

Sri Satya Sai Murlidhar Ayurvedic College & Hospital
Moga (Punjab) -142001
BHALLATAKA

Botanical Name: *Semecarpus anacardium* Linn.

Semecarpus - Simeion-marking, carpus-carpos (Greek) which means nut [Black juice of the nut is used for marking or tracing designs upon cloth].

anacardium - Heart like.

Family -Anacardiaceae

Kula - Amra kula

Regional Names

English: Marking nut

Hindi: Bhilawa

Kannada: Geru, Karigeru

Malayalam: Tenparakan

Marathi: Bibha

Classification of Dravya (Gana)

Caraka: Dīpaniya Varga, Kuṣṭhaghna Varga, Mutra Sangrahanīya Varga

Suśruta: Nyagrodhadigaṇa, Mustādigagaṇa

Bh.Pr.Ni.: Harītakyaḍivarga

Habitat-

Bhallātaḱa is found in abundant in Bihar, Westbengal, Orissa, Assam, Karnataka and fairly common in hotter parts of India.

Varieties –

Suśruta and Nighantu Ratnakara:

1. Bhallataka

2. Nadi Bhallataka

Botanically other species are:

1. *Semecarpus albicans*
2. *Semecarpustravancoria*
3. *Semecarpusanrienlata*
4. *Semecarpus heterophylla*
5. *Semecarpuskurzi*
6. *Semecarpus pubescens*
7. *Semecarpus obscura*
8. *Semecarpus parviflora*



Morphology:

Bhallataka is a medium sized tree grows up to 30-50 ft. in height.

Bark Gray in colour and exudes an irritant secretion on incising.

Leaves- Simple, 30-60 cm long, 12-30 cm broad, obovate to oblong, glabrous above, ashy gray or buff and pubescent beneath and developed on the tip of the branch and deciduous.

Inflorescence - Compound panicle.

Flowers- Small, greenish yellow, dioecious, with long flower stalk, petals are 5-6, stamens 5-6, ovary is rudimentary in male flowers and superior in case of female flowers.

Fruit-Drupaceous nut, 2-3 cm long, heart shaped, green when raw and turn to black on ripening. Fruits are attached to fleshy orange coloured receptacle, which is edible.

Seeds Pendulous.

Fruit contains black, oily and highly vesicant juice which is used traditionally for marking the cloths.

Useful parts - Phala (Fruit)

Phytoconstituents

Nuts contain - Bhilawanol, Bioflavonoids A, B and C., Anacardiac acid.

Seeds contain- Bhilawanol and Anacardoside, Anacardic acid, cardol, catechol, Anacardol, Semecarpol. Nut shell contains- Bioflavone b, Bioflavonoids, Bhilawanol, Tetrahydroamentoflavone, and Tetrahydrorobustaflavone.

Rasadipancaka:

Rasa: Katu, Madhura (D.N.), Kaṣaya (B.P.N)

Guna: Laghu, Snigdha, Tikṣna

Vipāka: Madhura

Virya: Usna

Doṣa Karma: Kapha vātaSamaka → Kapha hara because of Uṣṇaviryā and Kaṣu rasa.

→ Vatahara because of Uṣṇaviryā, Madhura Vipāka and Snigdha guna

Karma (Action)

Bhallatakaphala- Pachana, Chedana, Bhedana, Medhya, Dipana, Vrnahara, Kuṣṭahara, Arsoghna, Jwarahara, Krmighna, Sukrala, Grāhi and balya.

Bhallātakamajja - Vrṣya, Brhmaṇi, Dāhaśāmaka, Tarpaka, Dipana.

Bhallātakāsthi - Pāchaka, Medhya, Dipaka, Krmighna.

Agrya Karma

भल्लातकोऽर्शःसु। (अ.ह.उ. 40)

Bhallataka (*Semecarpus anacardium*) is best in Arśas (Piles).

Pharmacological Action:

Anti-cancerous, Antiallergic, Anti-inflammatory, Antibacterial, Analgesic, Anti arthritic, Cardiac depressant, Hypotensive

Rogaghñata (Therapeutic indications):

Bhallātakaphala - Arśas, Kuṣṭha, Grahaṇi, Gulma, Sopha, Anāha, Jwara, Krmi, Agnimandya, Świtra, Krmi, Vrṇa.

Bhallātakamajja - Kārśya, Klaivya, Daha, Aruchi.

Bhallātakāsthi - Kuṣṭha, Arśas, Grahani, Gulma, Sopha, Anaha, Jwara, Krmi.

AmayikaPrayoga (Therapeutic administration)

1. Arśas (Piles) - Butter milk processed with Bhallataka (*Semecarpus anacardium*) is very useful in Arśas (Piles).

2. Apaci (Scrofula)- The paste prepared by burning the combination of Sarsapa, Ariṣapatra (Leaves of *Azadirachta indica*) and Bhallataka (*Semecarpus anacardium*) mixed with goat's urine and applied over Apaci.

3. Romaśātanartha (To remove unwanted hair) - The combination of Taila (Oil) of Bhallataka (*Semecarpus anacardium*) and Snuhi Kṣira (Latex of *Euphorbia nerifolia*) is a very good remedy for removing unwanted hair.

4. Krmi (Worm infestation) - In case of Krmi (Worms) one has to take Bhallātakataila internally or as a Basti (Enema).

5. Kuṣṭha (Skin diseases) - Person has to take the ghee processed with Bhallātika (*Semecarpus anacardium*), Amalaki (*Embllica officinalis*), Haritaki (*Terminalia chebula*), Vibhitaki (*Terminalia belerica*) and Nimba (*Azadirachta indica*). This is very beneficial in curing all the skin diseases.

Matra (Dose):

Taila: 10-20 drops

Kśirapāka : 30 ml.



Yoga (Formulation)

BhallatakaCurṇa
Nādivrana, Apachi
Bhallatakāḍya Taila
Bhallataka Ghrta
KankāyanaVati
Bhallatakāvaleha
BhallatakadiKwatha
Mahābhallataka Guda
BhallatakādiModaka

Adverse effects

In higher doses Bhallataka will cause

- Blisters on tongue and throat
- Increased thirst and sweat
- Heart burn
- Gastro-intestinal tract irritation
- Oliguria
- Skin eruptions and burning
- Swelling
- Renal failure

Remedial measures

1. If consumed then gastric lavage should be done.
2. In case of dehydration-1 V fluid administration.
3. Antacid therapy
4. Jiraka (Cumin seed) and Saindhava lavaṇa (Rock salt) to be given.
5. Coriander leaves paste is applied.
6. Butter with Tila kalka (Paste of Sesamum) or Haridra (Turmeric) application.

Antidote

1. Coconut oil will be good antidote.
2. Application of Meghanada Rasa (Juice of Amaranthus tricolour) with- Navanīta (Butter).

Fatal Dose - More than 10 gm.

Fatal Period-12-24 hrs.

Sodhana (Purification)

1. Fruit of Bhallataka (Semecarpus anacardium) is cut into pieces by crushing and kept it in Iṣṭīkacurṇa (Brick powder) or rubbed with brick powder. Then it is washed clearly with hot water. This purifies Bhallataka.
2. Śwedana is done with Narikelāmbu (Coconut water) is Dolāyantra.