



# A Review On Karkatashringi Plant

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## Abstract-

*Ayurveda* is a holistic science. In *Ayurveda* there is a description of so many plants. *Karkatashringi* is one of them. This plant has many medicinal uses. It cures many diseases, so it is called as *Shringi*. It is *Kapha Vata shamak*. It is a deciduous tree. Its height is approximately 40 feet. It has dark grey and blackish bark. Its leaves are Alternate, pinnate. Its flowers are small, reddish, uni-sexual, deciduous. Its fruits are round shaped and smooth in touch. Its galls are formed on leafy branches during autumn season by special insect named *Dasia aedifactor*. Galls are used for medicinal purpose. It's used in cough, diarrhoea, anorexia, dysentery, fever etc.

**Key words-** *Shringi, Kapha Vata shamak, Coughs*

**Introduction :-** In *Ayurveda* there is a description of many plants. *Karkatashringi* is one of them. This plant has many medicinal uses. *Karkatashringi* plant is described in *Charak Samhita, Sushruta Samhita, Ashtanga Samgraha, Astanga Hridaya, Kasyapa Samhita, Nighantu*, etc. Reference of *Karkatashringi* is well described in *Samhita kala*.

*Charak Samhita*<sup>1,2</sup>

The drug is described with many synonyms i.e. *Shringi, Kulirshringi, Kakrashingi, Karkata* etc. where it is indicated for medicinal use in various diseases. It is also described in many formulations. *Charaka* classify this drug in *Hikkanigrahan, Kasahar gana*. He put this drug in *Madhur skand*. It is mainly used as *Kasahar, Swashar*.

*Sushruta Samhita*<sup>3,4</sup>

In *Sutra Sthan* it is mentioned in *Kakoliyadi Gana*. He described *Kakoliyadi gana dravya* as *Pitta, Rakta and Vayu nashak*. It is *Jeevniye, Bringhniye* and *Vrishya*. It increases milk formation. It is used as ingredients for *Vrana ropan oil, Visharpa Roga, Galganda, Swasa, Kasa* etc.

*Astang Sangrah*<sup>5,6</sup>

In this *samhita* it is used in many formulations. It is mainly described in *Udar Roga, Jwara, Kasa, Hikka, Chhardi, Gulma, Arsha, Vibandh chikitsa* etc.

*Kasyapa Samhita*<sup>7</sup>

*Karkatashringi* has been mentioned in *Revati grah chikitsa* having synonym *Ajashringi*, making *bala tail* for *dhatrī chikitsa*, having synonym *Vishanika*. In *Khil Sthan* for making pacifying drugs having synonym *Karkatakhyā*. It is used for making *Pancakolaka* soup having synonym *Ajashringi* for treatment of fever .

**Plant Description** <sup>8,9,10,11,12</sup>

**Latin Name** - *Pistacia integerrima* Stewart ex Brandis

**Family** - Anacardiaceae

**Guna** - Laghu, Ruksha

**Rasa** - Kashay, Tikta

**Virya** - Ushna

**Vipaka** - Katu

**Karma** - Kapha Vata shamak

**Synonyms:** Crab's claw, Galls, *Kakdasīngi*, *Kakarsīngi*, *Karkatasīngi*, *Ajashringi*, *Vishanika*, *Karkatakhyā*, etc.

**Height** - 40 feet.

**Bark** - Dark grey or blackish.

**Leaves** - Alternate, pinnate, 15-23 cm long, leaflets - 4-6 pairs, acuminate, lanceolate, and sub-opposite coriaceous, 7-12 cm long.

**Flowers** - Small, reddish, unisexual, dioecious. Female flowers have long panicles.

**Fruits** - Round shaped, smooth in touch, ripe fruits are grey in colour, drupe globose and glabrous wrinkled.

**Galls-**

a.) Macroscopic -

Galls are formed on leafy branches during autumn season by special insect named *Dasia aedifactor*. Dried galls are thin-walled, generally cylindrical, tapering at the ends, greyish brown externally and reddish brown internally; each gall contains numerous dead insects, odour terebinthine, taste of galls is astringent and slightly bitter.

b) Microscopic -

Transverse section of gall shows the collapsed epidermis on both the sides, epidermal cells thin-walled, tangentially elongated, ground tissues thin-walled and oval or circular, the outer

## Chemical Constituents

Resins, tannins, b- sitosterol, tetracyclic triterpenes, pistacigerrimones A,B,C (galls); a-piene, b- piene, pistacin, amino acids, dihydromalvaacidprotein (seed), hydrocarbons, sterols, triterpenoids (seed oil), tannins (leaves, bark), camphene, dl-limonene, a-terpineol, b-terpineol, lactonicstearoptene, caprylic acid etc.

## Distribution -

North-west Himalayas between 1200-8000 feet altitude. Often cultivated in Punjab Plains. Distributed in Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. Other country such as Russia, Eastern parts of Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and Tibet.

## Propagation and Cultivation

The tree grows on hot dry slopes with shallow soil or on open rocky ground and limestone soil. It can be propagated by vegetative method and by seeds. The growth rate is moderate with an annual girth increment of 1.8 – 2 cm. For seed propagation, the mature seeds can be collected in June and sown after shade drying during June – July. Its germination takes 2- 4 weeks. Shoots are affected by the pests Chaetoptelius vestitus, Esternoborus perrisi and Pemphigus aedifactor.

## Parts Used - Shringakaar Kosh.

**Dose** - 1- 3 gram.

**Doshaghnata**- It is used in *Kaph Vata vikaar*.

It is used for *nirharan* of *Pitta*.

## Sanshthanik karma<sup>13</sup>

*Abhyantar karma*-

**Pachan Sansthan** - It is *Deepan, Vatanuloman and Grahi*.

**Shwashan Sansthan** - Due to *Tikta, Kashay* it is *Kapha nihsarak* and *Hikka nigrahan*.

**Prajanan sansthan** - It reduces inflammation and secretions from uterus.

**Temperature** - It is used in fever. It reduces body temperature.

**Bahya Karma** -It is used in *Kushta, Visharpa, Vrana* and *Dadru*.

**Satmikaran** - Due to *Tikta Ushna* it is *Katu Paushtik*. It increases strength of the body.

## Uses described in different samhita

### Charak

1. *Vataj Kasa* – *Karkatashringi churna* taken with oil relieves *Kasa*. ( *Chi*. 23 - 48)

2. *Kaphajanya Chhardi* – *Karkatashringi churna* taken with equal quantity of *Musta* with honey relieves *Kaphajanya Chhardi*. ( *Chi* 23 - 36)

## Vagbhata

1. *Rativardhanarth* - For *Kamodeepan Kakarashringi churna* taken with milk, *mishri* and *ghrita*. (Utt. A 40)

## Bhavprakash<sup>14</sup>

1. Its *churna* is fried in *ghrita* taken with *mishri* relieves desentry.
2. During dentition in children its *churna* mixed with *Atish*, small *Pippal*, and honey relieves *Kapha*, *Jwar*, *Atisar* and indigestion.
3. In dry cough and in respiratory disease it is taken with *Bharangi mool*, *Shonth*, *Chhoti Pippal*, *Kachur*, *Munnaka* with *Madhu*.
4. In case of *Kaphaj Chhardi* it is taken with *Nagarmotha* and honey.
5. Its external application done in psoriasis disease.

## Therapeutic Uses

- It acts as carminative and astringent in properties. It helps to reduce the flatulence in gastrointestinal tract. Thus this herb is quite effective in the treatment of diarrhoea, anorexia and dysentery.
- This is good to resolve the respiratory complications. It acts as expectorant thus clear the mucus from airways, bronchi, lungs and trachea.
- It is good for female reproductive system. Helps in the removal of debris and impurities after menstruation. It helps in the healing of uterine lining too.
- It acts as antipyretic, so good in the treatment of fever.
- It has antimicrobial properties so effective to resolve the various bacterial, viral and fungal infections.
- It has anti - cancerous properties, so help to reduce the growth of the cancer cell.
- It acts as spermatogenic agent and helps to increase strength.
- It also used to check the bleeding gums.

## Formulation and Preparation

*Shringyadi churna*, *Karkatadi churna*, *Balchaturbhadra churna*, *Sudarshana churna*, *Chayavanprash avaleha*, *Dashmularista*, *Khadiradi gutika*, *Brihat talisadi churna*, *Devadarvyadi kwatha churna*, *Shatavaryadi ghrita*, *Kantakaryavaleha*, *Siva gutika* etc.

## Conclusion

*Karkatashringi* is a plant described in Ayurveda. Its Latin name is *Pistacia integerrima* Stewart ex Brandis, its Family is *Anacardiaceae*. Its galls is used for medicinal purpose. It is *Kapha Vata shamak*. It is medicinal plant. It is mainly used in cough, diarrhoea, anorexia, dysentery, fever etc. There are so many formulation and preparation of this plant.



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