

Ayurvedic and Pharmacological Information On Shigru (*Moringa oleifera* Lam.): A Review Article

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ABSTRACT –

Shigru (*Moringa oleifera* Lam.) is a medicinally important plant and is used for the treatment of different diseases. In Ayurveda Samhita, Shigru is mentioned nearly by all Acharyas for nutritional as well as medicinal purpose. Different parts of the plants like bark, leaves, seeds, flowers, roots, and immature pods contain abundance of important phyto-constituents like terpenoids, alkaloids, tannins, steroidal aglycones and reducing sugars. Various preparations of *Moringa oleifera* are used for their anti-inflammatory, anti-hypertensive, diuretic, anti-microbial, anti-oxidant, anti-diabetic, anti-hyperlipidemic, anti-neoplastic, antipyretic, anti-ulcer, cardio-protectant and Hepato-protectant activities. The present study aims to collect nearly all available information about Ayurvedic as well as pharmacological properties.

KEYWORDS- Shigru, *Moringa oleifera* Lam., Ayurvedic & Pharmacological aspect.

I. INTRODUCTION-

Shigru (*Moringa oleifera* Lam.) is one of the most important medications, containing alkaloids, protein, quinine, saponins, anthraquinones, flavonoids, sitosterol, tannins, and glycosides, all of which have anti-cancer properties. Shigru is beneficial in the treatment of Apachi, Gulma, and Ganda, according to Bhavprakash. Shigru (*Moringa oleifera* Lam.) is a Moringaceae-based Ayurvedic medicine. Katu, Tikta Rasa with Katu Vipaka, and Ushna virya are included. Shigrumul (Roots) is utilized in Arbudchikitsa and Shigrubeej (seeds) is used in Granthichikitsa for Granthi and gandvimlapan, according to Acharya Vagabhatta Suttarsthan. Shigru is also stated in chikitsasthan by Acharya Sushruta for pralepa (LA) in Vataj Granthi^[1]. Because the efficacy of any drug is directly proportional to its identity, purity, and quality, pharmacognostic and phytochemical research is a time-consuming requirement for drug

quality assurance. So, in order to demonstrate the efficiency of Ayurvedic herbs as an alternative and cost-effective source of cancer treatment, this study on breast cancer was conducted in vitro and in vivo.

Shigru has been proven to have a wide range of activities, including anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial, cardiovascular, anti-cancer, antipyretic, anti-oxidant, and anti-ulcer activity, which inhibits cancer cell development and oxidative stress, all of which lead to pathology.



(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)

Figure 1: Moringaoleifera Lam.

Sanskrit name: Shigru
Latin name: Moringaoleifera Lam.
Family: Moringaceae
Gana: Charaka-grahi, dipaniy, shukrala

VERNACULAR NAME ^[7] –

Languages

Vernacular names

Sanskrit: Shobhanjana
Hindi: Saguna, Sahijhana
English: Drumstick tree, Horseradish tree, Ben tree
Marathi: Shevaga
Gujarati: Suragavo
Malayalam: Murinna, Sigr
Tamil : Moringki
Telugu: Mulaga, Munaga

Synonyms of Shigru ^[2,3,4,5,6]

| Synonyms | Bhavprakash | Kaiyyadeva | Dhanavanta ri | Raj | Madanpal | Nighantu |
|------------------|-------------|------------|------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Nighantu | Nighantu | Nighantu | Nighantu | Nighantu | Aadarsh |
| Shobhanjana | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Shobhanjana | | | | | | |
| Shigru | + | + | + | + | + | + |
| Teekshnagandhaka | + | + | + | + | - | - |
| Akshiva | + | + | - | - | - | + |
| Mochaka | + | + | - | - | - | - |
| Haritshaka | - | - | + | + | - | - |
| Shakapatra | - | - | - | + | - | - |
| Supatraka | - | - | - | + | - | - |
| Upadamsha | - | - | - | + | - | - |
| Kshamadamsha | - | - | - | + | - | - |
| Damshamoola | - | - | - | + | - | - |
| Laghupatraka | - | - | + | - | - | - |
| Mookhbhanga | - | + | + | - | - | - |
| Moolakaparni | - | + | + | - | - | - |
| Avadanshama | - | + | + | - | - | - |
| Krushnagandha | - | + | - | - | + | + |

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Shalanakshama | - | + | - | - | - | - |
| Ghanachhada | - | + | - | - | - | - |
| Vidradighna | - | + | - | - | - | - |
| Moolakachhada | - | + | - | - | - | - |
| Moorangi | - | + | - | - | - | - |
| Bahulchhada | - | + | - | - | + | - |
| Sahijana | - | - | - | - | - | + |

KARMA^(1,3,4,8) :- it acts as kaphavatashamaka (mitigates vataand kapha), vataghna, kaphaghna, shothaghna, avrishya,saranulomana, krimighna, raktashodhaka, shwashara, garbhashayashothahar, kushthaghna, shothahara (anti-inflammatory), deepana (appetizer), paachana (digestant), vatanulomana (carminative), vrunaropana (wound healing).

DOSE⁽⁸⁾-

Seed powder- 1 to 3 gm

PROPERTIES AND ACTION⁽¹⁾ –

Rasa: Katu,TiktainRasa

Guna: Laghu,Ruksha,Tikshna

Virya: UshnaVeeryaDravya

Vipaka: KatuVipakiDravya

Dosha: Kapha:Vata:shamaka

Karma: Vatakaphaghna, Hrudyaa, Grahi,,Shukrala

MORPHOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION-

Moringaoleifera tree is a small, fast-growing evergreen or deciduous tree that usually grows up to 10 or 12 m in height. It has a spreading, open crown of drooping, fragile branches, feathery foliage of tripinnate Roots, and thick, corky, whitish bark.

TAXONOMY-

Kingdom :Plantae

Division :Magnoliophyta

Subclass :Magnoliopsida

Order :Brassicales

Family :Moringaceae

Genus :Moringa

Species :M.oleifera

DISTRIBUTION-

Shigru(Moringaoleifera Lam.) belongs to family Moringaceae.Shigru is a small, fast-growing evergreen or deciduous tree with a soft, white wood and croky, sticky bark that can reach a height of 9cm. It is a fast-growing, drought-resistant tree that is native to the Himalayan foothills and the most

commonly found species in India, and it is widely farmed near homes throughout the country.

Bheda-(varities)⁽⁷⁾-

There are two types of shigru

Types of Shigru Description

Latin name

MadhuShigru

Red flower

MoringaconcanensisNimmo

KatuShigru

White flower

Moringaoleifera Lam

THERAPEUTIC USES⁽⁷⁾:Shotha, coghrog, krumighna,dipan,Vataroga,, andVishaghna

Indications⁽⁹⁾-

External uses-

A paste of bark and leaves producesburning sensation, is anti-inflammatory and acts on abscesses. It is applied topically on inflammation and abscess. Seed powder is the best shirovirechannasya, seed powder is administered nasally in headache and heaviness of the head produced by kapha. Seed oil is analgesic hence utilized in rheumatoid arthritis and painful diseases.

Internal uses-

Nervous system – Because it is tikshna and ushna, it is a nerve stimulant. The non crystalline part of the bark is very strong and it acts through afferent nerves of the body. Because of this, it cause hypertention, increases heart rate and contracts the blood vessels. It towers the function of muscles in respiratory as well as gastrointestinal system. Dilatation of pupil occurs similar to the action of adrenaline and ephedrine. Tender plant root is beneficial in epilepsy.

Digestive system: As it is pungent and tikshna, it improves appetite, is digestive, vidahi, grahi, analgesic, antibacterial and deworming agent. MadhuShigru is viscous and sweet and so it's purgative. It is useful in loss of appetite, tastelessness, pain in abdomen, ascities, gulma and worms.

Circulatory system: Due to ushnaguna it acts as a stimulant to heart, creates hypertention and is anti-

inflammatory. It is useful in weakness of heart and inflammation.

Respiratory system: Kaphaghna Useful in kaphajkasa.

Seed powder is useful for shodhannasya.

Urinary system: As it is Ushna, tikshna, it stimulates the kidneys and increases the quantity of urine. It is useful in dysuria. In calculi its decoction is useful. It is not used in hydronephrosis, as it irritates the kidneys and increases inflammation.

Digestive system- The bark powder is appetizer, carminative and anthelmintic and hence is used in abdominal pain, constipation and worms.

Circulatory system- It has an effect on the heart purifies the blood and reduces oedema so it is used for the weakness of heart, blood disorder and oedema its decoction is used in rheumatoid arthritis

FORMULATION^[10].

Shigrupushparasayan, Shigruvadilepa..

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTIVITY-The plant *Moringaoleifera* possesses broad pharmacological activities. Some of them are discussed below.

Anthelmintic activity:^[11,12] In vitro study assessed the efficacy of macerated and infused aqueous extract as well as ethanolic extract of *Moringaoleifera* against fresh eggs, embryonated eggs, L1 and L2 larvae of *Haemonchus contortus*. Five different concentrations of extracts were prepared (0.625, 1.25, 2.5, 3.75 and 5 mg/mL)

Anti-microbial activity^[13]: Roots, Roots, bark and seeds of *Moringaoleifera* show anti-microbial activity against bacteria and fungi. The plant shows in vitro activity against bacteria, yeast, dermatophytes and helminths by disc diffusion method.

Anti-inflammatory activity^[14]: Methanolic and aqueous extract of Root and bark, methanolic extract of Roots and flowers and ethanolic extract of seeds of *Moringaoleifera* possess anti-inflammatory activity

Anti-cancer activity^[15]: Ethanolic extracts of Roots and seeds of *Moringaoleifera* shows potent anti-tumor activity. Thiocarbamate and isothiocyanate related compounds were isolated and which act as inhibitor of tumor promoter. The in vivo antitumor potential was due to the presence of three known thiocarbamate and isothiocyanate related compounds which act as inhibitors of tumor promoter tel-eocidin B:4:induced Epstein-barr virus, interestingly.

Hepatoprotective activity^[16]:

In vivo hepatoprotective activity of ethanolic extract of Roots and alcoholic extract of seed of *Moringaoleifera* was estimated against isoniazid, rifampicin, and pyrazinamide induced liver damage. Haematological along with hepatorenal functions of methanolic extract of *Moringaoleifera* Roots, doses of the crude extract (CE) on liver and kidney functions were also reported.

Anti-asthmatic activity^[17,18]: A study was carried out to investigate the usefulness of *Moringaoleifera* seed kernel in patients of bronchial asthma. After 3 weeks treatment in asthmatic subjects the drug produced significant improvement in forced vital capacity, forced expiratory volume in one second, and peak expiratory flow rate values by $32.97 \pm 6.03\%$, $30.05 \pm 8.12\%$, and $32.09 \pm 11.75\%$ respectively.

Anti-urolithiatic activity^[19]:

The in vitro anti-urolithiatic activity was performed in aqueous and alcoholic extract of bark of *Moringaoleifera*. It showed reduction in weight of stone produced using ethylene glycol induced urolithiasis. It also possesses both preventive and curative property.

Anti-fertility activity^[20]: Aqueous extract of *Moringaoleifera* Roots was found to be effective as anti-fertility in presence or absence of estradiol dipropionate and progesterone. The in vivo antifertility activity and histopathology study was done using aqueous extract to investigate the effect on histoarchitecture of the uterus during pre and post-implantation stages.

Cardiovascular activity^[21]: Ethanolic extract of *Moringaoleifera*

Roots showed prominent anti-hypertensive or hypotensive activity. The in vivo activity was done in animal's heart and it was found that thiocarbamate and isothiocyanate glycosides were responsible for this powerful hypotensive activity.

Anti-diabetic activity^[22,23,24]: Aqueous extract of *Moringaoleifera* Roots shows anti-diabetic activity and controls diabetes and thus exhibit glycemic control. In treated rats, both doses of extract induced a significant reduction in serum glucose and nitric oxide, with concomitant increases in serum insulin and protein levels.

CNS activity^[25,26]: Moringaoleifera Roots extract restores monoamine levels of brain, which may be useful in Alzheimer's disease. In: vitro anticonvulsant activity from the aqueous extract of Moringaoleifera Roots and ethanolic extract of Roots was studied on penicillin induced convulsion, locomotor behaviour, brain serotonin (5:HT), dopamine and norepinephrine level and evaluated

Antioxidant activity^[27]: Aqueous and alcoholic extracts(methanolicðanolic) of Roots and Roots of Moringaoleifera exhibit strong in: vitro anti:oxidant and radical scavenging activity.

Antiepileptic activity^[28]: Methanolic extract of Moringaoleifera

Roots exhibit potent anti:convulsant activity against pentylenetetrazole and maximal electroshock induced convulsions at the dose levels of 200 mg/kg and 400 mg/kg administered intraperitoneally. This may be because of the presence of alkaloids, flavonoids and tannins present in the extract

II. CONCLUSION –

Moringaoleifera Lam. is a small, fast-growing evergreen or deciduous tree with abundant nutritional contents. Due to nutritional value it is thoroughly used in cooking. Different parts of the plants like bark leaves, seeds, flowers, roots, and immature pods contain a sizable amount of important phyto-constituents like terpenoids, alkaloids, tannins, steroidal aglycones and reducing sugars. Shigru have Katu, Tikta rasa, Katuvipaka and Ushnaveerya therefore it will be used in Krimi, pliharoga, Galaganda, Shirashula, Kandu, Shotha, Apachi, Vrana, Medoroga, Vidradhi and Gulmavyadhi. In short Shigru is used commonly in Vata-Kaphavyadhi. Various preparations of Moringaoleifera are used for their anti-inflammatory, anti-hypertensive, diuretic, antimicrobial, anti-oxidant, anti-diabetic, anti-hyperlipidemic, anti-neoplastic, antipyretics, anti-ulcer, cardio-protectant and Hepato-protectant activities. The present review is an effort to compile all the previous data on the idea of its phytochemistry, medicinal uses and pharmacology reported within the previous articles.

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