



A BRIEF REVIEW ON VETERINARY FORMULATIONS IN HARAMEKHALA

HUSSAIN G^{1*} AND PAGAD A²¹Associate Professor, ²Assistant ProfessorDept. of Rasashastra & Bhaishajya Kalpana, Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College of
Ayurveda & Hospital, Hassan***Corresponding Author: Dr. Gazala Hussain: E Mail: gazalanabeel@gmail.com**Received 19th Nov. 2022; Revised 16th Dec. 2022; Accepted 27th April 2023; Available online 1st Jan. 2024<https://doi.org/10.31032/IJBPAS/2024/13.1.7716>**ABSTRACT**

Ayurveda is a science of life and the literature of Ayurveda is very vast. Most of the treatise has concentrated on therapeutic formulations for ailments in humans, but nevertheless a few books have also mentioned about medicines for animals. One such unique literary treasure is Haremekhala- a book written around 9th- 10th century A.D. by Mahuka that encapsulates various formulations and recipes. In the book, a part of a chapter is dedicated to pashu chikitsa or animal health where recipes for treatment of domestic animals are mentioned. This aspect also puts light that Ayurveda treatises were not just for human welfare but for animal wellbeing too. Simple formulations for the treatment of minor ailments for cattle, horse and donkey are mentioned.

Keywords: Haremekhala, Pashu chikitsa, formulations, animals**INTRODUCTION**

Haremekhala is a treatise written around 9th- 10th century A.D. by Mahuka. Subject matter of Haremekhala also covers human health and disease, controlling a person or enemies, treatment for animal

disorder, various cosmetics and perfumeries and so on [1]. It has six chapters in total and in fourth chapter of the book; Pashu chikitsa (treatment for animal ailments) is mentioned.

Table 1: Formulations for diseases of cow/ cattle

Sl. No.	Ingredients	Mode of Usage	Indications
1	Paste of Lakshmana mula (root of <i>Ipomoea sepiaria</i>) [2]	Application in yoni (vaginal orifice of cow)	For cow to conceive
2	Grass grown on Shalmali (<i>Salmalia malabarica</i>) tree [3]	Tie to horns of cow	For expelling the placenta
3	Gunja beeja (seeds of <i>Abrus precatorius</i>) [4]	Make into two halves; one half to be placed in mouth and the other in the cow's vagina	For expelling the placenta
4	Buttermilk prepared with cow's milk to be mixed with Jeeraka (<i>Cuminum cyminum</i>) and madhu (honey) [5]	Application on the back of the calf.	The cow will lick the lepa (anointment) and will pamper the calf of other cow
5	Bharangi mula (root of <i>Clerodendrum serratum</i>) [6]	Make a paste with water and application on the horns of cow in urdhwa mukha (upward movement)	For treatment of worms
		Make a paste with water and application on the horns of cow in adhomukha (downward movement)	Expulsion of worms
6	Varuni fruit (<i>Citrullus colocynthis</i>) [7]	Fruit should be macerated with hand and lepa (anointment) applied on wounds, the krimi (worms/ microbes) will recede	Krimipatana yoga (anti-microbial) for humans, animals and birds
7	Sarshapa taila (Mustard oil) [8]	Washing the oral ulcers with warm water and application	Oral ulcers
8	Usage of Elephant's urine/ bone [9]	Wounds caused in mouth or hooves-application of Elephant's urine and the same to drink Sprinkling of Elephant's urine in the Cow shed or the bone of it buried in the cow shed	Sanskramaka vyadhihara yoga (formulation for managing communicable disease)
9	Apamarga (<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>), Ushira (<i>Vetiveria zizanioides</i>), Laja of paddy, Guggulu (<i>Commiphora wightii</i>), Jatamamsi (<i>Nardostachys jatamansi</i>), Aragwadha (<i>Cassia fistula</i>), Gorbara (cow dung powder), ghee [10]	Dhupana (Fumigation)	Relieves fever
10	Bhumi kuravaka mula (root of <i>Barleria prionitis</i>) or Guduchi mula (<i>Tinospora cordifolia</i>) [11]	Tie to the head or horn of cattle or cow or she- buffalo by which there will be increase in milk production	To increase milk in cow/ cattle

Table 2: Formulations for diseases of Horse

Sl. No.	Ingredients	Mode of Usage	Indications
1	Gunja beeja (<i>Abrus precatorius</i>) [12]	Anjana (collyrium) with fine powder with butter or ghee	Increases vision
2	Sharapunkha patra kalka (paste of <i>Tephrosia purpurea</i>) with saindhava lavana (Rock salt) [13]	Application	Sphotahara (anti-inflammatory) to heal wounds
3	Kumari pulp (<i>Aloe vera</i>) to be applied with saindhava lavana (Rock salt) [14]	Application and internal administration for 10 days	Kanduhara (anti-pruritic) for horse and donkey
4	Kushta churna (<i>Saussurea lappa</i>) mixed with saindhava lavana (Rock salt) and madhu (honey) [15]	Application on the foal	Horse will pamper its foal

To achieve Pigeons of varied colours

It is mentioned to feed the pigeons with different grains by which their colour changes. Feeding Kusumbha beeja (seeds of *Carthamus tinctorius*) will give golden colour, Masura (red lentil) will give red colour and Mudga (green gram) will give yellow colour to the pigeons [16].

DISCUSSION

The herbs mentioned for treatment of domestic animals in Haremekhla are simple and easily available. Lakshmana mula that is explained for application in vaginal orifice of cow is said to be useful in vandhyatva [17].

Application of paste of Varuni fruit on wounds is said to recede the krimi (worms/ microbes). The fruits are said to be bitter, pungent, cooling, purgative, anthelmintic, antipyretic, carminative, etc. [18].

Mustard oil application in oral ulcer of cattle is said to be useful. An investigation was conducted to the temporal pattern of oral irritation elicited by sequential application of mustard oil (allyl-isothiocyanate), and whether it exhibits self-desensitization and cross-desensitization with capsaicin. It was concluded that the temporal patterns of oral irritation exhibited by mustard oil, and its reciprocal cross-desensitization with capsaicin, are similar to those of menthol and nicotine [19].

A review of the dravyas commonly (herbs) employed in Dhupana (fumigation) shows that most of the drugs like Agarar (*Aquilaria malaccensis*), Jatamamsi (*Nardostachys grandiflora*), Nimba (*Azadirachta indica*), Guggulu (*Commiphora wightii*) are astringent, acrid bitter in property and have the actions of deodorant, anti-septic, insecticidal, anti-pyretic, anti-inflammatory, etc. [20].

Application of Sharapunkha on wounds is said to be beneficial. A research study reported that *Tephrosia purpurea* has potential of prohealing and able to improve collagen maturation by cross linking. Its antioxidants help to prevent the damage caused by free radicals by quenching superoxide radicals. It is also reported that ethanolic extract of *T. purpurea* have effective wound healing capacity because of increased fibroblast and collagen fibers promoting angiogenesis in wound. Ethanolic extract of this plant potentially stimulate wound contraction by increasing tensile [21].

A study investigating the effects of oral *Aloe vera* gel (AV) on atopic dermatitis mice with the symptoms like itching demonstrated relief in AD due to reduction of interleukin (IL)-5 and IL-10 levels (Kim *et al.*, 2010). In a double-blind placebo controlled study, 60 patients with mild to moderate plaque psoriasis were topically treated with either 0.5% hydrophilic Aloe

cream or placebo. The Aloe treated group showed marked improvement (83.3%) compared to the placebo group (6.6%) [22].

CONCLUSION

Pashu chikitsa or veterinary medicine is available in various Indian literature. In the treatise Haremekhala, pashu chikitsa is mentioned in the fourth chapter. There are sixteen formulations mentioned overall of which for diseases of cow and cattle eleven formulations, for ailment of horse four and one for colouring of pigeons are enlisted. The formulations are for managing common ailments in domestic animals. Research works on these will help in bringing these formulations into practice in the field of veterinary science.

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