



**PHARMACOGNOSTICAL AND PHYTOCHEMICAL STANDARDISATION OF
PANCHAVALKALADI VARTI. - AN AYURVEDIC POLYHERBAL
FORMULATION**

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ABSTRACT

UpaplutaYonivyapadis one of the 20 Yonivyapad, which is described by AcharyaCharaka, both Vagbhattas and Sarangadhara. In the present study, PanchavalkaladiVarti is selected for the local application. The present study was aimed at setting up a standard profile of PanchavalkaladiVarti which was prepared using pharmacognostically authenticated drugs followed by subjecting it to detailed pharmacognostical, physicochemical and phytochemical (including Thin Layer Chromatography) analysis as per standard protocol. The observations were systematically recorded. Pharmacognostical findings (crystals, fibres, stone cells etc.) confirm the ingredients present in the finished product. Identified phytochemical components (Flavonoids, Alkaloids, Tannins compounds etc.) support the intended action of the formulation in vaginal discharge.

Keywords: UpaplutaYonivyapadPanchavalkaladiVartiPharmacognosy, phytochemistry, TLC

INTRODUCTION

UpaplutaYonivyapad is described by Acharya Charaka¹, both Vagbhata^{2, 3} and Sharangadhara⁴. On the basis of the textual description, it seems that UpaplutaYonivyapad can be compared to Vulvovaginitis during pregnancy. UpaplutaYonivyapad is caused by vitiation of Vata&Kapha and it is characterised by yellowish or white mucoid vaginal discharge associated with pricking pain, itching etc. in vagina. If these infections are not treated, then they may spread to the choriodecidual tissue through the cervical canal resulting in the premature rupture of membrane, preterm labour⁵, low birth weight, and pregnancy loss, spontaneous abortion and post abortion and post pregnancy infection^{6,7,8,9,10}. According to AcharyaVagbhata, Tampon of oleaginous substances medicated with the decoction of Panchavalkala, Jambu, Dhava, Sallaki, andJjinginican be used in Upapluta Yonivyapad.¹¹ Most of the drugs of this *Varti* have *Kashaya Rasa, RukshaGuna and KaphaDoshaNashaka, Vranashodhana, Vranaropana, Vedanasthapana, ShothaharaDahaprashamanaproperties*. They have been reported to exert astringent, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antimicrobial, antiprotazol and antifungal properties¹². It is difficult to decide the dose of drug in *Pichu* form. Occasionally a Pichu (tampon) may be inadvertently forgotten for few days; a serious condition called 'Toxic Shock Syndrome' can develop due to this mistake¹³.

So VartiKalpana (Suppositories) was selected for the present study. It is convenient for patients to administer by own, needs no precaution or supervision. As in modern science vaginal suppositories are of fixed dose. To resemble that parameter vaginal suppository were prepared. It had disintegration time of less than 20 min. which provides a long lasting effect.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Collection of Raw Drug:

Panchavalkal and jambu have being collected from the Pharmacy, I.P.G.T. & R.A., G.A.U., Jamnagar before preparation of drug, Dhava and Shallaki samples have being collected from the Una Pharmacy, Una. Jjingini samples have being collected from the Sasoi, Jamnagar. Glycerine and Gelatine were purchased from outside (market). The ingredients and the part used are given in (Table no1).

No.	Drug	Botanical name	Ratio	Parts used
1	Vata	<i>Ficus bengalensis Linn</i>	1part	Stem bark
2	Udumber	<i>Ficus racemosa Linn.</i>	1part	Stem bark
3	Ashvatha	<i>Ficus religiosa Linn.</i>	1part	Stem bark
4	Plaksha	<i>Ficus lacor Buch</i>	1part	Stem bark
5	Parisha	<i>Thespesia populnea Linn</i>	1part	Stem bark
6	Jambu	<i>Syzygium cumini Linn</i>	1part	Stem bark
7	Sallaki	<i>Boswellia serrata Roxb</i>	1part	Stem bark
8	Dhava	<i>Anogeissus latifolia Wall</i>	1part	Stem bark
9	Jingini	<i>Ocimum woodier Roxb</i>	1part	Stem bark

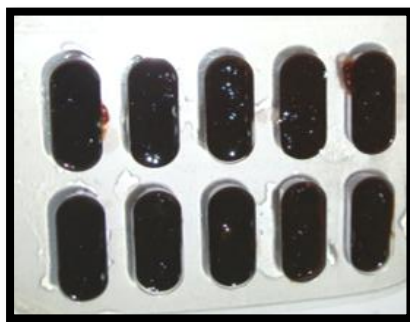
Table 1: Showing Contents of PanchavalkaladiVarti

Pharmacognostical Evaluation:

As per API¹⁴ raw drugs were identified and authenticated by the Pharmacognosy department. The identification was carried out based on the morphological, organoleptic features and powder microscopy of the individual drugs. Later, pharmacognostical evaluation of *PanchavalkaladiChurna* was carried out. *Churna* dissolved in small quantity of distilled water, studied under the Carl zeiss binocular microscope attached with camera, with stain and without stain. The microphotographs were also taken under the microscope.

Preparation of PanchavalkaladiVarti:

PanchavalkaladiVarti was prepared in the rasa shastradept I.P.G.T. & R.A GAU, Jamnagar.



PanchavalkaladiVarti

METHOD OF PREPARATION

Kwath of Panchavalkaladi was taken, and then gelatin powder and preservative were added to the mixture. The solution was stirred for five minutes, whole solution was melted in water bath, and glycerin was added then heat was constantly supplied and the solution was continuously stirred until a homogeneous mixture was obtained. Then it was poured into suitable chilled mold, after the drug settled, it was packed by aluminium foil.

Size: About 1.0 gm.

Shape: Oviform (oval) shape.

Storage: Panchavalkaladi Varti should be kept in well closed container and stored at refrigerator.

Panchavalkaladi Varti should be protected against the effects of heat, moisture, and dry air by keeping them in tightly closed containers in a cool place. Ingredients of Panchavalkaladi Varti (suppositories) for 1 gm (suppositories) are given in (Table no. 2)

This Varti was analyzed using various standard physicochemical parameters such as, Loss on drying¹⁶, PH¹⁷, water soluble extract¹⁸, and methanol soluble extract¹⁹ as per API¹⁴ at the pharmaceutical chemistry lab, IPGT & RA.

Qualitative tests ²⁰:

The presence of Alkaloids, Steroids, Glycosides, Flavonoids, Reducing sugar Carbohydrates, Volatiles oils and Tannins were confirmed through suitable tests.

S.No	Ingredients	for 1 gm (suppositories)
1	<i>Kwatha of Panchavalkaladi drug</i>	1.66ml

2	Gelatine powder	0.5 gm
3	Glycerin	0.5 ml
4	Propyl Para Ben Sodium Salt	0.01gm

Table 2: Ingredients of PanchavalkaladiVartifor1gm (suppositories)

Thin layer Chromatography²¹:

Measured volume of the sample was evaporated to dryness, the residue was extracted with methanol by maceration and the sample for spotting was prepared.

T.L.C. study of the samples was carried out by using the following conditions:

Adsorbent layer - Silica gel G pre-coated plates (E-Merck)

Sample - Acid hydrolysis of Methanolic extract of PanchavalkaladiVarti.

Solvent system Toluene: Ethyl acetate: Acetic acid (8:3: 0.2) 1- Day

Detection 1-light and short and long wave UV radiation

2- Spraying with Ferric chloride.

Visualizations -

- i) Under short wave Ultra Violet rays (254nm)
- ii) Under long wave Ultra Violet rays (366nm) iii) Spray reagent 5% ferric chloride

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Pharmacognostical study:

The initial purpose of the study was to confirm the authenticity of the drugs used in the preparation of *PanchavalkaladiVarti*. For that coarse powder of all the ingredients were subjected to organoleptic and microscopic evaluation separately. Results matched with the API and thus confirmed the genuineness of all the raw drugs. Later, after the preparation of the *Panchavalkaladichurna*'s pharmacognostical evaluation was carried out.

Microscopic Characters of *Panchavalkaladichurna* :

Microscopic evaluation was conducted by dissolving the *Panchavalkaladichurna* in distilled water and studied under microscope with and without stain for the presence of the characteristics of the ingredient drugs and for the probable changes in features if any. The microphotographs were taken by using Carl Zeiss Trinocular microscope. Characteristics of all the ingredient drugs were identified in *Panchavalkaladichurna* also. Details are placed in Table 3. Organoleptic parameters of ***PanchavalkaladiVarti*** Sparsha – Consistency, Rasa – Taste, Rupa – Color, Gandha - Odor were studied and details are placed in

Table 4.

S.No	Drug	Botanical name	Microscopical Characters
1	Vata	Ficus bengalensis Linn	cork tissue stone cells prismatic crystals of calcium oxalate Fig 1 starch grains
2	Udumber	Ficus racemosa Linn.	Sclereids un lignified fibres Cork cells prismatic crystals of calcium oxalate Fig 2
4	Parisha	Thespesia populnea Linn	cork tissue single rosette calcium oxalate crystal; Fig 5 starch grains,
5	Plaksha	Ficus lacor Buch	parenchyma with simple pits stone cells prismatic crystals of calcium oxalate Fig 6
6	Sallaki	Boswellia serrata Roxb	cork cells oleoresin contents prismatic crystal stone cell Fig 7 Accicular crystal Fig 8
7	Dhava	Anogeissus latifolia Wall	cork cells parenchymatous cells Lignified fibres Fig 9 stone cell Fig 10 Rosette crystal Round starch grains.
8	Jingini	Odina woodier Roxb	cork cells Fig 11 Starch cells rhomboidal Fig 12 prismatic crystals stone cells parenchyma
9	Jambu	Syzygium cumini Linn	stone cells Fig 13 Crystal fibres Fig 14 Lignified fibres Fig 15

Table 3: Powder microscopic results of Panchavalkaladi Varti

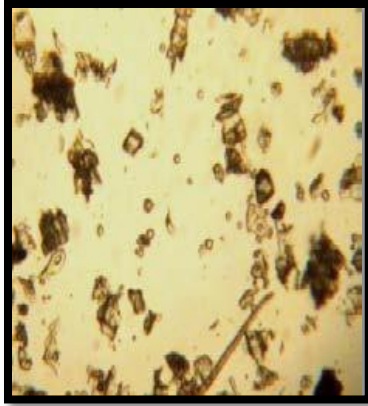


Fig 1 Vata-Prismatic crystal

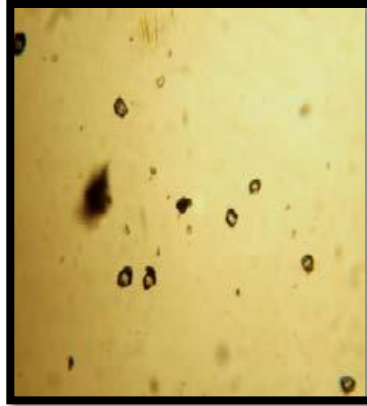


Fig 2 Udumbara-Prismatic crystal



Fig 3 Ashwattha-Crystal fibre

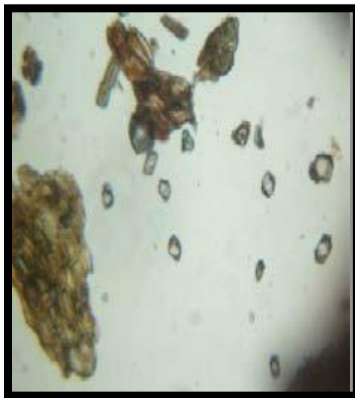


Fig 4 Ashwattha-Prismatic crystal



Fig 5 Parisha-Rosette crystal



Fig 6 Plaksha-Prismatic crystal



Fig 7 Sallaki Stone cell



Fig 8 Sallaki Accicular crystal

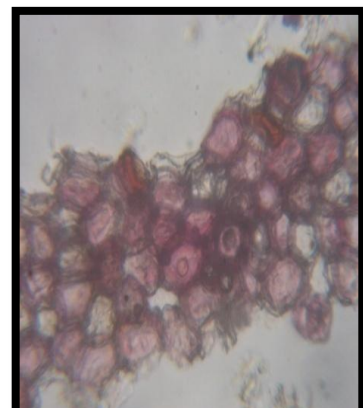


Fig 9 Dhava Lignified fibres



Fig 10 Dhava Stone cell

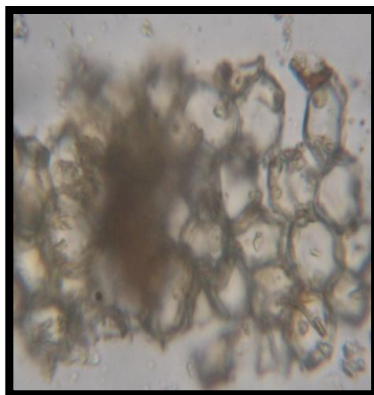


Fig 11 Jingini Cork cells

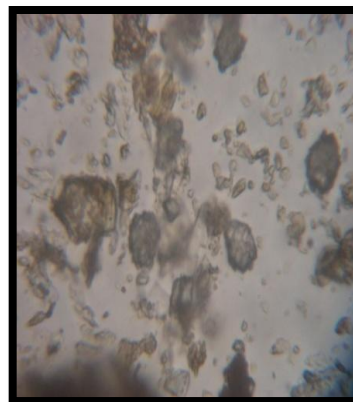


Fig 12 Jingini Cluster crystal



Fig 13 Jamboo Crystal fibre

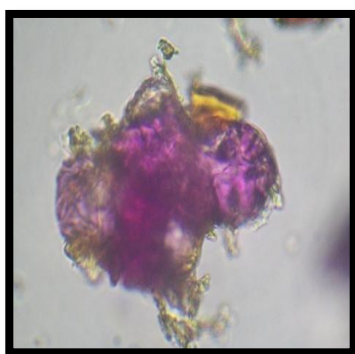


Fig 14 Jamboo Stone cells



Fig 15 Jamboo Lignified fibre

S.No	Parameters	PanchavalkaladiVarti
1	Colour	Redish Brown
2	Odour	Characteristic aromatic
3	Taste	Kashaya
4	Consistency	Hard

Table 4: Showing Organoleptic characteristics of PanchavalkaladiVarti

Physico-Chemical Parameters:

Physico-Chemical parameters of the *PanchavalkaladiVarti* like PH, Loss on drying, watersoluble extract, and methanol soluble extract were all found to be within the normal range. Details are shown at Table 5.

S.No.	Test	PanchavalkaladiVarti
1	Loss on drying	43.90
2	Water soluble extract.	50.097
3	Alcohol soluble extract	1.095
4	PH	5.0

Table 5: Physico –chemical parameters of *PanchavalkaladiVarti*

Qualitative test for various functional groups revealed the presence of tannins, alkaloids, flavanoids, saponin glycosides; steroids, reducing sugars, and Volatile oil are present in drug. Details are shown at Table 6.

S.No.	Component	Test	PanchavalkaldiVarti
1	Tannins	Ferric chloride	Positive
2	Alkaloid	Wagners	Positive
3	Flavanoids	Lead acetate	Positive
4	Saponin glycosides	Foam test	Positive
5	Steroids	Liebermann- Buchard	Positive
6	Reducing sugars	Fehlings	Positive
7	Carbohydrates	Molish's test	Negative
8	Volatiles oils		Positive

Table 6: Showing Qualitative test for various functional group of *PanchavalkaladiVarti*

Thin layer Chromatography:

Densitometry scanning of the TLC pattern showed five spots corresponding to R_f values 0.14, 0.24, 0.43, 0.78 and 0.95 when the TLC plate was visualized at 366 nm UV light. Whereas four spots corresponding to R_f values 0.14, 0.43, 0.78 and 0.95 were obtained when the TLC plate was visualized at 254nm, UV light. After the spray of $FeCl_3$ solution 5 spots were obtained. Details are shown at Table 7.

Sample	Stationary phase	Mobile phase	Number of spot	Visualization on 366nm, Rf value	Visualization on 254nm, Rf value	After spray of FeCl ₃ Number of spot	Visualization on 366Nm
Acid hydrolysis of Methanolic extract of PanchavalkaladiVarti	Silica gel	Toluene:	1	0.14	0.14	1	0.12
		8ml Ethyl acetate:	2	0.24	0.43 0.78	2	0.21
		3ml	3	0.43	0.95	3	0.68
		Acetic acid 0.2 ml	4	0.78 0.95		4	0.78
			5			5	0.95

Table 7: Showing Thin Layer Chromatography of PanchavalkaladiVarti

DISCUSSIONS

In the present study a new pharmaceutical preparation of *PanchavalkaladiTailai*.e. in the form of *Varti* was tried. Its pharmaceutical properties had to be studied; hence the formulation was subjected to minimum Pharmacognostical and Pharmaceutical analysis. Pharmacognostical evaluation of *PanchavalkaladiChurn* showed the specific characters of *Ficus bengalensis*, *Ficus religiosa*, *Syzygium cumini*, *Anogeissus latifolia* etc present in the preparation. Features found in microscopy such as cork tissue, stone cells prismatic crystals of calcium oxalate, starch grains, parenchyma with simple pits confirm the same. The results obtained by conducting the preliminary qualitative analysis revealed the presence of tannins saponins glycosides, flavonoids and alkaloids. The quantitative pharmaceutical analysis was in normal range and in accordance with those mentioned in reference books. Tannins and Anthraquinones are known anti-oxidants and blood purifiers with anti-inflammatory actions. Tannins, wide variety of EOs are known to possess antimicrobial properties against the yeast *Candida albicans* and against phytopathogenic fungi species²².

CONCLUSION

Pharmacognostical findings confirm the ingredients present in the finished product and there is no major change in the microscopic structure of the raw drugs during the pharmaceutical processes of preparation of *kwathachurna*. Identified phytochemical components Like Tannins, Anthraquinones,

Phytosterols all are Astringents and anti-inflammatory, thus prevent the prolongation of the initial phase and reduce the secretion of discharge, pain or tenderness, redness, swelling features of this stage, leading to progress, helps in quicker epithelialisation and normal condition of vulva and vagina. . It is inferred that the formulation meets minimum qualitative standards as prescribed by API at preliminary level. The results of this study may be used as the reference standard in further research undertakings of its kind.

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