredients of *Pathasirishadi Kwatham*

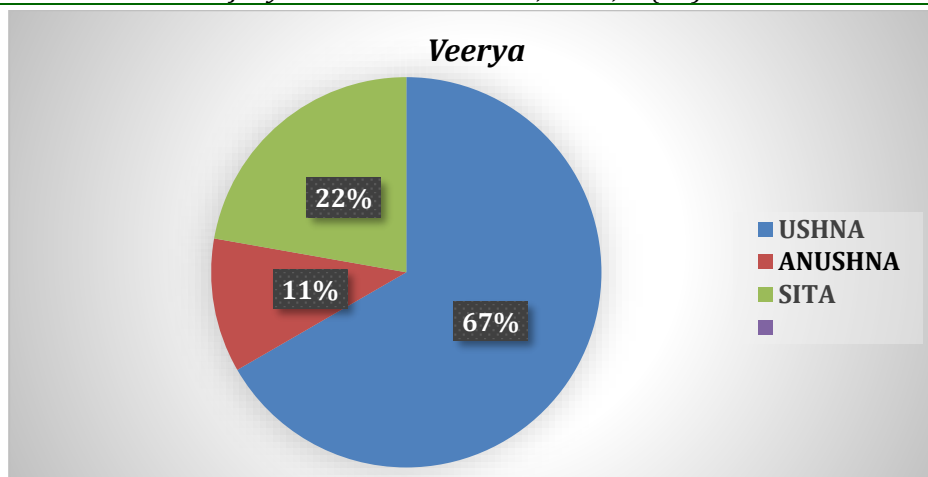


Fig 3: Analysis of Veerya of ingredients of Pathasirishadi Kwatham

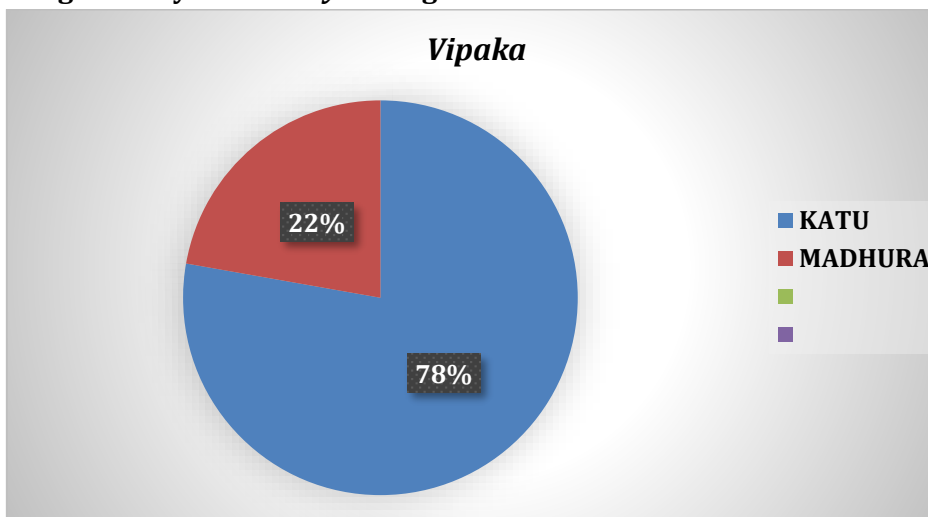


Fig 4: Analysis of Vipaka of ingredients of Pathasirishadi Kwatham

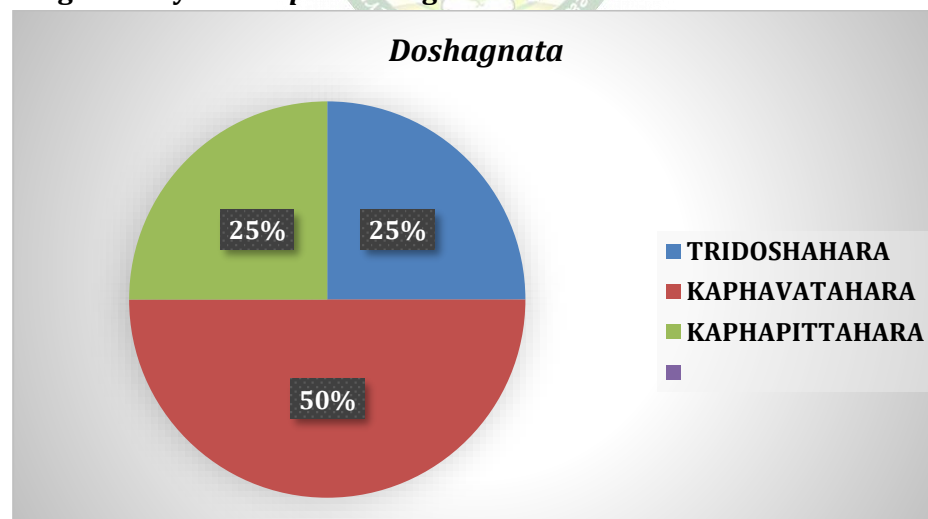


Fig 5: Analysis of Doshagnata of ingredients of Pathasirishadi Kwatham

DISCUSSION

Pathasirishadi Kwatha is mentioned in Visha Vaidya Jyotsnika in the context of Mooshikavisha Cikitsa. This formulation consists of 9 drugs Patha, Sirisha, Sarpagandha, Vacha, Haridra, Kushta, Musta, Nagara, Madhuka. Mode of administration is in the form of Kashaya. It is said to have an immediate effect on Mooshika Visha (Haratyakhilamooshika doshajatham kshwedam kshanena dahano hi yadha trinoukham).^[6]

Pathasirishadi Kwatha is Katutiktaraśa pradhana, Laghu rooksha guna pradhana, Ushna Virya, Katu vipaka and Kaphavatahara in nature. Mode of action of a drug depends on its Rasa, Guna, Veerya, Vipaka and Prabhava. The Rasas that pacify Mooshikavisha are Tikta, Katu, Kashaya^[27] as it is Kaphadosha pradhana as per Vagbhata. On analysing the formulation 44% of drugs possess Katu rasa, 38% Tikta rasa, 7% Kashaya

rasa and 11% *Madhura rasa*. *Visaghna* property of the *Yoga* is attributed to the *Tikta rasa* and the *Rakta sodhaka* property of *Tikta rasa* will help in purifying the *Dooshita rakta* in *Visha*^[28]. The *Katu rasa* is *Srotosodhana*, *Raktasodhana*, *Twakprasadana*, *Kushtagna* and also alleviates *Kaphadosha*^[29]. On analysing *Guna*, 50% of drugs possess *Laghuguna* which helps in easy penetration of the drug, 22% of drugs possess *Rooksha guna* that will enhance *Vata* which will help in the *Gati* of the *Oushada* and also contribute to hasten the action of the drug and alleviates *Kapha dosha*. On analysing *Veerya*, 67% of drugs possess *Ushna veerya* which is *Kaphavataharam* and 78% of drugs are *Katu Vipaka* which enhances the *Kaphaharathwam* of the *Yoga*. *Doshaanusarena* drugs of the formulation are *Kaphavatahara*.

The symptoms of *Mooshikavisha* and the mode of action of ingredients of *Pathasirishadi kwatha* is mentioned in Table 4. This formulation can be effectively considered in the management of rat poison-related illnesses, including *Leptospirosis*, due to the close resemblance of its clinical features with those of *Mooshika Visha*. *Leptospirosis* presents with a constellation of symptoms such as fever with chills, headache, myalgia, jaundice, conjunctival erythema, vomiting, renal failure, oliguria, and hemorrhagic manifestations. These can be closely correlated with the classical signs of *Mooshika Visha* including *Jwara* (fever), *Sirasula* (headache), *Angamarda* (body ache), *pita Netra* (yellowish discoloration of eyes), *Aksiraga* (redness of eyes), *Chardi* (vomiting), *Mutrasanga* (urinary obstruction), *Mutrakrcchra* (dysuria), *Raktasrava* (bleeding manifestations), *Svasa* (breathlessness), and *Kasa* (cough). This correlation highlights the potential of *Pathasirishadi kwatha* in addressing both the symptomatic and systemic manifestations seen in *leptospirosis*, offering a traditional therapeutic perspective for such toxin-induced disorders.

CONCLUSION

When *Visha* comes in contact with body it produces both local and systemic ill effects. *Pathasirishadi Kwatha* is found very effective yoga for the management of *Mooshika visha* based on *Rasapanchaka* analysis. This *yoga* is mentioned in *Visha Vaidya Jyotsnika* for the management of *Mooshika visha*. All ingredients are easily available and are very effective and easy for preparation and administration. Further clinical research can be performed to enhance comprehension of its efficacy.

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