

SHORT RESEARCH COMMUNICATION

## Botanical Identity of the Drug *Gilodhya*

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The present communication deals with the study of controversial or little known Ayurvedic drugs. *Gilodhya* which first appeared in *Susruta Samhita* Sr. 43/11, but later could not find its place in *Nighantus* and comments. However, some authors have given a clue for *Ceropegia bulbosa* Roxb. In accordance to the comments of Acharya Dalhan on *Susruta Samhita*, the morphological characters of *Ceropegia bulbosa* Roxb. do not tally with '*Gilodhya*' but another species *Ceropegia vincaefolia* HK. f. resemble more with the morphologically characters of the plant species *Gilodhya* collected by the author as *Galekhua*. Hence, it may be concluded that *Gilodhya* of *Susruta Samhita* may be the corm of *Ceropegia* belonging to be family *Asclepiadaceae*.

The present communication deals with the establishment of true botanical

identity of a neglected ayurvedic drug the *Gilodhya* which is used by local inhabitants to quench their thirst in the forests.

*Gilodhya* is very little known Ayurvedic drug and for the first time appeared in *Susruta samhita*. Afterwards none of the *Nighantus* has mentioned this drug. This may be due to its localized and scarce availability or rare use of this drug in Ayurvedic preparations.

*Susruta Samhita* describes this drug under *Kashaya Varga* (Kotele, 1971).

Acharya Dalhan's comment on *Susruta Samhita* about this drug is self explanatory. It is helpful in identity and is indicative of its morphological characters. (Singh Balwant, 1972).

The character derivation on the basis of Acharya Dalhan's comments may be made as under :

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| <i>Shitodhya kand</i> | <i>Shita</i> =White ; <i>Adhya</i> =earth ; <i>Kanda</i> =corm An underground white corm.   |
| <i>Pravid-jatah</i>   | <i>Pravid</i> =rains ; <i>Jatah</i> =growing (taking birth) Growing in raining season.  |
| <i>Shanpatrika</i>    | <i>San</i> = <i>Crotalaria juncea</i> ; <i>Patrika</i> =leaves Leaves similar to that of <i>crotalaria juncea</i> i.e. oblong or linear-lanceolate. |