

ABROMA AUGUSTA FOLIA (Olat kambal)

Introduction

Abroma augusta Linn., is an indigenous plant commonly known as Devil's Cotton or Olat kambal in Hindi. It was known to the ancient physicians and is still considered as a popular medicine in the indigenous system as a good emmenagogue and in the congestive and neuralgic variety of dysmenorrhoea. It is claimed that it regulates menstrual flow and acts as an uterine tonic. Fragmentary provings were conducted by Dr. D.N. Ray of Calcutta in 1919 and Dr. Jugal Kishore of New Delhi in 1972. It has been subsequently proved by CCRH and has shown its affinity for female reproductive organs producing symptoms of dysmenorrhoea and leucorrhoea, which have been confirmed during verification trials too.

Description

The plant is an evergreen shrub or a small tree with dropping branches. Leaves : Young ones are ovate or lanceolate, cordate and sometimes entire, repand, about 15 cm long with a short petiole; the lower matured ones are orbicular, cordate more or less lobed about 25 cm long and 20 cm broad with a 7-8 cm long petiole, stipulate, and have 12 nerves. This length and breadth varies from 8 cm to 35 cm and 5 cm to 25 cm respectively. The number of veins vary from 7 to 15. Bark : affords a source of strong fibers; Flowers : are deep purplish red; Axillary Calyx: lobes are lanceolate, free nearly to bases; Petals : slightly longer than sepals, intricate in bud, deciduous; Capsule: 4 to 5 cm in diameter, thrice as long as the persistent calyx, glabrous or nearly so when ripe; Seeds : develop light wooly cotton and hence the name Devil's Cotton.

Distribution

Cultivated throughout the hotter parts of India from Uttar Pradesh to Sikkim, Khasia Hills and Assam.

Clinically Verified Symptoms

Potency : Q, 6, 30, 200

Location	Symptom	Source	No. of patients prescribed	No. of patients relieved
1	2	3	4	5
Mind	Irritability	4,5,6,7	11	08
	Forgetful	5,6,8	61	48
	Absent minded	5,6	02	01

	Indifference	8	01	01
	Lethargy	8	02	02
	Restlessness with dislike for everything	8	04	02
Vertigo	Vertigo	4,5	256	183
	< lying down	8	60	42
	with empty feeling in head	4	05	03
	with giddiness	4	700	409
	< standing, > rest	1	02	02
Head	Heaviness of head	5	141	103
	< morning, standing	1,7,8	118	89
	Dull aching pain in the head	8	254	139
	> in open air, pressure (in right half < at night)	8	166	108
	Heaviness in forehead	8	72	52
	> pressure	7,8	68	51
	< sun heat	8	01	01
	Pain in the forehead	5,8	75	63
	> pressure	8	138	92
	Dull pain in the forehead with heaviness < in the sun, > motion, open air, pressure	5,8	361	248
	Stitching pain in forehead > pressure	8	38	27
	Burning in vertex < under sun, > rest	8	131	82
	Bursting pain in vertex	8	118	70
Eye	Burning, aching pain in eyes < sunlight, > closing eyes	8	08	08
	Burning in eyes with vertigo	8	03	03
	Redness and swelling of eyelids < night > daytime	8	17	12
		8	02	02

Ears	Earache	8	50	31	
	- with buzzing sound in the ear	4	05	04	
	Hearing power diminished	4	157	81	
	Buzzing in the ears	4,8	16	12	
	Otorrhoea				
	- thin	8	04	02	
	- white pus discharge	7	09	09	
	- thick, whitish	7	10	06	
	- from right ear	8	31	21	
	- thick, white, sticky	7	21	16	
Nose	Coryza				
	- profuse	5,6,7,8	427	267	
	- thin, watery	5,6,8	549	407	
	> open air	5,6,8	113	85	
	Coryza with cough and low grade fever	8	04	04	
	Watery coryza with sneezing	8	64	53	
	Yellowish white nasal discharge with sneezing	8	81	66	
	Sneezing				
	< morning, evening	4	70	56	
	- with feeling of weakness and burning in nose	8	01	01	
	Frequent sneezing	5,6,8	33	21	
	Dryness of nose with desire to rub the nose	4,8,6	110	94	
	Mouth	Gums swollen with aching pain < eating	8	13	09
		Dryness of tongue	5,6	56	42
		Heaviness and soreness of tongue	8	01	01
Dryness of mouth with thirst		5,6	147	86	
Dryness of mouth		5,6,8	311	249	
- with excessive thirst		6,8,9	726	492	

Throat	Pain in throat < while swallowing, with feeling of suffocation	4,5,8	101	71
	> swallowing liquids	7	12	06
	Sore throat	8	67	48
Stomach	Loss of appetite	5,8	364	231
	Thirst for large quantity of cold water	8	174	123
	- during fever	4,5,6	243	218
	Desire for warm and sweet things	8	07	07
	Desire for sweets	8	06	06
	Nausea < during menses	7	01	01
Abdomen	Heaviness in abdomen	6,8	129	83
	Flatulence with heaviness of abdomen	4,9	456	325
	< after meal	4,9	357	205
	< morning	4,9	347	241
	Pain in abdomen with distension, flatulence.	8	05	05
	Colicky pain in abdomen			
	> passing stool	8	09	07
	< after eating	8	92	71
	Cutting pain in abdomen	6,8	258	196
	< afternoon, > passing stool	8	40	32
	Pain in umbilical region	8	167	122
< afternoon				
Pain in lower abdomen	8	01	01	
< walking				
Rectum	Constipation	4	425	238
	Stool - hard	5,6,8	688	429
	- hard, dry	7,9	180	106
	- knotty	7	71	52
	- frothy	5	17	07
	Stool passes with straining	7	54	33
	Stool - brown black	5	56	32

Urinary System	Urine - frequent	5,6,8	274	175
	- profuse	5,6,8	190	128
	Burning in urethra during urination	5,6,8	309	293
	after urination	5,6	05	04
	< 4 to 8 p.m.	5	01	01
	< night	7	03	02
	Urine - albuminous	8	02	02
	Urine - profuse and frequent with dryness of mouth and thirst	4,5,6,8	674	444
		5,6,8	15	06
	Genitalia Female	Menses		
- early		8	57	23
- irregular		4	158	87
- scanty		4,8	183	89
- dark		6,8	51	20
- clotted		6,8	51	20
- with pain in abdomen		5,6,8	96	42
- profuse		4,8	05	05
- delayed		4,6,8	33	22
- profuse and long lasting		8	48	23
- dark, clotted		8	47	22
- irregular, painful, scanty		8	176	84
- delayed, scanty		8	04	03
- black and clotted		7,8	02	02
- irregular, scanty		8	241	147
Metrorrhagia		4,7	03	03
Amenorrhoea		4,7,8	26	12
Dysmenorrhoea		7,8	04	02
< before menses		8	47	32
Leucorrhoea				
- thin		4	27	15
- watery		4	99	63
- profuse		4	96	62
- white		4,8	87	54
with backache		5	04	02
- thick		5,8	83	50
- thick, whitish		8	354	230
- thin, whitish		4	29	20
- thin, watery		7	111	74

Respiratory System	Cough dry	5,6,7,8	617	389
	< morning	5,6,8	297	180
	< evening	5,6	458	299
	- with pain in chest	6,8	113	93
	< night	7	767	472
	Cough with expectoration	5,6,8	207	142
	- thick	5,6,8	267	186
	- white	5,6,8	183	127
	< night	5,6,8	139	95
	- purulent	5	23	13
	- thin yellow	8	04	03
	Dyspnoea			
	< inspiration	8	63	40
	< morning	8	50	30
< evening	8	50	30	
Chest	Pain in chest (Pain on inspiration and coughing)	8	248	170
	Pain in chest < coughing	6,8	159	117
	Pain in chest after coughing < evening	7,8	94 77	67 52
	Palpitation < movement, lying down	4,8	09	07
	Pain in left side of chest	8	71	18
	Back	Pain in the nape of neck < morning	8	01
Dull aching pain in back		5,8	922	614
< movement		5	635	365
> rest		5	180	109
< after menses		5,8	05	05
< standing		5	01	01
Extremities	Pain in both extremities	8	104	80
	< movement	8	56	42
	Pain in both lower extremities	8	88	62
	Pain in both lower extremities (agg. night)	8	255	217
	< walking and pressure	8	20	11

	Pain in joints			
	< motion	8	536	366
	< rest	8	01	01
	Pain in knee joints	8	95	58
	Pain in left knee joint	8	02	02
	< walking, > rest			
	Stitching pain in knee joints			
	< movement/motion	8	207	126
	> rest	8	195	112
	Pain in legs			
	< movement	1,5	188	114
	< night	5	05	04
	Cramping pain in calf muscles	8	18	17
	< straightening the leg			
	< movement			
	> rest			
Skin	Boils during summers	4,6,9	259	147,
	Boils on hands	8	01	01
	< summers			
	Boils - red painful	7	79	58
	Boils with burning sensation	7	12	08
	all over the body	7	331	215
	Dry small papular eruptions			
	with itching	8	04	02
	Vesicular eruptions with tendency to	7,9	10	07
	suppuration			
	Ulceration on hands and feet	7	24	16
	Abscess	7,9	83	38
	- with itching		28	21
	Small vesicular eruptions over whole	10	97	73
	body , suppurating and tender			
Sleep	Sleeplessness	8	188	129
	Sleep disturbed	4,8	130	98

Fever	Fever (low grade fever) < at night, with thirst	5,6,8	110	91
	Fever with chill and bodyache with thirst	8	95	69
			18	12
	Dry heat during fever	5,6,8	80	61
	Fever with headache and bodyache, - with shivering - < night	9	180	160
8		32	27	
8		04	03	
General	Diabetes mellitus	7	02	02
	Weakness with loss of weight	8	11	06

Additional symptoms

	No. of Patients Relieved
Indigestion with sour eructations	12
Pain in whole body < by movement, > by lying down	21
Difficulty in breathing worse from exertion	12
Coryza, thin watery	56
Leucorrhoea stains the linen	103
Burning in palms and soles	21

Discussion

The pathogenesis obtained during the course of proving and subsequently clinical verification comprehensively suggests that *Abroma augusta* has a special affinity for the mucous membranes and the serous membranes. This is exhibited by the symptoms produced and verified in the head, eyes, nose, skin, respiratory system and urinary system. The modalities simulate that of *Bryonia alba* and therefore it may be called an Indian *Bryonia*.

Headache, sneezing, watery coryza, dryness of mouth with thirst, redness of the eyes, fever, bodyache indicate its usefulness in the early stages of influenza.

The symptoms, increased thirst, profuse and frequent urine, pain in extremities, debility, dryness of mouth which have been repeatedly verified suggest its use in Diabetes mellitus. Another sphere where *Abroma augusta* has shown its affinity is the female reproductive organs, as five female provers were relieved of dysmenorrhoea during proving trials and this is further confirmed in clinical verification studies where it is found to be effective in congestive dysmenorrhoea. It has also found effective in menorrhagia, metrorrhagia, leucorrhoea especially in women who are also suffering from diabetes.

The clinically verified symptoms of pain in joints especially knee joints with modalities similar to that of *Bryonia alba* show its usefulness in arthritis. Furthermore *Abroma augusta* has been verified in constipation that too of *Bryonia alba* type i.e. dry hard stool and also found useful in upper respiratory tract infections.