



A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF SYNONYMS AND PROPERTIES OF *KARPASA* (*GOSSYPIUM HERBACEUM* LINN.) FROM *NIGHANTUS* (AYURVEDIC DRUG LEXICONS)

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ABSTRACT:

Background: *Gossypium herbaceum* Linn. is known as cotton plant, *Gossypium* is flowering plant genus of Malvaceae family. In India cotton plays dominant role in the industrial and agriculture economy of the country. **Material and Method:** All the available Ayurvedic *Nighantus* were referred for the collection of data regarding *Karpasa*. There is description available on synonyms, properties and actions of the drugs. The e book” of eNighantu developed by National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), Hyderabad. New Delhi was also referred for this review. **Observation and Result:** The different synonyms of *Karpasa* like *Karpasi*, *Karpasaki*, *Tundakeshi*, *Yashaswini*, *Samudranta* etc. Properties like *Madhura Rasa*, *Laghu Guna*, *Koshna Veerya*, *Vatanashaka Karma* and actions like *Raktavardhana*, *Mutravardhana* and *Stanyavardhana* were described in different *Nighantu*. **Discussion:** The collection of various information of the *Karpasa* from 23 *Nighantus* and compare its variations by their synonyms, properties and actions. This type of critical analysis on drug *Karpasa* from various Ayurvedic *Nighantu* has been made for the first time. **Conclusion:** Present analysis reveals that the different types of synonyms, property and actions described in various time period of *Nighantu* may help in identification and authentication of medicinal plants and already proven indications will become base for the retrospective study of a herbal drug.

Key words: *Karpasa*, *Gossypium herbaceum* Linn., *Nighantu*, *Paryaya*, *Rasa-Panchaka*, *Karma*

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INTRODUCTION:

There are many herbal drugs were described in various *Samhita* and *Nighantu*. The *Nighantu* is compendium of detail information on plants which includes basonyms, synonyms and properties of herbal drugs. Basonyms and synonyms are indicating the different characteristic features of plants based on habit, habitat, morphology, therapeutic action etc. This is the unique Ayurveda Nomenclature systems for identification and authentication of the medicinal plants described by different *Nighantus*. The properties and therapeutic action of medicinal plants are also described by *Nighantus*.

There are a lot of literary works found on many drugs but the review work on *Karpasa* has been made for the first time in Ayurvedic system of medicine. *Karpasa* is widely available plant in India and it has multiple therapeutic uses. Different parts of plant like Root, leaf, flower, bark, seed having various therapeutic indications were observed in classical Ayurvedic literature like *Samhita*, *Chikitsagrantha* and *Ayurveda Nighantu*.

The word *Karpasa* is denotes: *Karpasa Vriksha. Kapas Iti Bhasha. Karoti Kriyate Va Kalpate Karpasi*.which means *Karpasa* is a cotton plant and it is used for making cloths. Botanically, *Karpasa* is identified as *Gossypium herbaceum* Linn. from Malvaceae family.

Vernacular names:^[1]

Sanskrit	Tundakeshi
Assamese	Karpasa, Tula
Bengali	Bona, Kapasia
English	Cotton plant seed
Gujarati	Kapasa
Hindi	Kapasa, Binaula
Kannada	Hati,Arale
Kashmiri	Kath
Malyalam	Karpasi, Panji Karpasam
Marathi	Sarki
Punjabi	Lodhar
Tamil	Parutti kkoottam
Telugu	Patti ginga
Urdu	Pambadana, Habb-ul-Qutn

There is a mainly three varieties of *Karpasa* described by Acharya K.C. Chunekar, i.e *Karpasi* (*Gossypium herbaceum* Linn.), *Udhyanakarpasa* (*Gossypium arboreum* Linn.) and *Vanyakarpasa* (*Thespesia lampas* Dalz & Gibs) based on their morphological differences^[2].

***Gossypium herbaceum* Linn.:** It is a shrub with 1-4 meter in height

Leaf – Divided into many parts (generally 3-7parts) like the claw of the hand.

Flowers – Bell shaped yellow flower with purplish in the center.

Fruits – Spherical in shape, 5-7 seeds are cover with white cotton.

Seed – Slightly black in color, are round like gram and have white marrow inside.

Root – Yellowish in color from outside and whitish from inside. The bark of root is thin, spongy and fibrous.

***Gossypium arboreum* Linn.:** It is planted in garden. The leaves and fruits are also a bit bigger and flowers are red in color.

***Thespesia lampas* Dalz & Gibs:** It is generated by itself in the forests. Leaves are three segmented and flowers are yellow in color with often red in center. Its cotton is somewhat yellowish.

In present article, review of *Karpasa* from *Nighantus* is done to document its synonyms

and properties to seek its scope for novel approach.

MATERIALS:

All the available Ayurvedic *Nighantus* were referred for the collection of data regarding *Karpasa*. There is description available on synonyms, properties and actions of the drugs. The e book” of eNighantu developed by National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH), Hyderabad. New Delhi was also referred for this review. The description regarding *Karpasa* were observed in following *Nighantus*.

Table no. 1: Details of *Karpasa* observed in different *Nighantu*

No.	<i>Nighantu</i> and Period	Varga	Abbreviations
1.	<i>Sausruta Nighantu</i> ^[3] (5 th Century)	<i>Prakirna Gana</i>	SN
2.	<i>Ashtanga Nighantu</i> ^[4] (7 th Century AD)	<i>Viprakirna Prakarana</i>	AN
3.	<i>Paryayaratnamala</i> ^[5] (9 th century)	Not mentioned	PR
4.	<i>Madanadi Nighantu</i> ^[6] (10 th Century)	Not mentioned	MDN
5.	<i>Dhanvantari Nighantu</i> ^[7] (10 th -13 th Century AD)	Not mentioned	DN
6.	<i>Dravyaguna Samgraha</i> ^[8] (11 th century AD)	Not mentioned	DS
7.	<i>Shabdachandrika</i> ^[9] (11 th Century)	Not mentioned	SC
8.	<i>Sodhala Nighantu</i> ^[10] (12 th Century AD)	Not mentioned	SN

9.	<i>Nighantushesha</i> ^[11] (12 th Century)	Not mentioned	NS
10.	<i>Abhidhana Ratnamala</i> ^[12] (12 th -13 th Century AD)	<i>Prathama Swadu Skandha</i>	AR
11.	<i>Hridaydipaka Nighantu</i> ^[13] (13 th Century AD)	<i>Mishraka Varga</i>	HN
12.	<i>Madhav's Dravyaguna</i> ^[14] (13 th Century AD)	Not mentioned	MD
13.	<i>Madanapala Nighantu</i> ^[15] (14 th Century AD)	<i>Abhayadi Varga</i>	MN
14.	<i>Kaiyadeva Nighantu</i> ^[16] (1425 AD)	<i>Aushadhi Varga</i>	KN
15.	<i>Saraswati Nighantu</i> ^[17] (16 th century AD)	<i>Kshupadi Varga</i>	SVN
16.	<i>Bhavaprakasha Nighantu</i> ^[18] (16 th century AD)	<i>Guduchyadi Varga</i>	BN
17.	<i>Rajnighantu</i> "Abhidhana" <i>Chudamani</i> ^[19] 17 th Century AD)	<i>Shatahvadi Varga</i>	RN
18.	<i>Rajvallabha Nighantu</i> ^[20] (18 th Century)	Not mentioned	RVN
19.	<i>Laghu Nighantu</i> ^[21] (18 th Century)	Not mentioned	LN
20.	<i>Shaligram Nighantu</i> ^[22] (19 th Century AD)	<i>Guduchyadi Varga</i>	SLN
21.	<i>Abhidhana Manjari</i> ^[23] (1952 AD)	<i>Sankirna Varga</i>	AM
22.	<i>Priya Nighantu</i> ^[24] (20 th Century AD)	<i>Sharadi Varga</i>	PN
23.	<i>Nighantu Adarsha</i> ^[25] (20 th century)	<i>Karpasadi Varga</i>	NA

METHODS: The data related to synonyms, properties and action of *Karpasa* were

collected from above mentioned *Nighantus* and arrange in systemic manners after that interpreted properly.

RESULTS AND OBSERVATIONS:

Paryaya (Synonyms):

Paryaya means words which are related to each other. Which gives knowledge about identification, properties and action of drugs. Around 60 synonyms of *Karpasa* were found from various *Nighantus* as per below table.

Table no. 2: Synonyms of *Karpasa* observed in different *Nighantu*

No.	Synonym	SN	AN	AR	MN	KN	SVN	BN	RN	SLN	AM	PN	NA	Total
1.	कार्पास	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	4
2.	कार्पासकी	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	1
3.	कार्पासी	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	8
4.	कार्पासिका	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
5.	कर्पासः	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
6.	वेसनी	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
7.	वाटी	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
8.	फली	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
9.	शणपुष्पी	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1
10.	महाशण	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1
11.	नग्नजित्	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	2
12.	नग्ना	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
13.	पिचु	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	4
14.	वमनी	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1
15.	वपनी	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
16.	वाट्या	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
17.	तुण्डी	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	2
18.	तुण्डीकेरी	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	4
19.	तुण्डीकेरीका	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	1
20.	तुण्डकेशी	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	1

21.	शणकण्टक	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1
22.	पटीहेतुः	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1
23.	पटी	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
24.	पटं	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
25.	पटशूल	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
26.	छादवनी	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
27.	बादर	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	3
28.	बदरी	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	1
29.	कार्पसकः	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
30.	आछचादनफला	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
31.	स्थूला	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	1
32.	चव्या	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	1
33.	सरिणी	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	1
34.	गुणसु	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	1
35.	मरुद्गवा	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	1
36.	समुद्रान्ता	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	5
37.	वनजा	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	1
38.	अरण्येकार्पासी	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	1
39.	वनोद्गवा	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	1
40.	वनकार्पास	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	2
41.	भारद्वाजी	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	3
42.	सुपर्णिका	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
43.	रामानी	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
44.	उध्यान	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
45.	अरण्य	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
46.	पिचूक	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
47.	ग्राह्या	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

48.	पटदा	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
49.	पटदः	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
50.	बन्धफला	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
51.	कर्पासः	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
52.	भद्रा	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
53.	पिचव्य	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
54.	तूल	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
55.	वामनी	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
56.	वाट्या	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
57.	बदर	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
58.	त्रिपर्णा	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	1
59.	यशस्विनी	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	1
60.	सूत्रपुष्पिका	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
61.	अनन्ता	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Total	6	6	1	6	15	11	4	14	7	10	1	5	86

Rasapanchaka of Karpasa: Rasapanchaka of drug indicate action of drugs.

They are described from various Nighantus as below.

Table no.3: Rasapanchaka of Karpasa observed in different Ayurvedic Nighantu

Nighantu	Rasa	Guna	Virya	Vipaka	Doshagnata
MN	Madhura	Laghu, Guru	Koshna	-	Vatanashana, Kaphakara
KN	Kashaya, Madhura	Laghu, Snigdha	Kinchitushna	-	Samiraghna, Shleshmalama
SVN	-	-	-	-	-
BN	Madhura	Laghu, Guru	Koshna	-	Vatanashana, Kaphakara
RN	Madhura	-	Shita	-	Pittakaphahara
SLN	-	-	Shita	-	-

PN	<i>Madhura</i>	<i>Laghu</i>	<i>Ushna</i>	-	<i>Vatapranut</i>
NA	<i>Madhura</i>	<i>Laghu</i>	<i>Shita</i>	<i>Madhura</i>	<i>Pittakaphahara</i>

Action and indication of *Karpasa*: Action and *Nighantus* described in below table.
indications of drugs are list out from various

Table no. 4: Actions and Indications of *Karpasa* observed in different *Nighantu*

Action	MN	KN	SVN	BN	RN	SLN	AM	PN	NA
<i>Stanyakara</i>	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+
<i>Hradya</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
<i>Balya</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Bruhana</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Vrishya</i>	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+
<i>Ruchya</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Raktavardhana</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Raktahrat</i>	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Raktastambhaka</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Mutrala</i>	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Karnapidaka</i>	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Puyasrava</i>	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Karnanada</i>	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+
<i>Trishna</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Daha</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Shrama</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Bhranti</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Murccha</i>	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Vranapaha</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
<i>Shastrakshatahara</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-

DISCUSSION:

The ancient trites are glossary for the knowledge of medicinal plants, having a detail knowledge about identifications and actions of

drugs. The *Nighantus* are compendium of drugs from different places and different time period so, the variation in description of same drug. This review article has been made for

collection of various information of drug *Karpasa* from 23 *Nighantus* and compare their variations by their synonyms, properties and actions. The critical analysis from 23 *Nighantus* the description of *Karpasa* were found in 13 *Nighantus*. [as per the Table no. 1] There was description found on two varieties of *Karpasa* i.e. *Karpasi* and *Vanakarpasi*. Both varieties having different synonyms, Properties, actions and indications were described in Various *Nighantus*.

The different *Nighantus* has described around 61 types of synonyms for *Karpasa*. The synonyms *KARPASI* was many time used by various *Nighantus* than other synonyms for *Karpasa*. The specific synonyms like *Bharadvaji*, *Vanaja*, *Vanodbhava*, *Arany karpasi*, *Vanya*, *Triparna* and *Yashasvini* were described for the *Vanakarpasa* and others for the *Karpasa*.

Table no. 5: Total number of synonyms observed in different *Nighantu*

Nighantu	Total number of synonyms
SN	6
AN	6
AR	1
MN	6
KN	15
SVN	11
BN	4
RN	14
SLN	7
AM	10
PN	1
NA	5

Rasapanchaka analysis from various *Nighantus* denotes variation in *Rasa*, *Guna*, *Veerya* and *Vipaka* based on different parts of the plant. Seeds having *Madhura Rasa*, *Guru* and *Snigdha Guna*, *Sheeta Veerya*, *Madhura Vipaka* and *Kaphavardhana* property.

Common *Rasapanchak* for *Karpasa* denotes *Madhura* and *Kashaya Rasa*, *Laghu Guna*, *Koshna Veerya* and *Vatashamaka* property. Actions and indications of *Karpasa* was also different based on different parts of plant were described by *Nighantus*.

Stanyavardhana, *Vrishya*, *Balya* are the actions of Seeds of *Karpasa*. *Mutrala* and *Raktavardhana*. The conditions of *Karnapidaka*, *Karnanada* and *Puyasrava* was indications for leaf of *Karpasa*. *Trushna*, *Daha*,

Shrama, *Bhrama* and *Murccha* was common indications described for whole plant. *Ruchya*, *Vranahara* and *Shastrakshatanashana* actions was described for *Vanyakarpasa*.

Table no. 6: Amayika Prayoga of Karpasa^[26]

No.	Amayika Prayoga	Indications	Refernces
1.	<i>Karpasa Pushpa Lepa</i>	<i>Kushtha</i>	Cha.Chi. 7/96
2.	<i>Karpasi Phala Rasa</i> and <i>Sarja Twak Churna</i> with <i>Madhu</i>	<i>Karnasrava</i>	Su.U. 21/43
3.	<i>Karpasa Moola Churna</i> with <i>Tandulodaka</i>	<i>Pandupradara</i>	V.M. <i>Pradaradhikara</i>
4.	<i>Vanakarpasa Moola</i> with <i>Ikshu Moola</i> or <i>Sauviraka</i>	<i>Stanyavardhanarthe</i>	Chakradatta 62/49
5.	<i>Vanakarpasa Moola Polika</i>		Vangasena-Vol-1 48/06

The preliminary phytochemical like carbohydrates, flavonoids, tannins, steroids, terpenoids, saponins, resins, phenols amino acids, starch, sugars and proteins are present in flower, root and seed of *Gossypium herbaceum* Linn^[27].

Pharmacological study like, Male contraceptives, Diuretic, Anticancerous, Antiepileptic, Antidepressant, Antioxidant, Anti-diabetic etc. were found.^[28]

CONCLUSION:

Present analysis reveals that with the help of classical text, we may observe the different types of synonyms which indicate the specific variety of plant, morphological features, properties, actions and indications. *Karpasa* is

mention in 13 types of Ayurvedic *Nighantus* with 61 synonyms and therapeutic indications based on different parts of the plant. Present analysis reveals that the different types of synonyms, property and actions described in various time period of Ayurvedic *Nighantu* may help in identification and authentication of medicinal plants and already proven indications will become base for retrospective study of the specific drug.

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