

A Brief Review of Synonyms and Pharmacotherapeutical characteristics of Musta (*Cyperus rotundus* Linn.) in Kosha and Nighantu

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Abstract:

*The classical texts provide a massive scope for research in order to explore the therapeutic applications of a substance in different regions & era. The Indian materia medica of medicinal science is especially rich and form backbone of all indigenous system of medicine. A drug can be studied from Vedic literature and own wards. It is believed that each Samhita has its own Nighantu for the purpose of description of its materia medica. Musta is a drug extensively mentioned in trites of Ayurveda, making it an important drug to use in various diseases. Botanically it is identified as *Cyperus rotundus* Linn. of Cyperaceae family. Review of Musta in various Nighantu enable us for further exploration of its properties and uses. As the plant grow excessively in environment of Indian subcontinent, the use of this plant also become convenient and cost effective. In present article, review of Musta is done in Nighantu to document its properties and to seek its scope for newer approach.*

Keywords: Musta, *Cyperus rotundus* Linn., Nighantu.

Introduction:

Medicinal plants are generous and well recognized source of traditional as well as modern medicine. The Indian materia medica of medicinal science is especially rich and form backbone of all indigenous system of medicine. In India, approximately 70 percent of the population is relying on medicinal plants, making the intensive study about them. The Nighantu literature is as ancient as Ayurvedic classical texts & it is supposed to having Nighantu with each Samhita. The word Nighantu is derived from term Nigama, where the etymology of term Nigama is to reveal the secret meaning of words. In Ayurveda, Nighantu find their place as glossary, a collection of synonyms of medicinal substances, giving out their definite identification, properties and uses. That's why, Nighantu become the important source for study of medicinal plants. Musta is one of the famous and extensively used herb in Ayurveda. Botanically it is identified as *Cyperus rotundus* Linn. of Cyperaceae family. There are some other identified species by the name and its type are *C. esculentus* Linn^[1], *C. scariosus* R. Br. and *C. pangorei* Rottl^[2]. The used part of it is root tuber and

used especially in ailments of Kapha Dosha, Fever, worms and ailments of digestive system. In present article, review of Musta is done in Nighantu to document its properties and to seek its scope for newer approach.

Material:

1. **Amarakosha (5th Century A.D.):** This is written by Amara Sinha. Musta has been mentioned here in Vanaushadhi varga of Bhumyadi kand. In this Kosha, only synonyms are given which are as follows- Golomi, Shatavirya, Gandali, Shakulakshaka, Kuruvinda and synonyms of Megha^[3].
2. **Saushruta Nighantu (6th Century A.D.):** In Saushruta Nighantu, Musta has been described in Vachadiand Mustadi Gana. Ghana, Bhadramusta, Kolakasheruka, Gangeyi and Varamusta are the synonym of it. ^[4]
3. **Ashtanga Nighantu (8th Century A.D.):** In this Nighantu, Musta has been described in Vachadi& Mustadi Gana. Gangeyi, Kuruvinda, Devahva, Bhadramustaka and synonyms of Jalada are the synonym of it.^[5]
4. **Dhanvantari Nighantu (10th Century A.D.):** In this Nighantu, Musta has been placed in Guduchyadi Varga and Mishrakadi varga. Ambudhara, Megha, Ghana, Rajakasheruka, Bhadramusta, Varaha, Abda, Gangeya, Kuruvindaka, Jimuta, Varsha, Dhvankshi, Jalada, Balahaka, Nadeya, Pindamusta and Nagara have been given as its synonym. Regarding its properties, it has been said as Tikta and Kashaya in Rasa, Shitain Virya; Kapha and Rakta dosha Nashaka. It is indicated in Pitta jvara, Atisara, Trishna and Krimi.^[6]
5. **Shadrassa Nighantu/ Abhidhana Ratnamala (11th Century A.D.):** In this Nighantu, Musta has been placed in Kashaya dravya skandha and Kuruvinda, Abda, Gangeyi, Musta, Rajakasheruka are synonym given to it.^[7]
6. **Shodhala Nighantu (12th Century A.D.):** In this Nighantu, Musta has been described in Guduchyadi varga. The following synonyms are seen in Shodhala Nighantu i.e Pindamusta, Nagara, Bhadramustaka, Gangeya, Nadeya, Kuruvinda, Varshabha, Aksha, Varaha, Kroda, Rajakasheruka and synonyms of Megha. Regarding its properties; it has been said as Tikta, Katu in Rasa; mitigates Kapha Dosh; indicated in Grahi and Pachana Karma, Shleshma Shoshana, Pittaja Trishna, Daha and Jvara.^[8]
7. **Hridayadipaka Nighantu (13th Century A.D.):** Nighantukara has placed this drug in Dvipada Varga. Gangeyi, Bhadramusta, Abda, Ambhoda, Ghana and Ambuda are its synonym.^[9]
8. **Madanapala Nighantu (14th Century A.D.):** In this Nighantu, Musta has been present in Abhayadi Varga. Following are the synonym of Musta –Varidhara, Musta, synonyms of Megha, Kuruvindaka, Varaha, Abda, Ghana, Bhadrmusta, Rajakasheruka, Pindamusta, Vishadhvanishi and Nagara. Regarding its properties, it has been said as Katu in Vipaka; Shita in Virya; Tikta and Kashaya in Rasa. It is indicated in Dipana karma, Pacana karma, Krimi, Pitta- Rakta- Kaphaja vyadhi, Trishna and Jvara.^[10]
9. **Raja Nighantu (14th Century A.D.):** Musta is included in Pippalyadi varga in this Nighantu. Bhadra, Varida, Ambhoda, Megha, Jimuta, Abda, Nirada, Abhra, Ghana, Gangeya, Bhadrmusta, Varahi, Gunja, Granthi, Bhadrakasi, Kasheruka, Krodeshta, Kuruvinda, Sugandhi, Granthila, Hima, Vanya, Rajakasheruka and Kacchottha are the synonyms of Musta as found in this Nighantu. It is Shita in Virya; Kashaya and Tikta in Rasa and indicated in Pittaja jvara, Kaphaja vyadhi and Sangrahani.^[11]
10. **Sarasvati Nighantu (14th Century A.D.):** Musta has been placed in Chandanadi varga and Ambudhara, Megha, Gangeya, Kuruvindaka, Bhadramusta, Gandali and Shakulakshaka are the synonym given to it.^[12]

- 11. Kaiyadeva Nighantu (15th Century A.D.):** In this Nighantu, Musta is described in Aushadhi Varga with the following synonyms: Ambhoda, Ghana, Gangeyi, Kuruvindaka, Bhadramusta, Varaha, Abda, Pithara, Pindamusta, Purnakoshtha, Bhadrahansa, Prachya and Rajakasheruka. Regarding its properties, it has been said as Kashaya and Tikta in Rasa; Grahi, Dipana and Pachana in Guna; Shita in Virya and Katu in Vipaka. Here, Musta has been mentioned for various disorders of Kapha- Pitta- Rakta doshaja vyadhi, Jvara, Aruchi and Jantu.^[13]
- 12. Bhavaprakasha Nighantu(16th Century A.D.):** Musta has been described in Karpuradi Varga. Musta, Kuruvinda and synonyms of Megha are also said as its synonyms. In this Nighantu, the second one is told as Nagaramustaka which have been given following synonyms – Krodakaseruka, Bhadramusta and Gundra. It is Katu, Tikta and Kashaya in Rasa; Shita in Virya; Agni-dipaka and Pachaka. It is indicated in Kapha -pitta- rakta vyadhi, Trishna, Jvara, Aruchi and Krimi.^[14]
- 13. Priya Nighantu (20th Century A.D.):** Musta has described in Shatapushpadi varga. Synonyms of Magha are said as its synonyms. It is Tikta and Katu in Rasa; Grahi, Dipana and Pachana; and indicated in Jvara, Daha, Aruchi, Vamana and Grahani.^[15]

Table-1: Comparison of Synonyms of Musta in mentioned Nighantu:

S.N.	Synonyms	Amarakosha	Saushruta N.	Ashtanga N.	Dhanvantari N.	Ñadrasa N.	Shodhala N.	Hridayadipaka	Madanapala N	Raja N.	Sarasvati N.	Kaiyadeva N.	Bhavapraksha	Priya N.
1	Golomi	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	Shatavirya	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	Gandali	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
4	Shakulakshaka	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
5	Kuruvinda	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-
6	Ghana	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	-
7	Bhadramusta	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-
8	Kolakasheruka	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Gangeya	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-
10	VaraMusta	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	Gangeyi	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
12	Devahva	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	Bhadramustaka	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
14	Ambudhara	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
15	Megha	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-
16	Rajakasheruka	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-
17	Varaha	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-
18	Abda	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	-
19	Kuruvindaka	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-

20	Jimuta	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
21	Varsha	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22	Dhvankshi	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23	Jalada	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24	Balahaka	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	Nadeya	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26	Pindamusta	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-
27	Nagara	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
28	Varshabha	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29	Aksha	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30	Varaha	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31	Kroda	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32	Ambhoda	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-
33	Ambuda	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	Varidhara	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	Vishadvamshi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
36	Bhadra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
37	Varida	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
38	Nirada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
39	Abhra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
40	Bhadrmusta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
41	Varahi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
42	Gunja	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
43	Granthi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
44	Bhadrakashi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
45	Kasheruka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
46	Krodeshta	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
47	Sugandhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
48	Granthila	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
49	Vanya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
50	Kacchhottha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
51	Hima	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
52	Pithara	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
53	Purnakoshtha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
54	Bhadrahansa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
55	Pracya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
56	Krodakaseruka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
57	Gundra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-

Table-2: Comparison of Guna-dharma (characteristics) of Musta in Nighantu:

Text	Rasa	Guna	Vipaka	Virya	Dosha prabhava	Vyadhi prabhva
D.N.	Tikta, Kashaya	-	-	Shita	Pacifies Kapha-Rakta	Pitta jvara, Atisara, Trishna and Krimi
So.N.	Tikta	-	Katu	-	Pacifies Kapha	Grahi, Pachana
M.N.	Tikta, Kashaya	-	Katu	Shita	Pacifies Kapha-Rakta	Krimi, Pitta-Rakta- Kaphaja vyadhi, Trishna and Jvara.
R.N.	Tikta, Kashaya	-	-	Shita	-	Pittaja jvara, Kaphaja vyadhi and Sangrahani.
K.N.	Tikta, Kashaya	-	Katu	Shita	Pacifies Kapha-Pitta- Rakta	Jvara, Aruchi and Jantu.
B.N.	Katu, Tikta, Kashaya	-	Katu	Shita	-	Trishna, Jvara, Aruchi and Krimi
P.N.	Tikta, Katu	-	-	-	-	Jvara, Daha, Aruchi, Vamana and Grahani.

Discussion: History of a drug can be studied from Vedic literature and own wards. The ancient trites are thesaurus for the knowledge of medicinal herbs, having a proper information about identification and pharmacotherapeutics of herbs. Although, sometimes there exists variation in description of a single drug indicating the texts belonged to different places and different time periods. This makes essential for us to compare the information concealed in these trites on a single platform considering their time and place of composing. Regarding Musta, its pharmacotherapeutic properties can be finalized by reviewing Nighantu that its Rasa is Tikt, Kashaya & Katu; Vipaka is Katu; Virya is Shita and Dosh prabhava is Kapha- pitta-shamaka. These characteristics justify its indication in Atisara, Trishna, Jvara, Daha, Aruchi, Vamana, Grahani and Krimi. Thus, the study of synonyms of Musta in various Nighantu provide a definite idea about its properties and uses.

Conclusion:

Present study reveals that with the help of assessment of classical literature, we may determine the therapeutic value of a drug very accurately and add welfare to human being by using them. By the help of analytical review from different Nighantu, the pharmacotherapeutic properties of Musta are determined. Musta is a drug extensively mentioned in great treatise of Ayurveda, making it an important drug to use in various diseases. The present article gives the already proven indications of easily available plant drug to provide base for further researches and to make it an effective drug in medicinal field.

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