



## TRADITIONAL METHOD FOR ANUKTA DRAVYA (UNDOCUMENTED PLANT) IDENTIFICATION

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### Abstract:

The knowledge about medicinally useful plants is scientifically documented, and systematically organized in Ayurveda Samhitas, Nighantus and other texts. Due to innumerability of plant species, many plant drugs were not recorded in classical treatises though they have the medicinal properties. Therefore, no any classical herbal pharmacopeia is available which enumerates all the medicinal plants. Such drugs are being utilized and practiced by the many ethnic groups. Further, many herbal drugs were introduced in India after intrusion of many other countries. Such undocumented and newly introduced herbs are not evaluated scientifically till date. Undocumented or unexplored drugs are known as Anukta Dravya (extra pharmacopeial drugs). Therefore, efforts have been made to compile the scattered references which explain the basic concepts for determination of Anukta Dravya through classical Ayurvedic method.

**Keyword:** Traditional medicine, Folk lore, Ayurvedic text, Anukta dravya (Undocumented Plant)

### Introduction

By WHO “ Traditional medicine is the sum total of the knowledge, skill, and practices based on the theories, beliefs, and experiences indigenous to different cultures, whether explicable or not, used in the maintenance of health as well as in the prevention, diagnosis, improvement or treatment of physical and mental illness.” The knowledge about medicinally useful plants is scientifically documented, and systematically organized in Ayurveda Samhitas, Nighantus and other texts. Due to innumerability of plant species, many plant drugs were not recorded in classical treatises though they have the medicinal properties. Therefore, no any classical herbal pharmacopeia is available which enumerates all the medicinal plants. Such drugs are being utilized and practiced by the many ethnic groups. Further, many herbal drugs were introduced in India after intrusion of many other countries. Such undocumented and newly introduced herbs are not evaluated scientifically till date. Undocumented or unexplored drugs are known as Anukta Dravya (extra pharmacopeial drugs).

Therefore, efforts have been made to compile the scattered references which explain the basic concepts for determination of Anukta Dravya through classical Ayurvedic method. To explore the principles regarding Anukta Dravya, texts of Brihatrayi (Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita and Ashtang Hridaya) with available commentaries, Nighantus and other literature were screened, analyzed and interpreted in the light of aim of the study.

### Materials and Methods

#### Material:

Brihatrayi with available commentaries and other literatures were referred and critically analyzed. Various scattered principles and methods providing the guideline on the evaluation of Anukta Dravya were synchronized and explored.

#### Methods:

Following criteria has been adopted to collect primary data related to Anukta Dravya

1. Documentation through folklore
2. Comprehensive survey of literature

#### Documentation through folklore

Information of Anukta dravya should be gather from direct means through field survey.

#### Comprehensive survey of literature

- Nomenclature should be done according to nighantu.
- **Pramana (Evidence):** Four kind of Pariksha also are useful for this purpose. Four kind of Pariksha (investigation method) i.e. Aptopadesha (authorities testimony), Pratyaksha (direct perception), Anumana (inference) and Yukti (logical reasoning) have been described to assess all kind of substances. Anukta Dravya also can be assessed by these methods.
- **Aptopadesha:** These are authoritative instructions based on their experience. It is said that foresters like shepherds and goatherds are acquainted with the names, forms. It has reduced confusion regarding classification and identification of a drug especially in case of unknown or folklore medicine. Nomenclature and morphological identification can be learnt from these persons and they may be considered as Apta in this regard.
- **Pratyaksha:** It is evidence based on direct observation. Organoleptic characters of

the drug such as taste, color, smell etc. can be determined through this tool.

- **Anumana:** it is the inference or indirect knowledge based on reasoning. It is also important method to determine the properties of Anukta Dravya.
- Determination of Guna through Pramana Guna includes properties of drugs responsible for drug action such as Rasa, Veerya, Vipaka, Gurvadi Gunas and Prabhava of the drug .It will also help in identification and standardization of drug. General principles of Drug action are enumerated as Rasapanchaka i.e. Rasa (taste), Guna (quality), Virya (potency), Vipaka (metabolism) and Prabhava (specific principle). Among them the first four principles are categorized under rational principles while Prabhava is designated as empirical component as its activity is inexplicable . Guna of Dravya such as Rasa, Virya, Vipaka etc. can be determined with the help of Pramana.

### Results and Discussion

No direct references regarding determination of properties of Anukta Dravya are available in classical texts. Maharshi Charaka while concluding Mahakashayas in Sutrasthana 4th chapter said that ‘the intellectual person may find out properties from new drug after the logical examination and analysis’ [1] (Sutrasthana 4/20) Again in Sutrasthana 27th chapter, he stated that the properties of drug utilized in other region may be determined by taking into account the attributes made for them by the people of that locality [1] (Sutrasthana 27/329,330). Maharshi Sushruta also opined that qualities of the substance can be determined by Rasa (taste perception) and Bhuta-guna (properties of proto-elements) [4] (Sutrasthana 46/331). Such indirect scattered references provide the clue to determine the method for the evaluation of Anukta Dravya. But further detail protocol/method needs to be evaluated.

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