

HYDROCOTYLE ASIATICA

(*Hidro.as.*)

Common Name	:	Hindi	:	Brahami; Mundukparni;
		Bengali	:	Tholkuri or Tholkurni
		French	:	Hydrocotyle
		German	:	Wasseernable
		English	:	Thick-leaved pennywort
Family	:	Umbelliferae (Apiaceae)		
Botanical Name	:	Centella asiatica (Linn.) Urb.		
Synonym	:	Hydrocotyle asiatica Linn		

Introduction

Hydrocotyle asiatica has been long known as an Indian remedy. It is commonly known as Indian pennywort, it is generally found all over India and in South Africa. For a long time the Indian physician as a remedy for various skin disease has used it, jaundice, syphilis, gonorrhoea and elephantiasis. Dr. Andouit after doing a proving in 1857. Introduced in Homoeopathic literature, Allen's Encyclopedia. Materia Medica. Vol. IV 625. Symptomatic proving of this drug as conducted by CCRH to evolve a comprehensive and complete pathogenesis. Hydrocotyle was given in Q, 6, 30, 200 potencies in succession to the provers. The proving and clinical confirmation of many of the symptoms elicited during the proving confirm its sphere of action not only on skin diseases, but also on other parts of body as well as mind, head, nose, mouth, respiratory, and extremities etc.

Description

A slender herbaceous creeping plant, stems long, prostrate coming off from the leaf axils of a vertical root stock, fusiform, often reddish and with long internodes, rooting at the nodes. Leaves 1.3-6.3 cm. diameter., several from the root stock which often have much elongated petioles and 1-3 from each node of the stems, auricular reniform, rather broader than long. Flowers in fascicled umbels, each umbel consisting of 3-4 pink, sessile flowers. Fruit 4 mm. long, longer than broad, ovoid, hard, with thickened pericarp, reticulate rugae, often crowned by the persistent petals, the primary and secondary ridges distinct.

Distribution

Throughout India, Abundant on moist, sandy or clayey-soil, often in large clumps forming a dense green carpet, commonly found as a weed in crop fields and a waste places, Ceylon, Tropical and subtropical regions of the world.

Part Used Whole Plant.

Clinically Verified Symptoms

Name of Drug : Hydrocotyle asiatica

Potency : Q, 6, 30, 200

Location	Symptom	Source	No. of patients prescribed	No. of patients relieved
Mind	Irritability	1	15	5
	Disinclination to do any work	1,8,9	61	30
	Aversion to work (with feeling of Weakness)	1,9	15	11

Location	Symptom	Source	No. of patients prescribed	No. of patients relieved
Head	Vertigo	1,2,8	36	21
	Vertigo with bruised feeling in muscles	9	9	6
	Heaviness of head	3,7	10	7
	(< sun heat)	-	4	4
	Headache < evening	8	84	48
	<straining, pressure	8	17	7
	(with nausea and vomiting amel)	-	2	2
	Pain occipital region with sensitiveness to touch	1,2,3,7	106	74
(Dandruff with itching and falling of hair)	-	4	4	
Nose	Coryza - with thin nasal discharge			
	<morning, (evening)	8	294	198
	(- with thick white mucus < afternoon)	-	4	4
	- with watery nasal discharge	8	3	3
Face	Coryza with stoppage of nose	1,3,7	40	26
	Acne -(followed by dark pigmentation)	3,4	53	29
	Acne vulgaris	4	2	2
	Papules on face	2,3,7	35	14
Mouth	(White patches over face)	-	2	2
	Stomatitis	2	814	612 ✓
	Aphthous Stomatitis (burning - painful)	2	354	215
Throat	Tongue coated white with excessive salivation	8	1	1
	Soreness in throat	8	21	9
	Rawness in throat	8	21	10
Stomach	Pain on swallowing < eating	1,3,7	92	56
	Loss of appetite	1,3,7,8	101	50
	Thirst increased	8	39	17
Abdomen	Pain, abdomen	8	8	6
	Pain, (gripping)	7,8	6	4
	Flatulence with distension of abdomen	7	7	5
Rectum	Ineffectual desire for stool	1,7,8	80	44
Stool	Dry - Hard constipated	1,7,8,9	612	401
Genitalia	Swelling both testicles with pain	1,3	456	257
Female	Leucorrhoea, thick profuse (< before menses)	1,2,4	2	2
	Purities vulvae- vagina	4	77	73 ✓
	(Leucorrhoea - Thin, watery < movement)	-	4	4
	- (Thick, white < movement)	-	4	4
	Sensation of heat in vagina	1,2,3,4,7	2	1
Urethra	(Burning urethra while passing urine)	-	4	4

Location	Symptom	Source	No. of patients prescribed	No. of patients relieved
Respiratory	(Cough with thick white expectoration < night, Winter)	-	28	28
	(With thick yellow sputum)	-	2	2
	Dry cough < morning, evening	8	303	205
	Dry cough with hoarseness	8	3	2
	Dry cough with pain in throat < night	8	84	54
	(Dyspnoea < exertion, walking, ascending, movement, change of weather, rainy season)	-	2	2
Back	Backache	4,8	18	7
	< stooping, (< evening)	4,8	4	2
	(< night)	-	2	2
	Lumbago < movement	7	7	5
Extremities	Swelling right leg	7	55	39
	Pain in joints < from motion	7,8	20	13
	Pain calves with oedema	7	5	4
	Fungal infection of nail beds with cracked nails and pain	1,4,7,8	6	5
	Dropsy of lower limbs	7	54	46 ✓
	Burning in soles	7	24	20
	Pain in left shoulder < winter	7	7	6
	Leg pain	7	5	3
	Swelling of feet & ankle with pain and tenderness < movement	4	4	3
	Swelling nail bud with occasional pain And itching	4,7,8	2	2
	Skin	Itching (< morning)	1,2,3,7	60
- (< night)		-	47	47 ✓
- (< cold)		-	16	16
- (< heat > cold application)		-	40	40 ✓
Itching burning		4	18	7
- < scratching		4,7,	13	10
Eruption with itching (< night, winter)		4	239	113
With oozing of watery discharge with (Suppurative tendency)		4,7,	116	53
Eruptions - dry		4,7	52	21
- scaly		4,7	61	47 ✓
Circular spots with raised scaly edges		1,4	35	20
Eczematous eruptions with itching (< night)		4	73	40
Psoriatic eruptions on extremities &				
Surface of elbow and knee		1,4	104	50
Miliary eruptions with itching and burning		1,3	193	121
Dropsical swelling	7	79	69 ✓	

Location	Symptom	Source	No. of patients prescribed	No. of patients relieved
	Eruptions with hyper pigmentation	4,7,8	68	34
	- Papular	1,3	52	22
	- Vesicular	3	40	21
	Eruptions - bleed on scratching	4,7	84	34
	(Scabies with itching)	-	7	7
	(Scabies on phalanges)	-	4	4
	(Vesicular eruptions over fingers with pain and itching)	-	6	6
	Dry, scaly, excoriating eruption with itching	4,9	866	485
	Burning > after scratching	1,4	31	15
	Thickening of skin at site of lesion	1,4	135	96
	- with itching	4	117	48
	- (< night)	-	15	15
	- (< summers)	-	5	5
	Thickening of nail bed	4	10	5
	Skin - thick, rough, cracked	4	10	5
	Cracks heel, sole with itching and burning <after scratching	7	11	8
	Cracks, fingers, toes, soles	4,7	185	185 ✓
	Skin cracked with itching	4	73	34
	(Corns painful, warts, thick)	-	1	1
	(Small shining flat warts)	-	5	5
	(Fleshy)	-	6	6
	Eruptions - pityriasis with warty growths at upper part of body	4	4	3
	Pale patchy discoloration of skin without itching	4,7,	26	16
	Urticaria- eruptions over arms, thigh with itching and burning	4,7	30	24 ✓
	(<sour things, touch, heat, pressure >bathing)			
	- (<heat >cold)	-	3	3
	(Leucoderma over various parts of body)	-	6	6
Fever	Fever with chill (with body ache)	1,2,3,7,8	155	141 ✓
	- < afternoon-	-	31	31 ✓
	- (< evening)	-	124	124 ✓
	- (< night)	-	1	1
Generalities	Feeling of extreme weakness and Disinclination to do work	8	9	9
	Dropsical swelling all over body	7	283	162
	Profuse perspiration (in upper part of body)	3,7	33	18
	With bruised feeling in muscles	1,7	9	6

Note:- Additional symptoms (which are not present in literature) are in brackets & bold.

Additional Symptoms	No. of Patients Relived
Heaviness of head < sun heat	4
Headache with nausea and vomiting ameliorate	2
Dandruff with itching and falling of hair	4
Coryza - with thick white mucus < afternoon	4
White patches over face	2
Leucorrhoea - Thin, watery < movement	4
- Thick, white < movement	4
Burning urethra while passing urine	4
Cough with thick white expectoration < night, winter	28
- With thick yellow sputum	2
Dyspnoea < exertion, walking, ascending, movement, change of weather, rainy season	2
Backache < night	2
Itching - < night	47
- < cold	16
- < heat > cold application	40
Scabies with itching	7
Scabies on phalanges	4
Vesicular eruptions over fingers with pain and itching	6
Thickening of skin at site of lesion < night	15
- < Summer	5
Corns painful, warts, thick	1
Small shining flat warts	5
- Fleshy	6
Urticaria- < heat, > cold	3
Leucoderma over various parts of body	6
Fever with chill < evening	124
- < night	1

Discussion

Hydrocotyle asiatica has long been known as an Indian drug in Homoeopathic literature. Dr Boileau was the first to experiment with this drug that used it in leprosy. The pathogenesis obtained during the course of proving and subsequently clinically verified. Hydrocotyle asiatica has a special affinity on skin, mind, head, nose, respiratory system, extremities. Disinclination to work has come out as great concomitant for many of the physical symptoms, which too have been clinically verified. Many of the symptoms like irritability, vertigo, headache, coryza with thin nasal discharge aggravation morning, tongue white coated with excessive salivation, soreness and rawness in throat, backache etc appeared during Council's Proving these too have been clinically verified. Some additional symptoms which are given above are not mentioned in literature and nor appeared during proving but present in the patients were disappeared by the Hydrocotyle asiatica medicine during the course of treatment.