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# Therapeutic Potential of *Trinapanchamool*: Review Study

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#### Authors' contributions

This work was carried out in collaboration between both authors. Author AP designed the study, performed the statistical analysis, wrote the protocol and wrote the first draft of the manuscript. Authors AP and HSM managed the analyses of the study. Author HSM managed the literature searches. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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### **ABSTRACT**

The present review determines the potentiality of therapeutic activity of *Trinapanchamool*, a group of five native grasses namely- *kush*, *kaas*, *nala*, *darbha*, *ikshu*; all belonging to family Poaceae which is an important therapeutic formulation widely used in *Ayurveda*. The Grasses are underestimated medicinal repository. A large number of Grasses have been indicated for the treatment of various ailments in classics. Which are least affected by the climatic change and natural calamities. These herbs have been used in social rituals in day today life, meditation purposes and in therapeutics. In spite of environmental changes this group of herbs remain unaffected where as various other herbs have entered in to Red Data Book due to environmental adversity and other exploitation. Herbs under study possess diversified therapeutic potential which is time tested right from the dawn of human civilization. Therapeutic potential of these herbs discussed in ancient Ayurveda classics have been experimentally and clinically verified in modern era. In spite of well established therapeutic potential and easy availability, this group of herbs has least therapeutic application in modern Ayurveda. From

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the study it may be concluded that *Trinapanchamool* is important group of therapeutically potential herbs. There is need towards judicious use of these herbs in therapeutics for the well-being of ailing humanity.

Keywords: Therapeutic potential; Trinapanchamool; meditation; ayurveda; red data book.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Acharya Charaka has rightly said that there is no substance in the universe which cannot be used as drug on the condition that they are used rationally and with definite objectives [1].

Herbs have been the prime source of therapeutic agents in Ayurveda. The Grasses underestimated medicinal repository. A large number of Grasses have been indicated for the treatment of various ailments in classics. Which are least affected by the climatic change and natural calamities. Trinapanchamool, a group of five native grasses namely- kush, kaas, nala, darbha and ikshu; all belonging to family Poaceae which is an important therapeutic formulation widely used in Ayurveda. It is believed that the first attempt to organize and explain plants was made in the Vedic Period (Oshadhi Sukta of Rigveda). In Sankhayan grihyasutra, water with Kush has been indicated in dakshin nasaput for Punsavan karma. Kush and Darbha are extensively used in Hindu rituals because of their highly protective and conducting properties. Kush ring is called as Pavittram and used in all Vedic Karmas. In Atharvaveda. Darbha is used to control anger. (AV.10.1.13). Jalodar Chikitsa.1/4Shayan Bhashya on Atharva Veda 1.1.10. Nala has been indicated in Yakshma Chikitsa. (A.V. 19/39/2) [2].

During literary study I found that about 91 medicinal grasses have been described in *Brihattrayi* (Charaka Samhita, *Sushrut Samhita* and *Ashtanga Hridaya*) [3]. Among them some are still unidentified and some are controversial. Present study is an attempt to explore therapeutic potential of group of grasses collectively known as *Trinapanchamool* which is a group of five *Trina* (Grass) herbs with root as therapeutically used parts appear for the first time in Charaka Samhita Rasayana Chikitsa [4].

In some other references *Trinapanchamool* has been used which slightly modified name. Acharya Sushrut has been described .*Kush, Kasa, Nala, Darbh and Kandekshiu* as *Trinasangya* [5], *Trinakha* by *Acharya* Vagbhatta [6] and *Sharadipanchamool* by *Acharya Charaka* [7].

Bhavamishra [8] has used the following roots of grasses which are used in different combinations for different clinical conditions selecting five in each. These Grasses are Darbha, Ikshu, Ikshubaalikaa, Kaas, Kush, Shaali and Shar. Acharya Vangsena, Bhava Mishra and Yogratnakar have considered five different Trina Dravya in Trinapanchamool in various references in their same text.

According to the Bhaishajya Ratnavali Mutrakrichra Rogadhikara the *Trinapnchamool* can be described in Sanskrit as follows:

kuśa: kāśa: śaro darbha ikṣuśceti tṛṇodbhavam |

Pittakcchraharam pañcamūlam vasti viśodhanam ||

On the basis of literary review total number of herbs included in *Trinapnchamool* by different *Ayurveda* texts are nine viz. *Kusha*, *Kaas*, *Shar*, *Darbha*, *Shali*, *Ikshu*, *Nala*, *Kandekshu* and *Ikshubalika*.(Table 1).

### 2. LITERARY REVIEW OF Trinapanchamool IN AYURVEDA CLASSICS

### 2.1 Mutravirechaniya (Diuretic): [9]

The drugs increasing the flow of urine are called "Mutravirechaniya" and are also known as Bastivishodhan or Mutrala, Mutra is Apyagneya (predominance of Jala and Agni Mahabhuta) by nature. So the drugs commencing or increasing urination are also Sheet (Apya) and Ushna (Agneya). Apya Dravyas increase the water content of urine and obstructing the reabsorption of water in uriniferous tubules enhance the quantity of urine while Agneya Dravyas increase blood pressure inside Bowman's capsule (Nephrons) and creating irritation in kidneys increase urination. Grasses possess substances which increase the flow of urine due to 'osmosis'. Due to Samanya Vishesh Siddhant, these grasses increase urine formation. Mutravirechaniya Dravyas are used in some disease conditions to expel out

the excess water content from the body: In disorders of lung and heart where urination is reduced, these drugs are used, otherwise oedema develops. These drugs are used in loss of urine to expel out the poisonous substances and impurities present in blood. To remove accumulated fluid in body or body parts i.e. in ascites and pleurisy etc. To alleviate the disorder of urine as in pelvic diseases diuretics are used. Example: Kusha, Kaas, Shar, Darbha and Ikshu. Trinapanchamoola has diuretic properties and increases sodium and potassium excretion.

# 2.2 Ashmari Bhedan (Urinary lithotriptic): [9]

• The drugs breaking calculi accumulated in urinary system are called Ashmari Bhedana. Some of the drugs due to sharpness break the calculi; while some being diuretic do not allow its formation (accumulation) which are called Ashmari-pratishedhan (Antilithic)i.e. Kaas, Kusha. These drugs are used in Ashmari to break down and flush out garvels (Sharkara) and to stop its recurrence.

Table 1. Herbs described in Trinapanchamool

S.N.	Trina herbs	Latin name	Family
1	Darbha	Imperata cylindrica Beauv	Poaceae
2	Ikshu/ Kandekshu/ Ikshubalika	Saccharum officinarum Linn.	Poaceae
3	Kaas	Saccharum spontaneum Linn.	Poaceae
4	Kush	Desmostachya bipinnataStapf.	Poaceae
5	Shar	Saccharum munja Roxb	Poaceae
6	Nala	<i>Aundo donax</i> Linn.	Poaceae
7	Shali	Oryza sativa	Poaceae

Priya Nighantu by Acharya P. V. Sharma has considered group of five herbs Kusha, Kaas, Shar, Darbha and Ikshumool as Trinapanchamool which have galactagogue and diuretic properties [10]

Table 2. Charaka Samhita (1000 B.C.TO 4<sup>TH</sup> century A.D.) [11]

S.N.	Therapeutic indications	Forms/Formulations	References
1.	Rasayana	Brahmarasayana	CS.Ci.1.1.42-45
2.	Pittaj Kasa (cough)	Sharadipanchamool Ksheer-paka	CS.Ci.18.100
3.	Daha, (burning), Atisara (diaorrhea), Pradar (leucorrhea) and Pittaj diseases.	Chandanadi Niruha Basti	CS.Si.3.48

[CS.-Charaka Samhita, Ci.-Chikitsa sthan, Si.-Siddhi sthana]

Table 3. Sushrut Samhita (1000 B.C.to 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D.) [12]

S.N.	Therapeutic Indications	Forms/Formulations	References
1.	Raktapitta (Epistaxis)	Trinapanchmool Kwath	SS.Su.38.76-77
	Mutradosh (Urinary disorders)		
2.	Pittashmari Bhedan(calculi)	Trinapanchamool Kwath	SS.Ci.7.9-12
3.	Alleviates Pitta	Trinapanchamool	SS.Su.39.8
4.	Pittaj Mutrakriccha (Dysurea)	Trinapanchamool Ghrita	SS.U.59.20
5.	Pittaj Mutrakriccha	Trinapanchamool Kwath Uttar Basti	SS.U.59.21

(SS.-Sushrut Samhita, Su.-Sutra sthan, Ci.-Chikitsa sthan, U.-Uttar Tantra)

Table 4. Ashtang Hridaya (7<sup>th</sup> century A.D.) [13]

S.N.	Therapeutic uses	Forms/Formulations	References
1	Raktapitta Chikitsa	Trinakhya Yoga	AH.Su.6.171
2	Trishna and Mutraghat Chikitsa	Darbhaapoorvapanchamool. Darbhaapanchak	AH.Ci.6.62,11.6
3	Pittaj Gulma Bhedan	Trinapanchamool Kwath	AH.Ci.14.62-63
4	Daha, Pradar, Raktapitta, Atisara,	Trinapanchamool Kwath Niruh	AH.Ka.4.13-16
	Hridaroga (cardiac disease)	Basti	

(AH.-Ashtanga Hridaya, Su.-Sutra sthan, Ci.-Chikitsa Sthan, Ka.- Kalpa sthan)

Table 5. Chakradatta (11<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.) [14]

S.N.	Therapeutic uses	Forms/Formulations	References. (Verses)
1	Mutrakriccha Chikitsa	Sukumar Kumar Ghrita	Mutrakriccha 29-34
2	Mutrakriccha, Ashmari Chikitsa	Trikantakadya Ghrita	Mutrakriccha .28
3	<i>Mutrakriccha, Raktamutra</i> (hematurea)	Trinapanchamool Siddha Ksheer (milk preparation)	Mutrakriccha 9; 5
4	Ashmari, Mutrakriccha Chikitsa	Sharpanchamuladi Ghrita	Ashmari 40
5	Mutrakrachha	Trikantakadya Kwath	Mutrakriccha 23

Table 6. Chikitsa saar samgraha by Vangsen (12<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.) [15]

S.N.	Therapeutic uses	Forms/Formulations	References (Verses)
1	Raktapitta Chikitsa	Trinapanchamool Ksheer	Raktapitta Rogadhikar V.92
2	Shool (pain) Chikitsa	Kushaadya Ghrit	Shool Rogadhikar V.36
3	Ashmari Chikitsa	Kushaadya Ghrit	Ashmari Rogadhikar V.22-25
4	Ashmari, Mutrakriccha,	Kushaadya Tail	Ashmari Rogadhikar
	Chikitsa	(Paan, Basti, Abhyang)	V.56-59
5	Shool Chikitsa	Kushaadi mool Siddha Ksheer	Shool Rogadhikar V.35
6	Paittik roga, Raktamutra Mutrakriccha Chikitsa	Trinapanchamool	<i>Mutrakriccha Rogadhikar</i> V.17-18
7	Ashmari, Mutrakriccha	Trikantakadya Ghrita	<i>Mutrakriccha Rogadhikar</i> V.23
8	Mutrakriccha Chikitsa	Trinapanchamool Kwath	<i>Mutrakriccha Rogadhikar</i> V.42
9	Mutrakriccha Chikitsa	Trinapanchamool	<i>Mutrakriccha Rogadhikar</i> V.43
10	Mutraghat Chikitsa	Bhadravaha Ghrit	<i>Mutraghat Rogadhikar</i> V.41-45
11	Mutrakriccha, Katishool Chikitsa	Sukumar Kumarak Punarnavadi Leha	<i>Mutrakriccha Rogadhikar</i> V.49-55
12	Ashmari, Mutrakriccha	Trinapanchamooladya Ghrit	Ashmari-Rogadhikar V.52-54
13	Mutraghat Chikitsa	Vidari Ghrit	<i>Mutraghat Rogadhikar</i> V.46-50
14	Raktapitta Chikitsa	Trinapanchamool siddha Ksheer	Raktapitta Rogadhikar V.91-92
15	Ashmari Chikitsa	Varuna Ghrit	Ashmari Rogadhikar V.79-83
16	Ashmari Chikitsa	Sharadipanchamool Ghrit	Ashmari Rogadhikar V.79-83

Table 7. Classical pharmacological properties of *Trinapanchamool* herbs [16]

S.N.	Trina	Rasa	Guna	Virya	Vipaka	Dosh Karma
1	Darbh	Madhur, Kashaya	Snigdh Laghu	Sheet	Madhur	Ttidosh shamak
2	Ikshu	Madhur	Guru, Snigdh	Sheet	Madhur	Vata- Pitta Shamak
3	Kaas	Madhur, Kashaya	Laghu, snigdh	Sheet	Madhur	Vata- Pitta Shamak
4	Kush	Madhur, Kashaya	Snigdh, Laghu	Sheet	Madhur	Tridosh Shamak
5	Nala	Madhur, Kashaya, Tikta	Laghu , Snigdh	Sheet	Madhur	Tridosh Shamak
6	Shar	Madhur, Tikta	Laghu, snigdh	Sheet	Madhur	Tridosh Shamak

Table 8. Classical therapeutic potential of *Trinapanchamool* Herbs [16]

Darbha	Mutrakriccha, Ashmari, Basti shool, Prameha, Mutravikara, Raktatisara, Pravahika, Trishna, Raktapitta, Raktapradar, Stanyakshaya, Daha, Vrana.
lkshu	Mutrakriccha, Mutraghat, Ashmari, Jwar, Arsha, Shukradaurbalya, Stanyakshaya, Kasa, Shwas, Pratishyay, Kamla, Vibandha, Vatapaittika Roga, Yakshma, Apasmar, Grahani roga, Vatavyadhi, Visarp(Erysipelas).
Kaas	Mutrakriccha, Ashmari, Mutraghat, Urah-Kshat, Raktatisara (bleeding diarrhea), Raktarsh (bleeding piles), Stanyakshaya, Raktapradar, Daha, Arsha, Pravahika (dysentery), Jwar(fever), Gudabhransh (rectal prolapse), Vatavyadhi, Garbhapata Janya Upadrava.
Kush	Mutrakriccha, Mutraghat, Shoth, Raktapradar, Jwar, Visarp, Daha, Paittik Shool, Garbhini Shool, Prameha, Ashmari, Pandu, Arsha, Kamala, Raktapitta, Atisar, Pravahika, Hrida Roga, Apasmar, Vrana, Stanyakshaya.
Nala	Vata-Pitta Visarp, Jwar, Stanyakshaya, Mutraghat, Agnimandya, Ajirna (Indigestion), Visuchika, Shool, Udar Shhol, Krimiroga, Vatarakta, Twak-Roga, Vrana.
Shar	Mutrakriccha, Mutraghat, Raktapitta, Visarp, Pradar, Shukradaurbalya, Netraroga, Arsha, Stanyakshaya, Bastishool, Basti diseases (urinary bladder disorders), Rasayana and Vajikarana.

Trinapanchamoola have diuretic, Ashmari Bhedan (Urinary lithotriptic), Mutravishodhan (Urinary antiseptic) and Stanyajanana (Galactogogue) properties

Table 9. Phytochemistry of *Trinapanchamool* herbs [3]

Darbha	Crude protein 6.56%; ash value 7.92%; calcium 0.39%; nitrogen 1.05%; and phosphorus 0.22%; rhizomes furnished t: Total sugar 22.5%; reducing sugar 9.20%; and invert sugar 12.45%; Five triterpinoids - cylindrine, Arundoin, Fermenol, Isoarborinol and Semiarenol; Cylindrene and graminone B show inhibitory activity on the contrancton of vascular smooth muscles and aorta of rabbit respectively while cylindol A exhibits 5- lipoxygenase inhibitory activity.
lkshu	Sugarcane juice comprises of 70 - 75% water, 13 - 15% sucrose, and 10 - 15% fiber; chlorogenic acid, cinnamic acid, and flavones; phenolic acids such as hydroxycinnamic acid, Sinapic acid, and Caffeic acid, Asparagine and glutamine are prominent amino acids; Vitamins- thiamine, riboflavin, niacin, panththenic acid, biotin and Vitamin D; emzymes includes disastase, invertase, lactase, peroxidase, tyrosinase.
Kaas	Tannins, saponins, flavonoids, alkaloids, glycosides, steroids, terpenoids, coumarins, phenolic compounds, and carbohydrates, proteins, calcium, phosphorus and hydrocyanic acid; Leaves and stalks contain lignin, carbohydrates, proteins, amino acids, quinones, terpenes, alkaloids, saponins, tannins, steroids and phenolic compounds.
Kush	Crude protein, crude fibre; ether extract and total ash, 9.12%; Coumarins, sugars, amino acids, carbohydrates; flavonoids, glycosides, xanthenes.
Nala	Gremain, Donexeron and Lobelin alkaloids per 100 g, the green roughage is reported to contain on a zero moisture basis, 6.9 g protein, 1.3 g fat, 82.6 g total carbohydrate and 37.5 g fiber. The carbohydrates consisted of: rhamnose 0.15 %, mannose 0.35%, arabinose 2.00%, galactose 0.84%, xylose 33.88%, glucose 62.13 %, 4-O-methyl glucuronic acid 0.65%; The leaves yield sterols and triterpenoids, Bufotenidine; possesses anti acetylcholine properties, histamine release activity and it is a uterine stimulant.
Shar	Cellulose, lignin, pentosons and ash; Cyclotrisiloxane Hexamethyl was observed in highest concentration; Pentotanoic acid, Propanoic acid, 2,6-Pyrizinediamine, Cyclotrisilioxane hexamethyl, alkaloids, flavonoids, glycosides, Terpenoids, Saponins, phytosterols, carbohydrates, proteins and tannins.

Table 10. Modern therapeutic potential of Trinapanchamool herbs [3]

Darbha	Diuretic and aphrodisiac, indicated in the disease of blood and bladder, dysentery, gonorrhea, biliousness, asthma, thirst, strangaury, jaundice, vaginal discharges,
lkshu	menorrhagia, vesical calculi, skin eruptions, vomiting, sedative to pregnant uterus.  Antioxidant, Immunotherapeutic effects, Anti-inflammatory, Analgesic, Antipyretic,
Kaas	Hepato-toxic, Diuretic, immunological, Anti-obesity, Anti-malarial. Antioxidant, antipsychotic, antimicrobial, cytotoxic, antiurolithiac, galactogogue,
	antibacterial; used in treatment of mental disease, abdominal disorders, dyspnoea, anemia, obeisity, gyenecological troubles, renal and vesical calculi.
Kush	Anti-microbial, Anti-inflammatory, Analgesic, Antipyretic, Hepatoprotective, Antiulcerogenic, Diuretic, Anti-urolithiasis, Anti-oxidant, Anti-diabetic, Immunological, Bronchodilator and Antihistaminic.
Nala	Anti-acetylcholine properties, Histamine release activity, Uterine Stimulant, Antidiabetic, Antifungal, Antibacterial, Deworming, Anti-Proliferative, Galactogogue.
Shar	Antibacterial, Antioxidant; effective in burning sensations, thirst, erysipelas, blood troubles, urinary complaints, eye diseases.

# 2.3 Mutravishodhan (Urinary anti-septic): [16]

 These herbs make urine clean by alleviating urinary sepsis and bacteria.

### 2.4 Stanyajanana (Galactogogue): [9]

The sweet essence of Rasa produced by digested food and having reached to the breast from the entire body is known as Stanya (Breast milk). The drugs producing or enhancing the secretion of Stanya are called Stanyajajan. Stanya is Aapya in nature so, Stanyajana Dravyas are Madhur Rasa, Madhur Vipak, Snigdh Guna, Sheet Virya also Aapya and Kapha promoting. [1] Trina having Stanyajanana properties are Kusha, Kaas, Darbha, Ikshu.

# 2.5 Kusha and Darbha are Two Different Herbs: 17]

- According to Dalhana, Kusha has smaller, softer and pointed leaves while Darbha has thicker, longer and scabrid ones.
- According to Kaiyadeva Nighantu, Kusha is a variety of Darbha. Bhava Prakash has described Darbha and Kusha as 'Darbha Dwaya'. In Saushrut Nighantu, Darbha and Kusha have been described as 'Kusha Dwaya'. In Dhanvantari Nighantu and Sodhal Nighantu, Kusha has not been described. Raj Nighantu has considered Sita Darbha and Harita Darbha as a type of Kusha and Ashiri as a variety of Kaas. According to Madanpal Nighantu, Darbha is synonym of Kusha.

 Now it has been confirmed that Kusha and Darbha are separate grasses and the source of Darbha is Imperata cylindrical Beauv.

### 3. CONCLUSION

From the study it may be concluded that Trinapanchamool is important group therapeutically potential herbs. These herbs have been used in social rituals in day today life, meditation purposes and in therapeutics. In spite of environmental changes this group of herbs remain unaffected where as various other herbs have entered in to Red Data Book due to environmental adversity and other exploitation. under study possess diversified Herbs therapeutic potential which is time tested right from the dawn of human civilization. Therapeutic potential of these herbs discussed in ancient Ayurveda classics have been experimentally and clinically verified in modern era. In spite of well established therapeutic potential and easy availability, this group of herbs has least therapeutic application in modern Ayurveda. There is need towards judicious use of these herbs in therapeutics for the well-being of ailing humanity.

### CONSENT

It is not applicable.

### ETHICAL APPROVAL

It is not applicable.

### **COMPETING INTERESTS**

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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