

PART- I

VOLUME – I



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

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30. Haridra (Rz.)

HARIDRĀ

Haridrā consists of the dried and cured rhizomes of *Curcuma longa* Linn. (Fam. Zingiberaceae), a perennial herb extensively cultivated in all parts of the country, crop is harvested after 9-10 months when lower leaves turn yellow rhizomes carefully dug up with hand-picks between October-April and cured by boiling and dried.

SYNONYMS

Sanskrit	:	Rajanī, Niśā, Niśī, Rātri, Kṣaṇadā, Doṣā
Assamese	:	Haldhi, Haladhi
Bengali	:	Halud, Haldi
English	:	Turmeric
Gujrati	:	Haldar
Hindi	:	Haldi, Hardi
Kannada	:	Arishina
Kashmiri	:	Ledar, Ladhir
Malayalam	:	Manjal
Marathi	:	Halad
Oriya	:	Haladi
Punjabi	:	Haldi, Haldar
Tamil	:	Manjal
Telugu	:	Pasupu
Urdu	:	Haldi

DESCRIPTION

a) Macroscopic

Rhizomes ovate, oblong or pyriform (round turmeric) or cylindrical, often short branched (long turmeric), former about half as broad as long, latter 2-5 cm long and about 1-1.8 cm thick, externally yellowish to yellowish-brown with root scars and annulations of leaf bases, fracture horny, fractured surface orange to reddish brown, central cylinder twice as broad as cortex: odour and taste characteristic.

b) Microscopic

Transverse section of rhizome shows epidermis with thick-walled, cubical cells of various dimensions, cortex characterised by the presence of mostly thin-walled rounded parenchyma cells scattered collateral vascular bundles, a few layers of cork developed under epidermis and scattered oleo-resin cells with brownish contents; cork generally composed of 4-6 layers of thin-walled, brick-shaped parenchyma, cells of ground tissue contain starch grains of 4-15 µ in diameter, oil cell with suberised walls containing

either orange-yellow globules of volatile oil or amorphous resinous matter, vessels mainly spirally thickened, a few reticulate and annular.

Identification-

- 1) On the addition of *Concentrated Sulphuric acid* or a mixture of *Concentrated Sulphuric acid* and *alcohol* to the powdered drug, a deep crimson colour is produced.
- 2) A piece of filter paper is impregnated with an alcoholic extract of the powder, dried, and then moistened with a solution of *Boric acid* slightly acidified with *Hydrochloric acid*, dried again, the filter paper assumes a pink or brownish red colour which becomes deep blue or greenish-black on the addition of alkali.

IDENTITY, PURITY AND STRENGTH

Foreign matter	Not more than	2	per cent, Appendix	2.2.2.
Total Ash	Not more than	9	per cent, Appendix	2.2.3.
Acid-insoluble ash	Not more than	1	per cent, Appendix	2.2.4.
Alcohol-soluble extractive	Not less than	8	per cent, Appendix	2.2.6.
Water-soluble extractive	Not less than	12	per cent, Appendix	2.2.7.
Volatile oil	Not less than	4	per cent, Appendix	2.2.10

CONSTITUENTS - Essential oil and a colouring matter (curcumin).

PROPERTIES AND ACTION

Rasa	:	Kaṭu, Tikta
Guna	:	Rūkṣa
Virya	:	Uṣṇa
Vipaka	:	Kaṭu
Karma	:	Kṛmighna, Kuṣṭhaghna, Varṇya, Viṣaghna, Kaphapittanuta, Pramehanāśaka

IMPORTANT FORMULATIONS - Haridrā Khaṇḍa

THERAPEUTIC USES - Pāṇḍu, Prameha, Vraṇa, Viṣavikāra, Kuṣṭha, Tvagroga, Śītapitta, Pīnasa

DOSE - 1-3 g of the drug in powder form.