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Identification of New Medicinal Plants Enumerated In Telugu Cantos of Basavarajeeyam

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Abstract

Background: Basavarajeeyam is an essential manual for Andhra Pradesh's Ayurvedic physicians. It is a multilingual book that has information in both Sanskrit and Telugu. **Aim:** The plants detailed in the Telugu verses of Basavarajeeyam are seen to be significant contributions to the Indian medical system. With this in mind, a re-identification of those plants was attempted. **Materials and Procedures:** To find and tabulate the herbs, the whole text was analysed and inspected. The results of this conceptual analysis were utilised in a subsequent field study. Botanical identification was performed using the data acquired during the field survey. The study was carried out in collaboration with regional research centres in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, as well as the Coimbatore Botanical Survey Unit. Non-controversial source plants' Latin names were included and critically analysed. **Results:** There are a total of 268 plants listed in the Telugu cantos, of which 29 are stated just once and are not repeated in Sanskrit or in parentheses. **Conclusion:** Basavaraju provided 14 new plants in total, 10 of which were listed in Telugu cantos and 4 of which were referenced elsewhere in the book.

Keywords: Telugu Cantos, Basavarajeeyam, New Medicinal Plants

Introduction

A

internal evidence, it is possible to conclude that the work

In terms of Ayurvedic material's development,

The delineations of Charaka and Susruta were followed up to the 15th century in terms of medicine. During the ninth century A.D., Vrinda Madhava contained a small number of plants such as Parsikayavani, Babbul, and others[1]. Chopchini (Dwipantha Vacha) was added by Bhavamisra (16th AD) after a centuries-long absence. The author of 'Basavarajeeyam,' Neelakanta Kotturu Basavaraju, was one of Andhra Pradesh's most distinguished professors. This book is a must-have for doctors in this portion of the nation. Basavaraju has contributed 14 plants to the existing Ayurvedic materia medica



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throughout his complete work. According to the author, he began writing this book after studying Charaka, Nithyanatheeyam (1360 AD), Revanakalpam, Pujiyapadiyamm, Bahatam, Kashikhandam (1435 AD), and other works. He has correctly replicated a passage from the Vaidyachintamani of the 15th century. On the basis of these,

The Sanskrit lines were translated into Telugu.

He has never defined the purpose of his Telugu poetry. In 1930, Pandit Sri Govardhan Sharma Changani, a non-Telugu speaker, translated these Telugu lyrics into Sanskrit for the first time in India. Pandit Changani has embarked on the arduous job of transcribing Basavarajeeyam into Sanskrit, which would greatly enhance the Ayurvedic physician's therapeutic arsenal [4].

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The purpose of this project was to identify the plants mentioned in the Telugu cantos of Basavarajeeyam and to re-identify the specimen by field investigation and botanical identification in collaboration with CCRAS and the Botanical Survey of India. The plants detailed in the Telugu verses of

Basavarajeeyam are regarded as a valuable addition to the Indian medical system. The study's goal also involves gathering information on botanical sources, distribution, and vital local knowledge of the therapeutic properties of plants that Basavaraju had just presented.

Materials and Procedures

The purpose of this project was to identify the plants mentioned in the Telugu cantos of Basavarajeeyam and to re-identify the specimen by field investigation and botanical identification in collaboration with CCRAS and the Botanical Survey of India. The plants detailed in the Telugu verses of Basavarajeeyam are regarded as a valuable addition to the Indian medical system. The study's goal also involves gathering information on botanical sources, distribution, and vital local knowledge of the therapeutic properties of plants that Basavaraju had just presented.

Materials and Procedures

These regions' rural and tribal residents were questioned using a proforma that included the plant's vernacular name, therapeutic value, and technique of application. The 29 species were discussed with all of the attendees. The information gathered by the

A field research was conducted to verify the botanical origins. The study was carried out in collaboration with regional research centres in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, as well as the Coimbatore



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Botanical Survey Unit. Appropriate Latin names for non-controversial source plants were used and evaluated critically.

Observations and Findings

There are a total of 268 herbs listed in the Telugu cantos, with 29 plants being referenced uniquely.

Oddurti's botanical origins, according to A.W Lushington, is *Celastrus paniculatus* (Jyotishmati) (Vernacular list of trees, shrubs and woody climbers in the Madras presidency). Prof. K. Raghunathan believes that the botanical source of Oddurti is *Dolichandrone falcata*, which is known as Oddi in the Andhra area. However, Basavaraju mistook Oddi for Meshasringi and Vekkudu for Jyotishmati. Given these considerations, determining the botanical identification of Oddurtigadda[5] becomes very difficult.

Results of filed study to analyse the distribution of 14 new plants & their therapeutic value

(1) Regotti (*Capparis grandis* Linn)

– Small tree with a wide distribution in Andhra Pradesh's deciduous woods and scrub jungles.

Uses: The bark of the stem Sushkavata (paralysis) is treated with juice and maricha, whereas Vandhyatwa is treated with stem bark and ghrita (sterility) Jannangi (Chinnangi) (*Cassia sophera* Linn) - a common shrub in road side hedges and around the villages of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and Rangareddy districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Uses: Drug possess expectorant properties, Seed powder/ bark infusion is used in diabetes, Leaf juice is used in burning urination, leucorrhea and jaundice. Leaves, seeds and bark are used in ringworm, bark is used in bronchitis, asthma and

paste of leaves in piles.

(2) Nallamukkada (*Plieospermium alatum* Wt&Arn)

– Small tree with a height of up to 8 metres, found in wet deciduous or semi-evergreen forests up to 1250 metres, with lower altitudes on rare occasions, mostly in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and the Andaman Islands. Leaves and bark are used as fomentations in the treatment of rheumatic pain, and the juice is used as a Nasya in Peenasa (chronic rhinitis). **Gollajiddaku** (*Ipomoea sepiaria* Koenig ex. Roxb)

Leaf juice+ (for male progeny), Leaf juice+ (for female progeny), Leaf juice+ (for female progeny), Leaf

not repeat- Perennial shrub found in Andhra Pradesh's roadside hedges and surrounding villages.

Leaf juice is used as a nasal drop in Pumsavana.

(either in Sanskrit or in Parentheses [5] method ed)

Kusumaroga (Leucorrhoea) buffalo curd, leaf juice



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(See Table 1) Ten of the 29 medications are novel additions to the Ayurvedic materia medica by Basavaraju [5]. (Table 2).

The botanical origins of the plant Oddurtigadda is accurate.

During the field research, no evidence of it was found (Table 1). Seeds as a cardiac depressant, hypotensive, spasmolytic, antidote to arsenic poisoning and as a diuretic, hypotensive, uterine tonic, antidote to arsenic poisoning.

(3) Raktamandalapaku (Ventilago madraspatana

Gaertn) – A big, woody climb with a lot of branches.

Andhra Pradesh's Telengana and Rayalseema forests are home to this species.

Root bark is used as a carminative, stomachic, febrifuge, stimulant, atonic dyspepsia, and skin diseases. Bark powder + gingerly oil is

used in Dadru (ringworm) Vicharchika (eczema), Leaf juice + curd in leucorrhea, Root bark is used as a carminative, stomachic, febrifuge, stimulant, atonic dyspepsia, and skin diseases.

[Dalhana has linked Tamravalli to the herb Vamataruni, also known as Manjistha. Dalhana's Vamataruni might be Ventilago madraspatana or a Smilax species.]

Illinda (Diospyros chloroxylon Roxb) - A tiny tree native to Andhra Pradesh's deciduous woods and scrub jungles. Illinda juice is utilised in Parshwashoola (ank's discomfort) and stem bark powder is useful in Helminthes and diarrhoea.

(4) Ucchita (Solanum pubescens Willd) — A roadside plant found in Andhra Pradesh's Telengana and Rayalseema districts.

Leaf juice is used to treat lack of appetite and jaundice, while Ucchita's medicinal oil Nasya is used to treat jaundice.

Sl. no	Telugu name ^[5]	Sanskrit name	Botanical name & Family
1	Regotti	-	Capparis grandis Linn. Capparaceae
2	Guvvaguttaku	Adhapuspi	Trichodesma indicum Br. Boraginaceae
3	Baddakachaku	Satakratulata	Cardiospermum halicacabum Linn, Sapandaceae.
4	Brahmajemudu	Snuhibheda	Euphorbia antiquorum Linn, Euphorbiaceae.
5	Jinnangi		Cassia sophera Linn, Caesalpinaceae
6	Madanabudata	Madanaghanti	Borreria articularis (Linn.f.) F.N.Will, Rubiaceae
7	Kavvapugummadi	Gopabhadra	Gmelina asiatica Linn, Verbenaceae
8	Phirangichekka	Dwipanthara Vacha	Smilax glabra Roxb, Liliaceae
9	Sevatudiyaku	Toota	Morus alba Linn, Moraceae
10	Arehekka	Swetakanchanara	Bauhinia racemosa Lamk, Caesalpinaceae



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11	<i>Gollajiddaku</i>	-	<i>Ipomoea sepiaria</i> Koenig ex. Roxb, Convolvulaceae.
12	<i>Pulicheraaku</i>	Krishna kamboji	<i>Phyllanthus reticulatus</i> Poir, Euphorbiaceae.
13	<i>Raktamandala</i>		<i>Ventilago madraspatana</i> Gaertn, Rhamnaceae
14	<i>Sanapavali</i>	Laghulonika	<i>Portulaca quadrifida</i> Linn, Portulacaceae
15	<i>Parighaku</i>	Vallibadara	<i>Ziziphus oenoplia</i> (Linn) Mill, Rhamnaceae.
16	<i>Kalangpatra</i>	Bhavya	<i>Dillenia indica</i> Linn, Dilleniaceae
17	<i>Nimmasara</i>	Swalapajambira	<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i> Linn, Rutaceae
18	<i>Nalamukkada</i>	-	<i>Pleiospermium alatum</i> (Wt.&Arn) Swingle (=Limoniaalata Wt & Arn), Rutaceae
19	<i>Ucchita</i>	-	<i>Solanum pubescens</i> Linn, Solanaceae
20	<i>Barrebachchali</i>	-	<i>Cissus setosus</i> Roxb, Vitaceae
21	<i>Tellavelaki</i>	-	<i>Gardenia turgid</i> Roxb, Rubiaceae
22	<i>Galanelli</i>	Agnimanthabheda	<i>Premna latifolia</i> Roxb, Verbenaceae
23	<i>Pullateegaveru</i>	Somavalli	<i>Sarcostemma brevistigma</i> W &A, Asclepiadeceae
24	<i>Vidiveru</i>	Madhavi	<i>Hiptagema dablota</i> Gaertn, Malpighiaceae
25	<i>Tundilapuchekka</i>	-	<i>Jatropha glandulifera</i> Roxb, Euphorbiaceae
26	<i>Pullapavili</i>	Lonica	<i>Portulaca olaraceae</i> Linn., Portulacaceae
27	<i>Chenchali</i>	-	<i>Digera muricata</i> (Linn) Mart, Amaranthaceae
28	<i>Korralu</i>	Kodrava	<i>Setaria italica</i> (Linn) Beauv, Poaceae
29	<i>Oddurti</i>	-	-

Table 2: List of new herbs introduced by Basavaraju in Telugu cantos

No.	Herb name ^[5]	Latin name
1.	<i>Regotti</i>	<i>Capparis grandis</i> Linn. f
2.	<i>Jinnangi</i>	<i>Cassia sophora</i> Linn
3.	<i>Gollajiddaku</i>	<i>Ipomoea sepiaria</i> Koenig ex. Roxb
4.	<i>Raktamadalapaku</i>	<i>Ventilago madraspatana</i> Gaertn
5.	<i>Ucchita</i>	<i>Solanum pubescens</i>
6.	<i>Barrebachchali</i>	<i>Cissus setosus</i> Roxb.
7.	<i>Tellavelaki</i>	<i>Gardenia turgid</i> Roxb.
8.	<i>Tundilipuchekka</i>	<i>Jatropha glandulifera</i> Roxb.
9.	<i>Chenchali</i>	<i>Digera muricata</i> Linn Mart.
10.	<i>Nallamukkada</i>	<i>Pleiospermium alatum</i> (Wt.&Arn) Swingle

used in Peenasa (chronic rhinitis).



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(4) **Berrebachchali (Cissus setosus Roxb)** - Tendrillar climber observed on road sides and abandoned fields in Telengana and Andhra Pradesh's coastal areas. Leaf is used as a local stimulant, a poultice of leaf is used to stimulate suppuration, and it is used externally to help with guinea worm extraction. In Gandamala, root is utilised (cervical lymphadenopathy)

(5) **Tellavelaki (Gardenia turgid Roxb)** - Small deciduous tree found in Andhra Pradesh's deciduous woods and scrub jungles.

(6) Root powder is used in Gandamala to treat children's dyspepsia, while root decoction is used to treat piles and jaundice. Fruits are used to treat mammary gland infections. Fever is treated by applying fruit pulp to the forehead. To treat headaches, crushed root + water (lather) is applied to the head.

(7) **Tundilapuchekka (Jatropha glandulifera Roxb)** - In the black cotton soils of Rayalseema, Telengana, and the Coastal regions of Andhra Pradesh, a tiny evergreen perennial shrub up to 1m high is a weed.

(8) Purgative properties of the root and seed oil Oil is utilised as an anti-rheumatic, anti-paralytic, and anti-ringworm and anti-chronic ulcer treatment. In piles, root powder is employed. Cough syrup is made from the juice of the leaves. Warts and tumours are treated with latex.

(9) [In API, it is incorrectly perceived as a Dravanti, whereas it is a traditional medication presented by Basavaraju. Accepting Croton tiglium Linn. as Dravanti and its seeds as Jayapala] may not be controversial.

(10) **Chenchali (Digera muricata Linn.)** - An annual plant with a height of 30-60 cm that is often found in Andhra Pradesh's agricultural fields.

(11) **Uses:** Flowers and seeds are used as diuretic, urinary disorders. As antidote in Arka & Dugdha poison.

(12) **Teegamusidi (Tiliacora acuminata Lam.)** - A woody climber, distributed throughout Andhra Pradesh more so in Coastal districts.

Uses: Moola is used in Mandala Sarpa Visha (snakebite by vascular poisonous snakes) it also acts as spasmolytic & hypothermic.

(1) **Nakkapeetaku (Lepidagathis cristata Willd.)** - Mainly seen in Konkan and Andhra Pradesh.

(2) **Uses:** Leaf juice + Pippali is used in Prasutivata (Eclampsia), externally applied in Charmakeela (warts). Ethno-medic

(2) **Kasara (Momordica tuberosa Congn.)** - Monoecious trailing tendrillar plant

(3) Garbhasrava is made using Kasaramoola and water (abortion)

Discussion



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(4) Basavarajeeyam was prepared by Basavaraju from a variety of sources, including references to the sources from which he gathered the material. He had also contributed from his important experiences and studies, all of which seem to be highly practical and result-oriented. He also included a collection of Telugu recipes, both prose and poetic. Basavaraju wrote 111 Telugu poems including 131 recipes, as well as Asadhya lakshans of specific Vyadhis, symptoms of death, and Beejaksharaprayoga in Vishas. In chapters 3, 10, 11, 12, 22, and 24, no Telugu verses were stated. There are a total of 268 herbs listed in the Telugu cantos, of which 29 are mentioned just once and are not repeated.

in Sanskrit or in Parentheses. The herbs introduced by Basavaraju in Telugu verses as well in parenthetical descriptions clearly indicate that he enriched the Ayurvedic material medica through his outstanding contributions. He contributed 10 new herbs to Ayurvedic materia medica in Telugu verses. Among these 10 drugs, Gollajiddaku and Raktamadalapaku are identified as Ipomoea sepiaria Koenig ex. Roxb and Ventilago madaraspata Gaertn respectively. Takur Balwant singh while describing the source plants of Lakshmana mentioned Ipomea sepiaria as one of its possible source. Lakshmana is a herb used in Pumsavana Karma and it has been described as one looking like Bastagandha and having red blots simulating the figure of a male child. The human figure according to others, is presented in the shape of the tuber or root of

the plant. It is said to have white flowers and fruits during

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- September and October are the appropriate months. Brhatrayi's medicines, 2nd edition, Varanasi:
- The plant was collected. Because both have been used independently for Pumsavana Karma[6], the white form of Solanum xanthocarpum Schrad and Wendl. has been substituted. The usage of Gollajiddaku leaf juice in Kusumaroga is mentioned by Basavaraju (leucorrhoea). Tamravalli has been linked to the Vamataruni or Manjistha plant by Dalhana. The Vamataruni of Dalhana,

according to Thakur Balwant Singh, might be *Ventilago madraspatana* or a *Smilax* species. Dineshavalli is the name for *Ventilago madraspatana*, which is widely used in Kerala. However, another plant, *Alkanna tinctoria*, is identified as Dineshavalli. Basavaraju's latest additions include *Ipomea sepiaria* and *Ventilago madraspatana*. Basavaraju's allegation about Arechekka (Swetakanchanara) government in Leucorrhoea is still popular in Andhra Pradesh's rural and agency regions. Despite numerous inquiries throughout the field study, the botanical source for the medication 'Oddurti' could not be found. Identification of this will need further research.

Conclusion

Basavarajeeyam has made a significant addition to the Ayurvedic materia medica by introducing new herbs. Basavaraju added 14

Source of Support: Nil, **Conflict of Interest:** Nil

new plants in all, 10 of which were listed in Telugu cantos and four others throughout the remainder of the book. The botanical origins of the Oddurti plant has yet to be determined. More research is needed to determine the parent plant of Oddurti, and the activity of any discovered species need scientific confirmation via preclinical and controlled clinical studies.

Chaukhambha Amarabharati prakashan;1999 :p. 177, 347

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Images of the plants:

Fig 1: Regotti- *Capparis grandis*



Fig 2: Chinnangi-Cassi

a sophora





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Fig 3: Nallamukkadda – *Pleiospermium alatum*



Fig 4: Gollajiddaku- *Ipomoea sepiaria*



Fig 5: **Raktamandala- Ventilago madraspatana**



Fig 6: **Illinda-Diospyros chloroxylon**



Fig 7: **Ucchita- Solanum pubescens**



Fig 8: **Barrebacchali- Cissus setosus**



Fig 9: Tellavelaki- *Gardenia turgida*



Fig 11: Chenchali- *Digera muricata*



Fig10: Tundilapuchekka- *Jatropha glandulifera*



Fig 12: Nakkapeetaku- *Lepidagathis cristata*



Fig 13: Teegamusidi- *Tiliacora acuminata*



Fig 14: Kasara – *Momodica tuberosa*

