

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

VATSANABH

Botanical Name - *Aconitum ferox* Wall.

Aconitum Aconite- Monk's hood

ferox - Ferocious, Terrible, very poisonous

Family -Ranunculaceae

Kula - Vatsanābha kula

Regional Names

English - Monk's hood

Hindi - Mithazahar

Kannada – Vatsanabhi

Malayalam - Vatsanabhi

Marathi – Vachnag

Ganavargikarana (Classical categorization)

Caraka: Not mentioned in Varga

Suśruta: Not mentioned in Gana

Bh.Pr.Ni: Dhātwādivarga

Habitat

Vatsanābha is found in alpine and subalpine western Himalayan region at the height of 6,000 to 10,000 ft. altitude.

Morphology

Habit - Herb

Roots-Biennial, paired, tuberous, daughter tube is ovoid-oblong, to ellipsoid, 2.5 to 4 cm long, 1 to 1.5 cm thick, with few filiform root-fibres, dark brown externally, mother tuber much shrunk and wrinkled with more numerous root fibres.

Aconitum ferox Wall. (Vatsanābha)



Stem-Erect, 40 to 90 cm high, slender, covered with short spreading yellow hairs in the upper part, glabrous below.



Leaves - Scattered, distant, petioles slender, 25 cm in lower leaves, upper leaves have short petioles. Blade is orbicular-cordate to reform in outline with a rather wide sinus upto 8 cm deep, 11 cm high from the sinus to the tip, upto 20 cm across.



Inflorescence -Raceme, 10 to 25 cm long, rachis slender.



Flower - Slender pedicels, erect, sepals are blue, hairy, uppermost helmet shaped, shortly beaked, lip deflexed, lanceolate, acute and entire. Carpels are five in number.



Fruit-Follicle, 1.5 to 2 cm long, 4 to 5 mm broad, almost glabrous.



Seeds - Obovoid to of pyramidal 2.5 to 3 mm long, winged along the rhaphe.



Useful part-Mula (Root)



Market sample consist abconical, abruptly tapering roots, more often paired as mother and daughter tubers, 2 to 5 cm in length and 2.5 cm in diameter at the thickest part. Surface dark brown in colour, transversely shrivelled, and densely covered with remanants of rootlets or root scars arranged in an annular fashion. On breaking become short pieces, exposing a mealy surface of yellowish brown in colour. Doesn't possess any odour, taste is slightly sweet followed by tingling sensation.



Phytoconstituents - Root contains Indaconitine, Chasmaconitine, Chasmanine, Lycoctonine, Aconitine, Delphinine, Bikhacontine&Pseudaconitine.



Rasadipanchaka -

Rasa – Madhura Guna - Rūksa, Tikṣna, Laghu, Vikāsi, Sūkṣma & Vyavāyi



Vipaka – Madhura Virya: Ushna



Doshakarma (Action on Doṣa)



Tridoṣāśāmaka, Vatahara due to Uṣṇavīrya, Madhura vipāka and Madhura rasa. Pittahara because of Madhura vipāka and Madhura rasa and Kapha śāmaka due to Uṣṇavīrya.



Karma (Actions)



Swedajanaka, Jwaraghna, Sothahara, Dipana, Vedanāhara, Kasahara.





Pharmacological Actions



Febrifuge, Antidiarrhocal, Spasmogenic, Psychostimulant, Cardiac stimulant, Anal- gestic, Diaphoretic, Anodyne, Irritant and Sedative.



Rogagnata (Therapeutic Indications)

Jwara, Sotha, Agnimāndya, VedanāyuktaVikāra and Kāsa



AmayikaPrayoga (Therapeutic administration)

1. Jirṇajwara (Chronic fever)



2. Powder prepared from Lodhra (Symplocos racemosa), Candana (Santalum album). Sadgrantha (Acorus calamus), Vatsanabha (Aconitum ferox) is taken with Sugar, Ghee, Honey and Milk is best remedy for Jirṇajwara (Chronic fever).



3. Rasayana (Rejuvenating)



Vatsanabha (Aconitum ferox) is regarded as one of the Rasayana (Rejuventative) drugs; hence it is one of the important ingredients of Aindrarasayana.



Viṣalakshaṇa (Toxic signs and Symptoms)



As Vatsanabha (Aconitum ferox) is a ferocious poison it causes several harmful effects. In a few minutes after consuming any of the preparations of aconite, there will be tingling sensation followed by numbness in the lips, mouth, tongue and pharynx, fol- lowed by salivation, pain in the stomach and vomiting. Tingling and numbness extend over the whole body. The person sweats profusely and there will be a sensation of im- pending paralysis. The person feels giddiness, his vision and speech will be impaired, limb becomes weak, unable to stand or walk. Twitching of muscles and convulsions may occur. Pulse will be slow and become irregular. First breathing will be rapid but soon becomes slow. Pupils alternately contract and dilate but remain fully dilated in the later stages. Death ensures from ventricular fibrillation or respiratory paralysis.



Fataldose - 1 gm (Root), 250 mg (Extract) 4 mg (Alkaloid)



Fatal period - 20 minutes to 24 hrs. Average is 6 hrs.



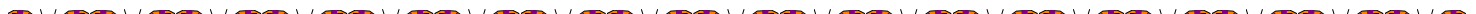
Treatment



Patient should be kept warm.



Gastric lavage with tannic acid or Postassium permanganate solution.





Heart and respiration support with hypodermic injections.



Artificial respiration and oxygen supply if necessary.



Purification



1. Mature tubers of Vatsanabha (*Aconitum ferox*) are cut into small pieces (To size of Bengal gram) and put into a vessel made of mud or stone filled with Gomütra (Cow's urine). This vessel is kept under hot sun. Fresh Gömütra is used every morning and process is repeated for 3 days. Later tubers are removed, deskined and dried.



2. Vatsanābha (*Aconitum ferox*) is cut into small pieces and placed in a Po□ali formed out of cloth. This Po□ali containing Vatsanabha is immersed in a vessel containing milk and boiled for 3 to 6 hours.



Antidote - Tankaṇa (Borax)



Matra (Dosage)



Curna (Powder) - 62.5 to 125 mg



Yoga (Formulations)



Mratyuñjaya rasa



Prānēśwara rasa



Ananda bhairava rasa



Jwaramurari rasa



Jwarañkuśa rasa



Substitutes



Acointumlaciniatumstapf.



Aconitum denorrhizumstapf.



Aconitum falconeri



Aconitum spicatum stapf.



Aconitum violaceumjawab.

