



REVIEW ARTICLE

A Review on *Pramehahara Dravya* of *RajaNighantu*

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ABSTRACT

Background: *Nighantus* plays an important role in Ayurveda as they give knowledge about herbo-mineral drugs and describe their properties in easy manner. There are many drugs described in *Brihatrayee* and *Laghutrayee* which show *Pramehahara* effects. After *Samhita* period, many *Nighantus* came. *RajaNighantu* as per name is the raja of all *Nighantus*. There are 23 *Varga*'s in *RajaNighantu*. *Prameha* is the *Santarpana Janya Vyadhi*. Twenty types of *Prameha* are described in *Charaka Samhita*, which includes 10 types of *Kaphaj Prameha*, six types of *Pittaj Prameha*, and four types of *Vataj Prameha*. Diabetes mellitus can correlate with *Madhumeha*, which is a type of *Vataj Prameha*.

Purpose: This study's goal is to compile a list of *RajaNighantu*'s beneficial herbs for *Prameha/DM*.

Materials and Methods: Journals, the internet, and other appropriate ayurvedic and modern literatures were used in addition to *RajaNighantu* to gather knowledge on the subject.

Results and Discussion: *RajaNighantu* described 51 *dravyas* for the treatment of *Prameha*. Among them 37 *Audbhida dravya*, seven *Parthiva dravya*, and four *Jangam dravya* as *Pramehahara*. Apart from these, *Shritisita jala*, *Puranaguda*, and *Madhavi madya* are also described as *Pramehahara*. According to the *Rasa*, 15 had *Madhur rasa*, 13 had *Tikta rasa*, seven had *Katu rasa*, four had *Kashaya rasa*, one had *Amla rasa*, and one had *Lavan rasa*, respectively.

1. INTRODUCTION

Diabetes mellitus (DM) describes a collection of related metabolic disorders that are characterized by hyperglycemia. Genetics and environmental factors combine intricately to generate multiple kinds of DM. Reduced insulin secretion, decreased glucose utilization, and increased glucose production are some of the factors that contribute to hyperglycemia, depending on the etiology of the diabetes. The metabolic dysregulation linked to DM results in secondary pathophysiologic alterations in various organ systems, which significantly impact both the diabetic patient and the health-care system.^[1] India is becoming the global hub for diabetes due to the rising prevalence of this illness.

Based on their place of origin, *Prameha* is divided into two categories: *Sahaja*, which is congenital, and *Apathyanimittaja*, which is caused by over eating and poor lifestyle.^[2] *Prameha* is mentioned among the

Astamahagadas^[3] in Ayurvedic classics. Diabetes can be co-related with *Prameha* which is characterized by impaired blood glucose metabolism. According to Ayurvedic Literature *Prameha* is the *Santarpana Janya Vyadhi*,^[4] it is mainly characterized by *Prabhutha avila mutrata*^[5] (Polyuria), *Karapada daha*^[6] (burning sensation over foot), and *Pipasa*^[7] (Polydipsia). There are many *dravyas* like- *Nimb*^[8] (*Azadirachta indica* A. Juss), *Katuki*^[9] (*Picrorhiza kurroa* Royle ex Benth), *Karvellaka*^[10] (*Momordica charantia* Linn.), *Bijaka*^[11] (*Pterocarpus marsupium* Roxb.), *Saptchakra*^[12] (*Salacia chinensis* Linn.) etc. shows *Pramehahara* effect.

As a descendant of the Kashmiri leaders, Sh. Narhari Pandit wrote "*RajaNighantu*." As the son of Iswar Suri and a devoted follower of Lord Shiva, Narhari Pandit ruled over Kashmir. Being proficient in 18 languages, he was a great scholar, writer, physician, and administrator. Narhari himself described him in a number of shlokas at different points. When the writer realized that this *Nighantu* could be superior to other *Nighantus* because of the work he had done on it, he decided to rename it *RajaNighantu*. Originally, it was known as "*Abhidhan*

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Cudamani" or "Dravyabhidhan-gana-Sangraha." This *Nighantu* was proclaimed to have many unique features, such as being better, and to address the shortcomings of the previous *Nighantu*.^[13]

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

In addition to *RajaNighantu*, relevant Ayurvedic literature, modern literature, periodicals, and online media were also used to gather data on the subject. The following herbs were selected from *RajaNighantu*. The following is a list of the herbs with *Pramehaghna/Mehaghna* activities from *RajaNighantu* along with their botanical name, family, *Dosh-Karma*, *Guna-Karma*, and other information [Table 1].

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Fifty-one medications were listed in *RajaNighantu* for the treatment of *Prameha*; these were divided into three *Guduchyadivarga*, four *Shatahvadivarga*, seven *Parpatadivarga*, four *Pippalyadivarga*, six *Mulkadivarga*, one *Shalmalyadivarga*, three *Prabhadravdivarga* and 0 *Karaviradivarga*, three *Amradivarga*, and three *Chandanadivarga*, *Suvarnadivarga* – six, *Paaniyavarga* – three, *Kshiradivarga* – three, *Shalyadivarga* – three, and *Mamsyadivarga* – 1 [Table 2].
- Among the 51 *Dravyas* that were identified, according to the *Rasa*, 15 had *Madhur rasa*, 13 had *Tikta rasa*, seven had *Katu rasa*, four had *Kashaya rasa*, one had *Amla rasa*, and one had *Lavan rasa*, respectively [Table 3 and Figure 1].
- It was found that 19 *dravyas* have *Ushnavirya*, 18 have *Sitavirya*, and one has *natiushnavirya* based on the *Virya* of the discovered *dravyas* [Table 4 and Figure 2].
- It has been noticed, according to *karma* on *dosha*, among the 51 *dravyas*, three are *Vatahara*, seven are *Pittahara*, four are *Kaphahara*, five are *Kaphavatahara*, four are *Kaphapittahara*, three *Vatapittahara*, and three are *Tridoshahara*, correspondingly [Table 5].
- There are references to 37 *Audhbhida dravya*, seven *Parthiva dravya*, and four *Jangam dravya* as *Pramehahara*. Apart from these, *Shritisita jal*, *Puranaguda*, and *Madhavi madya* are also described as *Pramehahara* [Table 6].

4. CONCLUSION

Narhari Pandit in *RajaNighantu* has described 51 *dravyas* having *Pramehahara* property. Most of them are herbs. Besides *Vida Lavana*, *Shritisita jala*, *Puranaguda*, *Madhavi madya*, *Aavi dugdha/sheep's milk*, *Takra*, *Aavi mutra/sheep urine*, *Chagpota mamsa/Goat's meat* and six *dravyas* in *Suvarnadivarga* mentioned as *Pramehahara*. Clinical connection of the medications listed is necessary because the study is theoretical only.

5. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Nil

6. AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

All the authors contributed equally in design and execution of the article.

7. FUNDING

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8. ETHICAL APPROVALS

This study is not required ethical clearance as it is a review study.

9. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

10. DATA AVAILABILITY

This is an original manuscript and all data are available for only review purposes from principal investigators.

11. PUBLISHERS NOTE

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Table 1: List of *Pramehahara dravyas* in *RajaNighantu*

S. No.	Sanskrit name	Botanical name	Family	Dosha karma	Guna	Reference of Varga and Shloka no.
1.	<i>Guduchi</i>	<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>	Menispermaceae	-	Tikta Kashya Ushnavirya	<i>Guduchyadivarga</i> , ^[14] 17
2.	<i>Murva</i>	<i>Maerua arenaria</i>	Capparaceae	<i>Kaphavatahrita</i>	Tikta Kashya Ushnavirya	<i>Guduchyadivarga</i> , ^[14] 21
3.	<i>Gopalkarkati</i>	<i>Cucumis utilissimus</i>	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Pittanashini</i>	Madhur Sitavirya	<i>Guduchyadivarga</i> , ^[14] 105
4.	<i>Shalparni</i>	<i>Desmodium gangeticum</i>	Leguminosae (papillionaceae)	<i>Vatadoshanuta</i>	Tikta Ushnavirya	<i>Shatahvadivarga</i> , ^[15] 20
5.	<i>Laghu Gokshur</i>	<i>Tribulus tarestis</i>	Zygophylaceae	-	Madhur Sitavirya	<i>Shatahvadivarga</i> , ^[15] 43
6.	<i>Brihat Gokshur</i>	<i>Pedalium murex</i>	Padaliaceae	-	Madhur Sitavirya	<i>Shatahvadivarga</i> , ^[15] 43
7.	<i>Dhanvyasa</i>	<i>Fagonia Arabica</i>	Zygophylaceae	<i>Vatapittaghani</i>	Katu Tikta Ushnavirya	<i>Shatahvadivarga</i> , ^[15] 54
8.	<i>Mhashravani (Badi Mundi)</i>	<i>Sphaeranthus indicus</i>	Asteraceae	-	Tikta Ushnavirya	<i>Parpatadivarga</i> , ^[16] 21
9.	<i>Pashan bhedha</i>	<i>Bergenia ligulata</i>	Saxifragaceae	-	Madhur Tikta Sitavirya	<i>Parpatadivarga</i> , ^[16] 40
10.	<i>Vatapatri</i>	<i>Saxifrage ligulata</i>	Saxifragaceae	-	Sitavirya	<i>Parpatadivarga</i> , ^[16] 42
11.	<i>Shweta Shila</i>	-	-	<i>Pittapharka</i>	Madhur Sitavirya	<i>Parpatadivarga</i> , ^[16] 44
12.	<i>Rudanti</i>	<i>Cressa cretica</i>	Convolvulaceae	<i>Kaphahara</i>	Katu Tikta Ushnavirya	<i>Parpatadivarga</i> , ^[16] 61
13.	<i>Sthal padmini</i>	<i>Ionidium suffruticosum</i>	Violaceae	-	Tikta Sitavirya	<i>Parpatadivarga</i> , ^[16] 83
14.	<i>Bhumyamlaki</i>	<i>Phyllanthus niruri</i>	Phyllanthaceae	-	Kashaya Amla Sitavirya	<i>Parpatadivarga</i> , ^[16] 93
15.	<i>Vida Lavan</i>	-	-	<i>Vatanashnam</i>	Lavana Ushnavirya	<i>Pippalyadivarga</i> , ^[17] 97
16.	<i>Manjishta</i>	<i>Rubia cordifolia</i>	Rubiaceae	-	Madhur Kashaya Ushnavirya	<i>Pippalyadivarga</i> , ^[17] 194
17.	<i>Haridra</i>	<i>Curcuma longa</i>	Zingiberaceae	<i>Kaphavatanuta</i>	Katu Tikta Ushnavirya	<i>Pippalyadivarga</i> , ^[17] 199
18.	<i>Daruharidra</i>	<i>Berberis aristata</i>	Berberidaceae	-	Tikta Katu Ushnavirya	<i>Pippalyadivarga</i> , ^[17] 202
19.	<i>Vansha</i>	<i>Bombusa arundinacea</i>	Rosaceae	<i>Pittanashana</i>	Amla Kashaya Sitavirya	<i>Mulkadivarga</i> , ^[18] 36
20.	<i>Pindalu</i>	-	-	-	Madhur Sitavirya	<i>Mulkadivarga</i> , ^[18] 70
21.	<i>Varahikanda</i>	<i>Diosorea bulbifera</i>	Dioscoreaceae	<i>Pittakaphapha</i>	Tikta Katu	<i>Mulkadivarga</i> , ^[18] 88
22.	<i>Kshir vidari</i>	<i>Ipomoea digitate</i>	Convolvulaceae	-	Madhur Amla Kashaya Tikta	<i>Mulkadivarga</i> , ^[18] 104

(Contd...)

Table 1: (Continued)

S. No.	Sanskrit name	Botanical name	Family	Dosha karma	Guna	Reference of Varga and Shloka no.
23.	<i>Chilli shaka</i>	-	-	<i>Shleshmpittanuta</i>	-	<i>Mulkadivarga</i> , ^[18] 127
24.	<i>Kushmanda</i>	<i>Benincasa hispida</i>	Cucurbitaceae	<i>Pittapha</i>	-	<i>Mulkadivarga</i> , ^[18] 161
25.	<i>Sehunda</i>	<i>Euphorbia nerifolia</i>	Euphorbiaceae	-	<i>Ushnavirya</i>	<i>Shalmalyadivarga</i> , ^[19] 51
26.	<i>Ashmantak</i>	<i>Coleus aromaticus</i>	Lamiaceae	<i>Pittahara</i>	<i>Madhur</i> <i>Kashaya</i> <i>Sitavirya</i>	<i>Prabhadrdivarga</i> , ^[20] 41
27.	<i>Karnikar</i>	-	-	-	<i>Tikta</i> <i>Katu</i> <i>Ushnavirya</i>	<i>Prabhadrdivarga</i> , ^[20] 43
28.	<i>Aragwadha</i>	<i>Cassia fistula</i>	Leguminosae	<i>Kaphanashan</i>	<i>Madhur</i> <i>Sitavirya</i>	<i>Prabhadrdivarga</i> , ^[20] 47
29.	<i>Bhallataka</i>	<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i>	Anacardiaceae	<i>Kaphavatanashan</i>	<i>Katu</i> <i>Tikta</i> <i>Kashaya</i> <i>Ushnavirya</i>	<i>Amradivarga</i> , ^[21] 68
30.	<i>Rajadan</i>	<i>Mimusops hexendra</i>	Sapotaceae	<i>Pittahara</i>	<i>Madhur</i>	<i>Amradivarga</i> , ^[21] 72
31.	<i>Aaruka (Allu bhkara)</i>	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Rosaceae	-	<i>Madhur</i> <i>Sitavirya</i>	<i>Amradivarga</i> , ^[21] 99
32.	<i>Devdaru</i>	<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Pinaceae	<i>Kaphavatajita</i>	<i>Tikta</i> <i>Ushnavirya</i>	<i>Chandanadivarga</i> , ^[22] 29
33.	<i>Jayphala</i>	<i>Myristica fragrance</i>	Myristicaceae	-	<i>Kashaya</i> <i>Katu</i> <i>Ushnavirya</i>	<i>Chandanadivarga</i> , ^[22] 78
34.	<i>Sprikka</i>	<i>Anisomeles malabarica</i>	Lamiaceae	<i>Kaphanashaka</i>	<i>Tikta</i> <i>Kashaya</i> <i>Sitavirya</i>	<i>Chandanadivarga</i> , ^[22] 128
35.	<i>Vanga</i>	<i>Stanum</i>	-	-	<i>Sitavirya</i>	<i>Suvarnadivarga</i> , ^[23] 22
36.	<i>Vartloha</i>	-	-	<i>Kaphahrita,</i> <i>Pittashamaka</i>	<i>Katu</i> <i>Tikta</i> <i>Sitavirya</i>	<i>Suvarnadivarga</i> , ^[23] 36
37.	<i>Mandur</i>	-	-	<i>Vatanuta</i>	<i>Madhur</i> <i>Katu</i> <i>Ushnavirya</i>	<i>Suvarnadivarga</i> , ^[23] 42
38.	<i>Loha</i>	-	-	<i>Vatapittakaphapaham</i>	<i>Tikta</i> <i>Ushnavirya</i>	<i>Suvarnadivarga</i> , ^[23] 45
39.	<i>Shilajatu</i>	<i>Asphaltum panjabium</i>	-	-	<i>Tikta</i> <i>Katu</i> <i>Ushnavirya</i>	<i>Suvarnadivarga</i> , ^[23] 73
40.	<i>Sfatika (fitkari)</i>	<i>Alueminium sulphur</i>	-	-	<i>Katu</i> <i>Kashaya</i>	<i>Suvarnadivarga</i> , ^[23] 118
41.	<i>Shritisita jala</i>	-	-	-	-	<i>Paaniyavarga</i> , ^[24] 58
42.	<i>Puranaguda</i>	-	-	<i>Tridoshapaham</i>	-	<i>Paaniyavarga</i> , ^[24] 101
43.	<i>Madhavi madya</i>	-	-	<i>Pittavatahrita</i>	<i>Madhur</i> <i>Natiushana</i>	<i>Paaniyavarga</i> , ^[24] 146
44.	<i>Aavi dugdha</i> (sheep's milk)	-	-	<i>Kaphapittahara</i>	-	<i>Kshiravarga</i> , ^[25] 14
45.	<i>Takra</i>	-	-	<i>Tridoshashaman</i>	-	<i>Kshiravarga</i> , ^[25] 57
46.	<i>Aavi mutra</i> (sheep's urine)	-	-	-	<i>Tikta</i> <i>Katu</i> <i>Ushnavirya</i>	<i>Kshiravarga</i> , ^[25] 101
47.	<i>Yava (Barley)</i>	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	Gramineae	<i>Kaphapaham</i>	<i>Kashaya</i> <i>Madhur</i> <i>Sitavirya</i>	<i>Shalyadivarga</i> , ^[26] 70
48.	<i>Venuja yava</i>	-	-	<i>Pittapaham</i>	<i>Kashaya</i> <i>Madhur</i> <i>Sitavirya</i>	<i>Shalyadivarga</i> , ^[26] 72
49.	<i>Chanaka</i>	<i>Cicer arietinvm</i>	Fabaceae	<i>Vatapittakrita</i>	<i>Madhur</i>	<i>Shalyadivarga</i> , ^[26] 85
50.	<i>Tillkitta</i>	<i>Sesamum indicum</i>	Pedaliaceae	<i>Kaphavatanuta</i>	<i>Katu</i>	<i>Shalyadivarga</i> , ^[26] 116
51.	<i>Chagpota mama</i> (Goat meat)	-	-	-	<i>Sitavirya</i>	<i>Mamsyadivarga</i> , ^[27] 39

Table 2: No of dravyas in *Vargas*

S. No.	Varga	No of drugs
1.	<i>Aanupadivarga</i>	0
2.	<i>Dharnayadivarga</i>	0
3.	<i>Guduchyadivarga</i>	3
4.	<i>Shqtahvadivarga</i>	4
5.	<i>Parpatadivarga</i>	7
6.	<i>Pippalyadivarga</i>	4
7.	<i>Mulkadivarga</i>	6
8.	<i>Shalmalyadivarga</i>	1
9.	<i>Prabhadradivarga</i>	3
10.	<i>Karaviradivarga</i>	0
11.	<i>Amradivarga</i>	3
12.	<i>Chandanadivarga</i>	3
13.	<i>Suvarnadivarga</i>	6
14.	<i>Paaniyavarga</i>	3
15.	<i>Kshiradivarga</i>	3
16.	<i>Shalyadivarga</i>	4
17.	<i>Mamsyadivarga</i>	1
18.	<i>Manushyadivarga</i>	0
19.	<i>Simhadivarga</i>	0
20.	<i>Rogadivarga</i>	0
21.	<i>Satvadivarga</i>	0
22.	<i>Mishrakvarga</i>	0
23.	<i>Ekarthadivarga</i>	0
		51

Table 3: No. of dravyas according to *Rasa*

S. No.	Rasa	Number of drugs
1.	<i>Madhura</i>	15
2.	<i>Amla</i>	1
3.	<i>Lavana</i>	1
4.	<i>Katu</i>	7
5.	<i>Tikta</i>	13
6.	<i>Kashaya</i>	4
		41

Table 4: No. of dravyas according to *Virya*

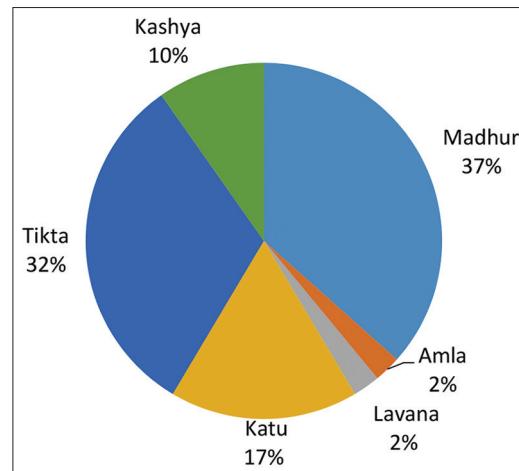
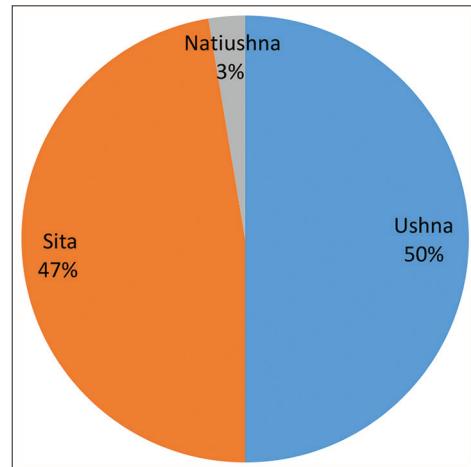
S. No.	Virya	Number of drugs
1.	<i>Ushna</i>	19
2.	<i>Sita</i>	18
3.	<i>Natiushna</i>	1
		38

Table 5: No. of dravyas according to Dosha

S. No.	Doshkarma	Number of drugs
1.	Vatadoshnuta/Vatanashanam	3
2.	Pittahara/Pittanashini/Pittapharkam/ Pittanashana/Pittapha	7
3.	Kaphahara/Kaphanashan	4
4.	Vatapittaghani	3
5.	Pittakaphapha/Shleshmpittanuta	4
6.	Kaphavatahrita/Kaphavatanuta/ Kaphavatanashan/Shleshmavatajita	5
7.	Tridoshashaman	3
		29

Table 6: Dravyas as per their origin

S. No.	Dravya type	No.
1.	Jangam dravya	4
2.	Audhbhida dravya	37
3.	Parthiva dravya	7
		48

**Figure 1:** Rasa**Figure 2:** Viyya