

PART- I

VOLUME – V



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AYUSH

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51. Meshashringi (Lf)

MEṢAŚRNGĪ (Leaf)

Meṣaśrngī consists of dried leaf of *Gymnema sylvestre* R.Br. (Fam. Asclepiadaceae), a large woody, much branched, climber, with pubescent young parts, found throughout India in dry forests upto 600 m.

SYNONYMS

Sanskrit	:	Madhunāśinī, Ajāśrngī
Assamese	:	--
Bengali	:	Medhasingi
English	:	Periploca of the wood
Gujrati	:	Kaavalee, Medhasinge
Hindi	:	Gudmaar, Medhaa Singee
Kannada	:	Kadhasige
Kashmiri	:	--
Malayalam	:	Cakkarakkolli, Madhunaashini
Marathi	:	Kaavalee, Medhaashingi
Oriya	:	--
Punjabi	:	--
Tamil	:	Shirukurum Kaay, Shakkaraikkolli
Telugu	:	Podapatro
Urdu	:	--

DESCRIPTION

a) Macroscopic

Leaf simple, opposite, elliptical or ovate, petiolate, petiole 6 to 12 mm long and pubescent; lamina 3 to 6 cm long and 1 to 3 cm broad; acute or shortly acuminate; more or less pubescent on both sides, base rounded or cordate, venation reticulate; odour, unpleasant; taste, bitter and acrid.

b) Microscopic

Leaf -

Petiole - Nearly semi circular in outline having a deep furrow, shows a single layered epidermis covered with thick cuticle; multicellular uniseriate trichomes present; cortex composed of 3 or 4 layers of collenchyma and 3 or 4 layers of thin walled parenchymatous cells with intercellular spaces; vascular bundle bicollateral, conjoint and 3 in number, one central larger and crescent shaped and 2 lateral and smaller in size; a few rosette crystals of calcium oxalate present in cortical region.

Midrib - Epidermis and trichome as in petiole; epidermis followed by 2 or 3 layers of collenchyma adjacent to the lower surface; vascular bundle crescent shaped, bicollateral, conjoint and situated in centre; rest of the tissue between collenchyma and vascular bundles consisting of polygonal thin-walled parenchymatous cells with intercellular spaces, a few having rosette crystals of calcium oxalate.

Lamina - Shows dorsiventral structure; epidermis and trichome as in petiole and midrib; trichome cylindrical, consists of 3 to 6 cells nearly similar in width and variable in length, terminal cells blunt, most of them curved inwards from the leaf surface; palisade 1 or 2 layers; spongy parenchyma irregular, arranged with distinct intercellular spaces, rosette crystals of calcium oxalate present in this region; stomata paracytic, present only on lower surface; palisade ratio 7 or 8; stomatal index 20 to 25, vein islet number 7 to 10 per sq. mm.

Powder - Light green; under microscope shows epidermal cells having nearly straight wall, and paracytic stomata in surface view; rosette crystals of calcium oxalate; broken pieces of trichomes and spiral vessels.

IDENTITY, PURITY AND STRENGTH

Foreign matter	Not more than	2	per cent, Appendix	2.2.2.
Total Ash	Not more than	12	per cent, Appendix	2.2.3.
Acid-insoluble ash	Not more than	2	per cent, Appendix	2.2.4.
Alcohol-soluble extractive	Not less than	7	per cent, Appendix	2.2.6.
Water-soluble extractive	Not less than	28	per cent, Appendix	2.2.7.

T.L.C.

T.L.C. of the alcoholic extract on Silica Gel 'G' plate using n-Hexane : Toluene : Ethylacetate (5:10:2) as mobile phase shows four fluorescent zones under U.V. (366 nm) at Rf. 0.24, 0.37 (both Red), 0.50 (blue) and 0.60 (Red). On spraying with Anisaldehyde-Sulphuric acid reagent and heating the plate at 110° for ten minutes seven spots appear at Rf. 0.29 (green), 0.37, 0.47 (both violet), 0.55 (pink), 0.60 (green), 0.66 (violet) and 0.93 (pink).

CONSTITUENTS - Triterpenoid saponins of gymnemic acid A, B, C and D with sugar-residues such as glucuronic acid, galacturonic acid, ferulic and angelic acids attached as carboxylic acids. Several isopropylene derivatives of gymnemagenin, a hexahydroterpene, gymnemagenin, gymnemic acid. The leaves also contain betaine, choline, gymnamine alkaloids, inositol, d-quercitol. Hydrocarbons such as nonacosane, hentriacontane, tritriacontane, pentatriacontane, phytin, resin, tartaric acid, formic acid, butyric acid, amino acids such as leucine, isoleucine, valine, alanine, γ -butyric acid.

PROPERTIES AND ACTION

Rasa	:	Tikta, Kaṣāya
Guna	:	Laghu, Rukṣa
Virya	:	Uṣṇa
Vipaka	:	Katu
Karma	:	Cakṣuṣya, Dīpana, Kaphahara, Vātahara, Viṣaghna, Sraṃasāna

IMPORTANT FORMULATIONS - Mahāviṣagarbha Taila, Ayaskrtī, Nyagrodhādi Cūrṇa, Mṛtasanji Vanī Surā

THERAPEUTIC USES - Śūla, Śopha, Arśa, Śvāsa, Hṛdroga, Kāsa, Kṛmi, Kuṣṭha, Netraroga, Prameha, Vrana, Dantakṛmi

DOSE - 3-6 g.