**REVIEW ARTICLE**

**PHYTOCHEMICAL ACTIVITIES AND PHARMACOLOGY OF HERBAL DRUG: NARDOSTACHYS JATAMANSI**

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**Abstract**

India, being a rich country in terms of the natural remedies by herbs or the plant extract from golden eras. So, flowing the ancient practitioner’s practice a base we found that the Nardostachys Jatamansi (N. jatamansi) was utilized as it showed potent neuroprotective, antidiabetic, anti-inflammatory and the most important one is the restorative activity of the plant. After all the potency validation through the literature the plant was taken further for the pharmacological evaluation by using different pharmacognosy extraction techniques applied for the Nardostachys Jatamansi extract to be processed according to the different literature libraries. For the extraction procedure, the most used plant parts are assorted rhizomes. Rhizome of Nardostachys Jatamansi is enriched with many chemical constituents showing potent pharmacological actions. So, our review article will take you through a short review about the N. jatamansi pharmacological application and the medication of the ancient physicians prominently to cure many diseases. After our extensive review we got to the conclusion that plant name is Nardostachys jatamansi also called as spikenard or muskroot.

Nardostachys jatamansi are found in the various part of alpine in the north to sub alpines in India, at height of 5000 m. N. jatamansi has variety of pharmacological activities. This perennial drug, generally consist of two species i.e. Nardostachys jatamansi and Nardostachys chinensis which belong to the family Valerianaceae. Taxonomy of the plant cab is seen in Table 1.

**Introduction**

As the Asian population is increasing day by day in world. The Consumption of naturally derived medicine demand is increasing rapidly, as the Asian population is blessed with the knowledge of the natural plants in their Vedas by their forefathers in extent. But as the studies stepped into 21’st century there was a classified branch made to look for the need and the research over the naturally derived medicine could be justified. The branch which deals in the combination of the study of natural products and pharmaceuticals in knows as pharmacognosy. The American Society of Pharmacognosy defines Pharmacognosy as the studies of the physical, chemical, biochemical and biological properties of herbal drugs, drug substances or potential drugs or drug substances of natural origin as well as the search for new drugs from natural sources.

With the help of the vast data of the natural plant’s medication given by some ancient physicians, we came across a plant which was being used in the medication of the ancient physicians prominently to cure many diseases. After our extensive review we got to the conclusion that plant name is Nardostachys jatamansi also called as spikenard or muskroot.

The rhizomes of N. jatamansi is collected as it contains the various chemical constituents which are responsible to show the therapeutic activities by acting as tonic, stimulant and antiseptic. It has antibacterial, antifungal, antiviral and antioxidant effects. Other treatment of this drug may include headache, excitement, menopausal symptoms, flatulence, epilepsy, fungal disease, hyperlipidemia and intestinal colic (Paudyal et al., 2012; Amit et al., 2009).

Generally, the flowers are found to be slightly blue or pink in dense cymes. The roots and its rhizomes are found to be short, thick, dark grey rhizomes crowned with reddish brown tufted fibrous which are used in ancient medications in different medicinal system. It is used as a good stimulant, antispasmodic, tonic, laxative and antiepileptic. Jatamansi has been traditionally used for the treatment of huge varieties of disorders targeting various biological systems of our body such as digestive system, circulatory system, nervous system, respiratory system, urinary system, reproductive system and skin diseases (Sahu et al., 2016).

According to recent researches this drug has also paved its path in the field of cosmetics. It can be tropically applied in the case of burns and skin inflammation.

Some of the common names which are commonly used for the plant are explained in Table 2:

**Table 2:** Various common names of *N. Jatamansi*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Common Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sanskrit</td>
<td>Jatamansi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindi</td>
<td>Jatamansi, Bal-char</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bengali</td>
<td>Jatamansi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marathi</td>
<td>Jatamansi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujarati</td>
<td>jatamansi, kalichhad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telugu, Kannad, Malayalam</td>
<td>Jatamansi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kashmiri</td>
<td>butijatt, kuklipot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>haswa, naswa, jatamasgi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garhwali</td>
<td>Masi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of the world</td>
<td>Muskroot, spikenard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 1:** Taxonomy of *Nardostachys Jatamansi*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Plantae</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Dipsaccales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division</td>
<td>Mangnoliophyta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order</td>
<td>Mangnoliopsida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>Valerianaceae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genus</td>
<td>Nardostachys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Jatamansi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
History

The ‘Valeriana’ word was discovered from the ancient manuscripts in the ninth and tenth century (Evans et al., 2008). The plant has played a vital role since Ayurvedic eras in Indian. It also served other medicinal system such as Unani in ancient Greek and Arab, and in ancient Egypt, Rome and Islamic scripts for its medicinal importance. N. jatamansi is also used to season foods in Medieval European cuisine, especially as a part of the spice blend used to flavour. Hippocrates used in sweetened and spiced wine drink (Singh et al., 2013). The rhizomes of the plant were also used in Ayurvedic system of medicine as a bitter tonic, stimulant, antispasmodic, epilepsy and to treat hysteria (Jha et al., 2012).

Phytochemical properties

According to phytochemical studies, the plant roots contain various volatile oils such as sesquiterpenes, coumarins where, jatamansone is the main sesquiterpene. Other sesquiterpenes include jatamansic acid, jatamansinone, nardostachone, jatamansinol nardostachone, jatamol, nardostachyin, nardosinone, pyrnocoumarin A and B and sesquiterpene acid (Sharma et al., 2016).

Nardostachys jatamansi comprise of following constituents yet the principle dynamic constituents include coumarins and sesquiterpenes, where, Jatamansone is a primary sesquiterpene. The different sesquiterpenes incorporates Alphapatcho-ulense, β-eudesemo, β-sitosterol, elemol, angelin, jatamansin, jatamansinol, calarene, jatamansone β-atchoulense, n-hexaco-sanyl, n-hexacosane, Oroselol, valeranal, valeranone, seychelane, nardostacholan, nardostachone (Malik et al., 2018). (+) unstable oil fundamental oil, gum, sugar, starch, severe extractive issue, gum, ketone, jatamansic corrosive, jatamansone, lupelol, Malliene, Calarenol, coumarinjatamansin, propionate, cyclohexanal ester, heptacosanyl pentanoate are confined from rhizomes, diethaniod bicyclicketone-nardostachone (Singh et al., 2009). Many phytochemical examinations of Nardostachys jatamansi have depicted the nearness of steroids, alkaloids, sterols, tannins, adhesive, flavonoids, sugars, gums, terpenes and glycosides. Are also complied in the Table 3 giving brief about the phytochemical properties accompanied with elucidated structure (Rahman et al., 2011). Such chemicals are hence useful in studying the various effects and factors on the skin.

Table 3 : The chemical constituents along with their chemical structures present in N. Jatamansi.
Seychellanodiol

\[
\text{\begin{tikzpicture}
  \node (A) at (0,0) {
    \begin{tikzpicture}
      \node (O) at (0,0) {
        \text{OH}\text{OH}
      }
    \end{tikzpicture}
  };
\end{tikzpicture}}
\]

Alpha - Patchouline

\[
\text{\begin{tikzpicture}
  \node (A) at (0,0) {
    \begin{tikzpicture}
      \node (O) at (0,0) {
        \text{H}
      }
    \end{tikzpicture}
  };
\end{tikzpicture}}
\]

Beta - Patchouline

\[
\text{\begin{tikzpicture}
  \node (A) at (0,0) {
    \begin{tikzpicture}
      \node (O) at (0,0) {
        \text{H}
      }
    \end{tikzpicture}
  };
\end{tikzpicture}}
\]

Patchouli alcohol

\[
\text{\begin{tikzpicture}
  \node (A) at (0,0) {
    \begin{tikzpicture}
      \node (O) at (0,0) {
        \text{H}
      }
    \end{tikzpicture}
  };
\end{tikzpicture}}
\]

Norseychellanone

\[
\text{\begin{tikzpicture}
  \node (A) at (0,0) {
    \begin{tikzpicture}
      \node (O) at (0,0) {
        \text{H}
      }
    \end{tikzpicture}
  };
\end{tikzpicture}}
\]

Dihydrojatamansin

\[
\text{\begin{tikzpicture}
  \node (A) at (0,0) {
    \begin{tikzpicture}
      \node (O) at (0,0) {
        \text{H}
      }
    \end{tikzpicture}
  };
\end{tikzpicture}}
\]

Jatamol A

\[
\text{\begin{tikzpicture}
  \node (A) at (0,0) {
    \begin{tikzpicture}
      \node (O) at (0,0) {
        \text{H}
      }
    \end{tikzpicture}
  };
\end{tikzpicture}}
\]

Jatamansonol

\[
\text{\begin{tikzpicture}
  \node (A) at (0,0) {
    \begin{tikzpicture}
      \node (O) at (0,0) {
        \text{OH}
      }
    \end{tikzpicture}
  };
\end{tikzpicture}}
\]

**Potent plant part**

The rhizome of the *N. jatamansi* was collected from its wild species (Yoon *et al.* 2018).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Potent pant part</th>
<th>Disease management</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Rhizomes</td>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>You <em>et al.</em>, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Rhizomes</td>
<td>Antioxidant And Free Radicle Scavanger</td>
<td>Rücker <em>et al.</em>, 1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Essential Oil</td>
<td>Hair Growth And Blackness Of Hair</td>
<td>Moein <em>et al.</em>, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Rhizomes and Roots</td>
<td>Antineuro-Inflammatory</td>
<td>Madhu <em>et al.</em>, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Ethanolic Extract</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s Disease</td>
<td>Madhu <em>et al.</em>, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Rhizomes</td>
<td>Antimicrobial Activity</td>
<td>Bae <em>et al.</em>, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Rhizomes</td>
<td>Pancreatitis</td>
<td>Chaudhary <em>et al.</em>, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Essential Oil</td>
<td>Antifungal Activity</td>
<td>Ahmad <em>et al.</em>, 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Roots</td>
<td>Anti-Parkinsons</td>
<td>Chopra <em>et al.</em>, 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Rhizomes</td>
<td>Antispasmodic In Hysteria</td>
<td>Singh <em>et al.</em>, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Ethanolic Extract</td>
<td>Hepatoprotective Activity</td>
<td>Purnima <em>et al.</em>, 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Adulterant**

The major adulterants used are the rhizomes of *Selenium vaginatum*, containing volatile oil (Joshi *et al.*, 2006).

**Mechanism of action**

*Nardostachys jatamansi* increases levels of the following key neurotransmitters in the brain:

- GABA
- Norepinephrine
- Dopamine
- Serotonin
- 5-Hydroxyindoleacetic acid (5-HIAA)
- *Nardostachys jatamansi* inhibits inflammatory cytokines IL-1β, IL-6, and tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF-α).
- *Nardostachys jatamansi* deactivates p38 mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPKs), a class of enzymes involved in the inflammatory response to stress.

**Biological activities of Nardostachys jatamansi**

**Antioxidant Activity**

*Jatamansi* showed the antiperoxidative property when it was experimented on a rodent liver. They had seen in their various experiments and investigation that the concentrate gave security as well as high protection against lipid peroxidation. In another experimental examination aqueous concentrate of jatamansi roots were explored for its cancer prevention agent and anti-cataleptic impacts on a rodent model of the infection by estimating different physiological, social and biochemical parameters (Yoon *et al.*, 2018).
Anti-Neuroinflammatory Effects

N. jatamansi containing, two new chemical constituents i.e. nardosinone-type sesquiterpenoids were detached from the concentrate of methanol. Desoxo-narchinol A and narchinol B essentially restrained lipopolysaccharides (LPS) initiated Nitric oxide and PGE2 generation in microglial cells. These results were identified with the hindrance of LPS incited articulation of iNOS and COX-2 chemicals in essential microglial cells after pre-treatment. The chemical mixtures however restrained the LPS initiated generation of chemically provocative cytokines, for example, various leukotrienes (IL-1b, IL-6) and TNF in microglial cells (Malik et al., 2018).

Premenstrual Syndrome

N. jatamansi is an ancient medication that has shown antagonist effect against stress, sedation, anxiolytic, antispasmodic, tranquilizing, cardio- tonic and neuroprotective activities. N. Jatamansi has been shown in various studies to enhance the bio-genic amines and inhibitory neurotransmitters in brain. This mechanism entirely works by effecting the women hormones such as estrogen, progesterone, serotonin and gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) (Rao et al., 2005).

Anticonvulsant and Neurotoxicity Profile

Nardostachys jatamansi considerably increased the input of seizures in an experimental model. The ethanol extract of jatamansi affected the generalized tonic-clonic seizures by showing very less neuro-toxic effect. The synergistic effect of Nardostachys jatamansi with combination with phenytoin showed a marked effect on the behavioral modifications and other potential activities on central nervous system (Sharma et al., 2012).

Scavenging Activity

N. jatamansi was assessed when the ethanolic extract showed radical scavenging activities. The radicles of DPPH (2,2-diphenyl-1-picrylhydrazyl) were reacted with suitable reducing agents. These then undergo loss of coloration stoichiometrically and also the numbers of electrons consumed were measured by using spectrophotometry which was obsevered and determined which showed a significant antioxidant activity at 517nm (Lyle et al., 2009).

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Administration of Nardostachys jatamansi extract (200 and 500 mg/kg) would in general standardize both by increasing the activities of peroxidation of lipids nitrite superoxide dismutase and also the levels of catalase. Nardostachys jatamansi extract [NJ]E has an antioxidant effect. In a biochemical analysis, CFS (chronic fatigue syndrome) significantly increased the activities of peroxidation of lipids nitrite superoxide dismutase and also the levels of catalase. The outcomes of the experiment resulted in high oxidative pressure which was relieved by NJE. This indicated, its antioxidant property may be responsible for anti-stress effect (You et al., 2012).

Anxiety and Insomnia

N. jatamansi added in this formulation due to its anti-psychotic activity and its prevention from various skin related disorders. It is also added in various classical Ayurvedic formulation widely prescribed for anxiety and insomnia. This example of such formulation is Sarpagandha ghanvati (Subashini et al., 2007).

Cardiac Function

N. jatamansi is able to attenuate cardiac damage induced when 15mg/kg doxorubicin was introduced in experimental rats by the elevation of various. Serum marker enzymes. This prevented effect of enzymes which was mediated via anti-lipid peroxidation at the level of the cell membrane (Singh et al., 1980).

Anti- Fungal Activity

Essential oil N. jatamansi showed anti-fungal properties against various fungal species such as Aspergillus flavus, Aspergillus niger and Fusarium oxysporum Mucor fragilis, Rhizopus stolonifera. The oil was found to show fungi static of fungicidal depending upon the amount concentration (Rücke et al., 1978).

Anticancer Activity

N. jatamansi showed in vitro anti proliferative activity against two human cancer cell lines. The 95% extract of alcoholic had inhibitory effect for proliferation of neuroblastoma (Middleton et al., 2000).

Hepatoprotective activity

Pre-treatment of rodents with 800 mg/kg of the rhizomes consisting of half ethanol concentrate of N. jatamansi is essential for reduction of the increased levels of serum transaminases and soluble phosphatase in thioacetamide. This hepatoprotection activity was determined by the standardization of different raised serum proteins which actuated liver toxicity (Ali et al., 2000).

Antidiabetic action

The jatamansi concentrate has been proved beneficial for anti-diabetic activities. It reduces the levels of glucose in both non-diabetic as well as non-diabetic when contrasted with individual controls. When ethanolic extract was introduced at high portion, showed anti-diabetic action. The outcomes demonstrated that it has critical anti-hyperglycemic impact in trial models which are related to diabetes mellitus (Purnima et al., 2015; Aleem et al., 2014).

Neuroprotective activity

Various defensive impact of N. jatamansi on neurobehavioral exercises such as thiobarbituric corrosive receptive substances, diminished glutathione, thiol gathering catalase and sodium potassium ATPase exercises was considered in center cerebral supply route model of intense cerebral ischemia in rodents. Na [+] K [+] ATPase and catalase were declined essentially. The neuro conduct exercises [immediate engine action and engine co-ordination] seemed to be diminished. Experimental investigation gave viability of N. jatamansi, leading to central ischemia and hence resulted in cell reinforcement property (Salim et al., 2003).

Nootropic movement

The raised in addition to labyrinth and the latent shirking worldview was utilized to assess the various parameters related to learning and memory. Various portions, mainly three, of an ethanol concentrate of N. jatamansi was directed for progressively seven days to both matured and young mice. The one portion of N. jatamansi fundamentally
improved the power of memory and learning in young mice. Furthermore, it switched and caused amnesia incited by diazepam at the another portion. When scopolamine related amnesia was switched, it was difficult to accept the fact that that the memory improvement might be a direct result of assistance of cholinergic transmission in the cerebrum. Thus, N. jatamansi may turn out to be a useful as memory therapeutic for the treatment of occurrence of dementia in aged population (Bhattacharya et al., 1982; Joshi et al., 2006). Some of the mentioned diseases are already using the potent drug for the medication and treatment in the combination for treating the disease. As some the uses are shown in the Fig 1.

Fig. 1: Various potential uses of Nardostachys Jatamansi medication being practised.

**Marketed formulations**

Here is brief about some of the marketed formulation being marketed presently by the companies. Brief Can be seen in the Table 5.

**Table 5:** Various marketed formulation of Nardostachys Jatamansi in market in respect to its company.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S No.</th>
<th>Trade Name of the Preparation</th>
<th>Name of Marketted Product</th>
<th>Uses</th>
<th>Name of Manufactured Company</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Jatamansi</td>
<td>Kesh King</td>
<td>Hair Care And Hair Growth</td>
<td>Emami</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Jatamansi</td>
<td>Mentat</td>
<td>Mental Disorders</td>
<td>Himalaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Jatamansi</td>
<td>Ovarin</td>
<td>Ovarian Disorders</td>
<td>Ban Labs Ltd</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Conclusions**

*Nardostachys Jatamansi* is essential medicinal plant used to treat various diseases in Unani, Ayurveda & material medica medicine system. Preclinical studies have shown promising effect of Nardostachys Jatamansi as neuroprotective, antidiabetic, immunomodulators, and anti-inflammatory properties. Present review elaborated the various pharmacological activities and phytoconstituents of Nardostachys Jatamansi, which required scientifically validation and serve the humanity for curative measures.

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**Conflicts of Interest:**

There are no conflicts of interest.

**References**


