



## REVIEW STUDY

### INCLUSION OF NEW HERBS BY BASAVARAJU DELINEATED IN PARENTHESES OF BASAVARAJEYAM

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#### ABSTRACT:

*Basavarajeeyam, a bilingual work is replete with the information about the drugs in vogue in clinical practice in Andhra region and encompasses a lot of information about new drugs not known to Ayurvedic scholars and scientists of the rest of the country. Basavarajeeyam should be considered as the work of post Bhavaprakasha period. Basavarajeeyam consist of 25 chapters (Prakaranas). In present study an attempt has been made to identify the herbs mentioned parenthetical descriptions written in Telugu language by field study and proper authentication. A careful study of the materia medica of Basavarajeeyam indicates that total 377 medicinal plants are described in it. Out of them, 336 are mentioned in Sanskrit verses, 29 herbs in Telugu verses and 12 herbs in parentheses. The plants namely Nakkapeetaku (*Lepidagathis cristata* Willd.), Teegamushini (*Tiliacora acuminata* (Lam.) Miers.) and Kasaraveru (*Momordica tuberosa* Cogn.) were referred for the first time in parenthetical descriptions in entire work and they should be considered as new drugs added by Basavaraju to Ayurvedic materia medica.*

**Keywords:** Basavarajeeyam, parentheses, Nakkapeetaku, Teegamushini, Kasaraveru

#### INTRODUCTION

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Basavarajeeyam, a complete text book of Ayurveda is widely referred and adopted by many practitioners of south India. Some practitioners of North India also started accepting this book as an authority after the transliteration of Basavarajeeyam<sup>[1]</sup> into Sanskrit done by Pandit Govardhana Sharma Changani in the year 1930. Basavaraju has composed verses in Telugu

language in which he has described mainly the herbal remedies. Most of the herbs that have been described in Telugu verses can be considered as his exclusive contribution.

In addition to the descriptions of drugs available in Sanskrit and Telugu aphorisms in text of Basavarajeeyam, one comes across describing of certain herbs in the parentheses shown after the Telugu renderings of the Sanskrit aphorisms. Whether these parenthetical descriptions could be attributed to Basavaraju is not a point of contention, as the same format is found in almost all the manuscripts and printed books. Hence it is felt necessary

that the botanical identification of these drugs should be established. Considering the adoption of the main aphorisms from previous texts like Charaka Samhita, Bahata etc., by Basavaraju, the matter in the parentheses can be taken as the most important observations recorded by him personally to bring into the limelight, some of his valuable experiences.

### Period of Basavarajeeyam

Pt Govardhana Sharma Changani in his introduction to the Sanskrit version of Basavarajeeyam<sup>[1]</sup> exposed a historical profile of Basavarajeeyam picturing him as Basava who was a staunch follower of Veerashaivism and a contemporary of king Bijjala (end of 12<sup>th</sup> cent. AD). The same statement is carried out in the works of Ayurvedic Itihasa<sup>[2]</sup> written by Atredeva Vidyawalkan and Acharya Priyavrata Sharma. The analysis of Telugu verses rendered in the texts and a thorough scanning of Basavarajeeyam content, one can conclude that it is the work belongs to post Bahvaprakasha period. Basavaraju has faithfully reproduced certain chapter of Vaidyachintamani<sup>[3]</sup>, which is considered to be a work of 15<sup>th</sup> century. Basavaraju not only mentioned Phirangiroga in the index of diseases described by him at the end of the book, but also indicated Phirangichakka<sup>[4]</sup> (Madhusnuhi) in the management of Meharoga and Granthi. By this evidence Basavarajeeyam should be

considered as the work of post Bhavaprakasha period. Basavaraju indicates in the Gulmaroga Chikitsa that Sankhadravaka should be administered in the dose of 'Ekanni'. The name Ekanni<sup>[5]</sup> was given for a copper coin which came in to circulation of money during British India and produced from Madras mint (1794 AD). Based on these internal evidences, it can be safely concluded that Basavaraju belong to 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>[6]</sup>

### MATERIAL & METHODS

Basavarajeeyam<sup>[4]</sup> (edited by Puvvada Satyanarayana) and different manuscripts (GOML, No. 13347, Madras and SAOU No. 12924, Hyderabad) have been consulted. For the confirmation of vernaculars to establish the identity of herbs furnished in the work, field studies were conducted in the areas of Mehaboobnagar, Nalgonda, Bellary, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Kurnool and Srikakulam of Andhrapradesh (AP). The collected data of the field studies was subjected to Pharmacognostic study to fix the scientific (Latin) names. The analysis has been made by consulting the Regional Research Centre of Ayurved (Unit of Survey of Medicinal Plants) situated in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka states and Botanical Survey of India unit of Coimbatore (Tamilnadu state).



**DISCUSSION**

In the parentheses Basavaraju mentioned in total 169 herbs out of which 12 herbs are exclusively mentioned in this context by him. Basavarajeeyam consist of 25 chapters (Prakaranas) and among them

chapter numbering 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 19 and 20 are not having parenthetical descriptions. The total numbers of herbs mentioned in the parentheses of different chapter are indicated in the table no. 1.

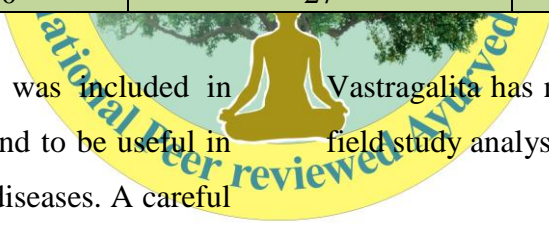
**Table 1- Number of drugs described in the parentheses of Basavarajeeyam**

Chapter No.	Total No. of herbs	No. of herbs repeated in Telugu/Sanskrit verse	No. of herbs exclusively mentioned in parentheses
1	5	5	0
6	17	15	2
7	10	10	0
11	8	8	0
13	16	14	2
14	6	6	0
15	20	19	1
17	7	6	1
18	12	11	1
21	24	22	2
22	14	14	0
23	30	27	3

Good number of herbs was included in various formulations found to be useful in the treatment of several diseases. A careful study reveals that the herbs mentioned in Basavarajeeyam are 377, out of which 336 are mentioned in Sanskrit verses, 29 herbs in Telugu verses and 12 herbs in parentheses.

Out of 12 herbs described in parentheses, the botanical identity for four herbs namely Kalimeswara, Paritu, Beetla and

Vastragalita has not been established from field study analysis.



**Table 2- List of exclusive herbs described in the parentheses of Basavarajeeyam**

Sr. No.	Telugu name	Latin Name & Family	Indication
1	Nakkapeetaku	<i>Lepidagathis cristata</i> Willd. (Acanthaceae)	Prasutivata Charmakeela
2	Teegamushini	<i>Tiliacora acuminata</i> (Lam.) Miers. (Menispermaceae)	Vrana
3	Kasaraveru	<i>Momordica tuberosa</i> Cogn. (Cucurbitaceae)	Garbhasrava
4	Karumunagagadda (Rakta Shigru)	<i>Moringa concanensis</i> Nimmo (Moringaceae)	Sheeta vata
5	Nagamalli (Yuthikaparni)	<i>Rhinacanthus communis</i> Nees (Acanthaceae)	Dadru
6	Usti (Swetabrihati)	<i>Solanum torvum</i> Linn. (Solanaceae)	Peenasa
7	Kursanivamu (Parasikayavani)	<i>Hyoscyamus nigar</i> Linn. (Solanaceae)	Luta vrana, Bhagandara, Gandamala, Meha vrana, all varieties of vrana
8	Nelatulasi (Bhutulasi)	<i>Ocimum adscendens</i> Willd. (Lamiaceae)	Netra rogas
9	Kalimeswara	Not identified	Danta vrana
10	Paritu	Not identified	Vrana
11	Beetla	Not identified	Dadru
12	Vastragalita	Not identified	Sarpavisha

**Teegamushini, Paritu & Nagamalli**

Out of 12, three drugs namely Nakkapeetaku (*Lepidagathis cristata* Willd.), Teegamushini (*Tiliacora acuminata* (Lam.) Miers.) and Kasaraveru (*Momordica tuberosa* Cogn.) were referred for the first time in parenthetical descriptions in entire work.

**Uses of drugs mentioned in parentheses**

**Nakkapeetaku**

1. Juice of Nakkapeetaku added with Pippali is administered to cure Prasuti vata (post partum convulsions).
2. The Juice of Nakkapeetaku is applied externally on Charmakeela (warts).

1. For the wounds (Vrana) caused by Sarpadamsa (snake bite) Snuhi moola, Puttapodamoola, Arkamoola, Nagamallimoola, Teegamushinimoola, Paritumoola and Tinduka pallava are made into paste, added with Eranda taila and boiled. Later Maricha, Kushta, Khadira sara one part each and Salaniryasa three parts are mixed with the above compound and applied on the effected part.

**Kasaraveru**

1. Yashtimadhu, Kasara moola and Sarkara are ground together in equal quantities and administered

along with water to arrest Garbhasrava (abortion).

### Karumunagagadda

1. Agnikumararasa is to be administered with ghee and Haridra churna or Sunthi and Guda or juice of Karumunagagadda or Shunthi and juice of Lasuna to alleviate Sheeta vata.

### Nagamalli & Vastragalita

1. The root of Nagamalli is ground with Jambheera rasa and applied externally for Dadru (ringworm).
2. Guduchimoola, Nagamallimoola, Ankolamoola, Puttapodarumoola, Vastragalitamoola, Neelamoola, Teegamushinimoola and Maricha are ground with water and administered to cure Mandala Sarpavisha (snake bite by mandala snake).

### Usti

1. The taila prepared with the kalka of Bhringaraja, Bimbi, Nirgundi, Ardraka, Vasa, Haridra, Usti, Dumparasna (Rasna), Maricha and Shunthi should be instilled into the nostrils to alleviate Peenasa (chronic rhinitis).

### Kursanivamu

1. One tola of Rasakarpoor is mixed with Jatiphala. Jati-kosha, Pippali, Yavani, Parasika yavani in equal quantities and should be pounded with Ushnodaka. Prepared medicine in the form of pills should be administered for a period of two mandalas (80 days) in the treatment of Luta vrana (wounds

due to poisonous spider), Bhagandara (fistula in ano), Gandamala (cervical tubercular lymphadenopathy), Meha vrana (diabetes wounds) and all varieties of Vranas (ulcers). During the treatment, patient should follow bland diet.

### Nelatulasi

1. Guduchi, Bhringaraja, Nimbi, Tulasi, Bhutulasi and Matsyakshi are pounded and juice is expressed. This juice is added with equal quantity of ghee and medicine is prepared according to Sneha kalpana. When applied through the nostrils, this will remove Netra rogas (eye diseases).

1. The paste of bark of Kalimeswara should be administered internally and externally to relieve Danta vrana (dental caries).

1. The root of Beetla is made into paste along with Kanji and applied on Dadru.

The drug Nakkapeetaku (*Lepidagathis cristata*) is indicated repeatedly for Charmakeela (cha 6, 18, 22) can be considered as new herb introduced by Basavaraju. He has also mentioned two new drugs, namely Kasara (*Momordica tuberosa*) and Teegamusini (*Tiliacora acuminata*) in the treatment of Vandhyatwa (15<sup>th</sup> chapter) and Vrana (23<sup>rd</sup>

chapter) respectively. The vernaculars-Doggali for Meghanada (*Amaranthus viridis*) and Puttapodaru or Puttapoda for Meshasringi (*Gymnema sylvestre*) are mentioned only in parenthetical descriptions while the vernaculars Chirri and Podapatri are mentioned in Sanskrit as well as Telugu verses for these two drugs. In spite of repeated enquiries during our field study, we have not found the botanical sources of the herbs viz., Kalimeswara, Paritu, Beetla and Vastragalita. Further study is needed for the identification of these four herbs described in the parenthetical descriptions of Basavarajeeyam. Certain recipes consisting of animal substances like goat's hair (Murccha roga chikitsa), dried skin of Bandicoot (Arsha chikitsa), Hastidanta (Indralupta chikitsa) and human hair (Mushika visha chikitsa) are also mentioned in the parentheses.

The fact that Basavaraju belonged to Andhra region is revealed by the touch and tone of nativity one can feel in the Telugu verses found in Basavarajeeyam. The herbs introduced by him in Telugu verses as well in parenthetical descriptions clearly indicate that he enriched the Ayurvedic Materia Medica through his outstanding contributions. A careful study of the herbs mentioned in Basavarajeeyam reveals that the total number of herbs in the text is 377, out of which 336 are mentioned in Sanskrit verses, 29 herbs in Telugu verses and 12 herbs in parentheses. Out of 12 drugs described in parentheses, three drugs namely Nakkapeetaku (*Lepidagathis cristata* Willd.), Teegamushini (*Tiliacora acuminata* (Lam.) Miers.) and Kasaraveru (*Momordica tuberosa* Cogn.) should be considered as extrapharmacopial classical drugs as they were not included in Ayurvedic pharmacopeia of India.

## CONCLUSION

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