

TYPES OF RATS AND ITS ANTIDOTE FOR SIDDHA SYSTEM – REVIEW

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ABSTRACT:

Rat bite was first described in India more than 2300 years ago. Rats are omnivorous. They are found throughout the order Rodentia. In siddha text, rat bite is described as eli kadi. In case of rat bite, bitten part becomes ulcerated and it becomes fatal. They cause plague and fatal disease like severe fever and pulmonary disease. After this various drugs paste should be applied on bite site. In this review, they are describe about eighteen types of rats, signs and symptoms of their bite and its treatment is described by Nanju murivu nool and Siddha toxicology.

KEY POINTS: Rat bite, Antidote, Siddha medicine.

INTRODUCTION:

Rat bite was first described in India more than 2300 years ago. Rats are omnivorous. They are found throughout the order Rodentia. Rats are multiply quickly and will do significant damage to your home through gnawing activity. They will also contaminated food and other materials through the dropping they leave behind. Rats are carriers of both bacteria but rarely show sign of illness. The majority cases are due to the animal bite. It can also be transmitted throughout food or water that is contaminated with rat feces or urine. In siddha text, rat bite is described as eli kadi. In case of rat bite, bitten part becomes ulcerated and it becomes fatal. They cause plague and fatal disease like severe fever and pulmonary disease. After this various drugs paste should be applied on bite site. Most people get rat bite through contact with urine or secretions from the mouth, eye or nose of an infected animals and most common occur through a bite.

Scientific Classification:

Kingdom	:	Animalia
Phylum	:	Chordata
Class	:	Mammalia
(Unranked)	:	Glires
Order	:	Rodentia
Brown rat	:	Rattus norvegicus

MICROBIOLOGY:

S. moniliformis — *S. moniliformis* is a pleomorphic fastidious branching gram-negative bacillus. It stains irregularly and can be mistaken for gram-positive pleomorphic rods. The bacteria are microaerophilic; they require specific media for isolation (10 to 20 percent serum) and incubation in a 5 to 10 percent CO₂ environment. Sodium polyanethol sulfonate (SPS), an anticoagulant added to most aerobic blood culture bottles, inhibits growth of *S. moniliformis*. However, anaerobic culture bottles, resin bead culture systems, and trypticase soy agar and broth may demonstrate growth since they do not contain SPS.

TYPES OF RATS:

Eighteen kinds of rats are mentioned in Siddha texts:

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|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. Pundaram | 10. Samalam |
| 2. Kabilam | 11. Arunam |
| 3. Suvedam | 12. Rasalam |
| 4. Kashaya Dentham | 13. Asitham |
| 5. Unthuru | 14. Krishnam |
| 6. Kokilam | 15. Palini |
| 7. Kabotham | 16. Sabalam |
| 8. Subedam | 17. Sikuram |
| 9. Aritham | 18. Kunagam |

Further, according to another Siddha school of thought there are another eighteen varieties, viz.,

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|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Kaththiri | 10. Veenkeli |
| 2. Maniyan | 11. Ularpeli |
| 3. Semmukkan | 12. Thungeli |
| 4. Valli | 13. Pudaieli |
| 5. Kurattai | 14. Eraippeli |
| 6. Karunkat Thalaiyan | 15. Senkannan |
| 7. Vida Eli | 16. Pulli |
| 8. Senthalai Muthi | 17. Kadan |
| 9. Seveli | 18. Kurukal eli |

Though the nomenclature differs, the poisonous effect wills all the rats. Apart from these, 8 other names are also found in some texts.

1. Sundeli
2. Sodeli
3. Sinaieli
4. Katteli
5. Motteli
6. Velleli
7. Kareli
8. Pereli

The following are the clinical features of rat bite.

1. Rigor
2. Hyper pyrexia
3. Intermittent fever
4. Dizziness
5. Pustules as seen in the bite of spider
6. Heaviness of head
7. Arthralgia
8. Arthritis

If the treatment is not given in the initial stage, the victim has to face dreadful consequences in phased manner.

The following signs may follow:

1. Chronic cough
2. Wheezing
3. Dyspnoea
4. Weariness
5. Squeaking sound in throat like the creaking noise of rat.

As they absorb the poison, the severity of the disease increases. Emaciation of the body, restlessness and cyanosis occur. The bitten part becomes ulcerated and it becomes fatal.

Siddha Toxicology

NOTE:

Some kind of germs are seen in the hairs of rats. They cause plague in humans. This infectious disease is transmitted to humans through dead rats. This fatal disease is marked by the swelling of lymph nodes associated with severe fever and pulmonary diseases. As the dead rats are the agents for plague, they have to be removed from the place immediately after their death.

Medicines for Rat bite :

1. The dry skin of elk is powdered and mixed with sesame oil and cow's ghee proportionately and given orally for ten days. The swelling, burning sensation and mental stress are removed if the medicine is taken as per the clinical features.
2. For the heaviness of the head and blisters all over the body, the bark and leaves of *Sterculia foetida* and the excrement of small pigeon are dried and powdered and this powder is given with ghee according to the severity.
3. *Elaeocarpus ganitrus* is ground in cow's milk, ghee is added and given to neutralize the toxic effects of rat poison.
4. To reduce the swelling equal parts of *Piper longum*, *Piper nigrum*, *Pongamia glabra* root, *Mimusops elengi* root and *Tinospora cordifolia* leaf are ground well with the juice of *Aloe vera* and given.
5. 'Orpiment' (Yellow arsenic) is ground well and kept in earthen vessel and closed with a one-holed Erthen cover. Fire is ignited and put off after sometime. The victim is made to inhale the hovering smoke.

Medicines for Rat poison:

1. Lime juice is processed in a red hot iron rod and administered orally for three days for heaviness of the head, urticaria and swelling due to rat poison.
2. A paste made of equal parts of leaves and bark of *Pavetta indica* is given in the areca-nut size with ghee. Heaviness of the head, blisters and urticarial rashes will be cured.
3. The leaves and the bark of *Butea frondosa* are ground well and given in the size of lemon fruit with butter for cough and wheezing.
4. The bark of *Alangium salvifolium* is ground well and is given in the size of a lemon with hot water.
5. Root of *Indigofera tinctoria* or *Withania somnifera* is ground with milk and given for three days.
6. To remove eight types of rat poisoning;
7.
 - i. Juice of *cassia angustifolia* - 160 ml.
 - ii. Juice of *Classia fistula* - 160ml.
 - iii. Juice of *Cleodendrum phlomoides* - 160ml.

- iv. Juice of *Mimusops hexandra* - 160ml.
- v. Latex of *Calotropis gigantean* - 160ml.
(White Species)
- vi. Juice of *Eclipta alpa* - 650ml.
- vii. Gingelly oil - 650ml.
- viii. Root powder of *Ipomoea turpethum* - 5g.

are boiled well and given respectively for consumption.

7. The root bark of *Plumbago zeylanica* is ground in goat's milk and given.
8. The root of *Withania somnifera* is ground well in the milk and given.
9. The bark of *Pongamia glabra*, *Piper nigrum*, *Allium sativum* and *Acorus calamus* are ground well in lime juice and given for chronic toxicity of rat bite.
10. Equal parts of *Zingiber officinale*, *Piper nigrum*, *Areca nut* and the bark of *Acacia Arabica* are Ground with the juice of *Aloe vera* and given.
11. The outer cortex of *Tamarindus indica* is Burnt and then

CONCLUSION:

They are describe eighteen type of rat and its bite treating in siddha system. Even today treating the poisonous cases in rat bites is a challenge to the modern medical profession. But treating such poisonous cases through the siddha system of medicines seems to be more faithful and economical. If the siddha literatures about antidotes are usefully explored, many antidotes for rat bites can be brought out.

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