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KANTAKARI

Botanical Name : *Solanum xanthocarpum*

Family : Solanaceae

Introduction :

Nightshades make up the genus *Solanum*, and the family Solanaceae, in the order Solanales. Horse nettle is classified as *Solanum carolinense*, European bittersweet as *Solanum dulcamara*, silverleaf nightshade as *Solanum elaeagnifolium*, and black nightshade as *Solanum nigrum*. Buffalo bur is classified as *Solanum rostratum*, the common potato as *Solanum tuberosum*, the eggplant as *Solanum melongena*, and the Jerusalem cherry as *Solanum pseudocapsicum*. The sweet potato, classified as *Ipomoea batatas*, and the morning glory, classified as *Ipomoea purpurea*, belong to the family Convolvulaceae. Jacob's ladder, classified in the genus *Polemonium*, and the common annual phlox, classified as *Phlox drummondii*, belong to the family Polemoniaceae.

Names in different Indian languages :

English: Yellow berried nightshade

Kannada: nelagulle

Sanskrit: Kantakari, nidigdhika

Telugu: Nelamulaka, callamulaga

Hindi: Remgani, kateli, kattay

Malayalam: Kantakari, kantakattiri

Tamil: kantakattri

Unani: Kataai Khurd, Hadaq

Synonyms :

Kantakaari, Kantakaarika, Vyaaghri, Nidigdhikaa, Nidigdhaa, Duhsparshaa, Dhaavani, Kshudraa, Keteri (Smaller var.), Bhatakataiyaa. Used as Lakshmana.

Solanum surattense Burm.f.

Solanum virginianum Linn.

Solanum maccanni Sant.

Varieties & adulterants – (CV – controversy, AD – adulterants) :

1. *S. indicum*;

2. *S. trilobatum*

3. *S. tuberosum* Linn- [AD]

4. *S. pitosporifolium* – [AD]


S. trilobatum

Morphology :

A prickly, diffuse perennial undersherb, woody at base, with zig zag branches.

Leaves— ovate or elliptic sinuate or subpinnatifid glabrescent, with straight spines, armed on midrib and the nerves with long yellow sharp prickles.

Flowers— in few flowered lateral cymes. blue-coloured; corolla with shallow lobes.





Fruit— globose berries, glabrous., whitish and green-blotched, yellow when ripe.



Seeds— many, glabrous.



Flowers and fruits from March-July



Distribution &Habitat :

Common in waste lands and road-sides throughout



India.



Chemical constituents :

solasonine, solamargine, beta-solamargine and solasodine, apigenin, quercetin diglycoside and sitosterol.



Properties :

Rasa Katu, Tikta
Virya Usna

Guna Laghu, Rūkṣa, Tikṣna
VipakaKatu



Karma: Kapha-vata hara, Dipanapacana, Mutrala, Asmarighna, Sukra recaka

Stimulant, expectorant, diuretic, laxative, febrifuge, Anti inflammatory, digestive, carminative, promoting conception



Indication:

Kāsa, Svāsa, sotha, Hikkā, Mūtrakrcchra, Asmari, Pratisyāya



cough, bronchitis, asthma, rheumatism, enlargement of liver and spleen, vomiting, difficult urination, bladder stones, skin diseases



Part used :

Whole plant



Dosage :

Leaf juice 10-15 ml, Powder 2-4 g, Decoction 50-100 ml



External uses : It is analgesic. anti-inflammatory and has antibacterial properties. Therefore its fumes are inhaled in dental caries, dental pain and piles. (It is said that this type of fumigation with kantakari destroys the bacteria in teeth).



Internal uses :

Nervous system : It is used a neurolocal disorders like epilepsy and convulsions as a stimulant due to its irritant property The juice droplets are put in nose, which helps in stimulating nerves (Sangnyaprabodhana) It pacifies vata due to ushnaguna Its local application helps in bodyache and arthritis.



Digestive system : Being katu, tikta and ushna, it can be used as an appetizer and carminative, it helps in purgation and in dewormification. It is used in loss of appetite, constipation . powder of seeds is used in dental aches



Circulatory system : It is cardio-stimulant, blood purifier and anti-inflammatory. Therefore is used in cardiac disorders, skin disorders, blood disorders and inflammation.





Respiratory system : kantakari is the drug of choice on cough. It helps in vata type of cough. It helps as an expectorant and demulcent. It stops hiccups and also helps in asthma, chronic rhinitis. cough, pneumonia, hoarseness of voice and hiccups. Powdered *S. xanthocarpum* with honey is given to children in chronic bronchitis.



Urinary system : Its diuretic property helps in renal calculi and dysurea.



Reproductive system : The seeds are oxytoxic and aphrodisiac. The root of white flowered ringni is used in punsavanvidhi



Skin: Being ushna (hot) in nature, it Increases perspiration. It is useful in many skin disorders.



Important Yogas or Formations:



Nidigdhtkadikadha, Vyaghri haritaki, Kantakarighrita. vyaghri oil. *S. xanthocarpum* is one of the constituents of laghupanchamool and -dashamool. The plants in taghupanchmool are small. This plant is included is dashmool, which is a dass of antipyrtic and anti-inflammatory plants. This itself snows the importance of the plant, Kañakārigrihta, VāsākantkāriAveleha Vyaghri Haritaki, Vyaghri taila.



Therapeutic Uses :



(1) Svāsa—Kantkāri, Amalaki (each 1 part) and Hingu (1/2 part) are taken with honey cures Svāsaroga in three days (S.S.Ut. 51).



(2) Kasa— Decoction of Kantakāri given with Pippali will be useful (C.D.) & (V.M.).



(3) Pumsavana— White Brahati root is pounced with milk and used as nasal drops (A.H.Sa. 1/40).

