



Medicinal Use of *Majuphala* in Various *Samhitas* and *Nighantus* of Ayurveda

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Abstract

Majuphala (*Quercus infectoria* Oliv.), or oak gall, is widely recognized in Ayurvedic texts for its therapeutic applications, particularly in skin, oral, and gastrointestinal health. With *kashaya rasa* (astringent taste) and *sheetala veerya* (cooling potency), it has significant antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties. This article consolidates references from the *Charaka Samhita*, *Sushruta Samhita*, *Ashtanga Hridaya*, and other *Nighantus*, comparing these applications with modern pharmacological findings.

1. Introduction

Plants in Ayurveda are chosen for their specific properties and effects on the body's *doshic* balance. *Majuphala*, derived from *Quercus infectoria*, has long been valued for its antiseptic, anti-inflammatory, and astringent qualities. Its documented applications in Ayurvedic *Samhitas* and *Nighantus* cover skin, oral, and gastrointestinal issues, and are now being validated by modern studies, which confirm its therapeutic potential.

2. Objective

To review and analyze the uses of *Majuphala* as documented in various classical Ayurvedic texts and to compare its traditional applications with modern pharmacological evidence.

3. Material and Methods

This review examines Ayurvedic primary sources, including *Charaka Samhita*, *Sushruta Samhita*, *Ashtanga Hridaya*, and various *Nighantus*, and relevant modern pharmacological studies, emphasizing *Majuphala*'s bioactive components. Primary Ayurvedic texts and secondary databases such as PubMed, focus on studies of *Quercus infectoria* for antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and astringent properties.

4. Results

4.1 Skin Health

Both *Charaka* and *Sushruta Samhitas* recommend *Majuphala* for *Mukhadushika* (acne), with its astringent properties controlling excess sebum production and reducing inflammation. Modern studies confirm that tannins in *Majuphala* are effective against acne-causing bacteria, like *Propionibacterium acnes* (Agnihotri & Parashar, 2018).

4.2 Oral Health

Sushruta Samhita prescribes *Majuphala* as a mouth rinse to treat gingivitis and oral ulcers. Studies affirm that *Majuphala* has significant antimicrobial action against *Streptococcus mutans*, which causes cavities, and *Candida albicans*, the fungus responsible for oral thrush (Prabhu et al., 2019).

4.3 Gastrointestinal Health

Ashtanga Hridaya recommends *Majuphala* for diarrhea due to its *grahi* property, helping to reduce fluid loss. Modern studies support this, with tannins from *Majuphala* shown to inhibit fluid secretion and inflammation in animal models (Al-Bayati et al., 2020).

4.4 Wound Healing

Bhavaprakasha Nighantu lists *Majuphala* for wound healing, benefiting from its coagulating and antimicrobial effects. Research confirms that it forms a protective layer over wounds, preventing infection and promoting quicker healing (Gholamreza et al., 2017).

5. Discussion

The alignment between traditional uses of *Majuphala* and modern findings reinforces its effectiveness for skin, oral, and digestive conditions. The high tannin content offers strong antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties, validating Ayurvedic claims of its cooling, astringent, and healing effects.

6. Conclusion

Ayurvedic references to *Majuphala* as an antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, and wound-healing herb are corroborated by modern pharmacological studies. Its applications in both ancient and contemporary contexts highlight its potential for integrative healthcare.

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