

ISSN 2278-4136
ISSN 2349-8234
JPP 2014; 2 (6): 219-221
Received: 11-02-2014
Accepted: 26-02-2014

Khursheed A Ansari
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Tashreeh Wa Munafeul Aza
Faculty of Medicine (Unani)
Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, India.

Mohd Akram
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Tahaffuzi Wa Samaji Tibb
Faculty of Medicine (Unani)
Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, India.
Email: makram@jamiahamdard.ac.in

Filfil Siyah (Piper nigrum Linn) an important Drug of Unani System of Medicine: A Review

Khursheed A Ansari and Mohd Akram

ABSTRACT

Herbs and Spices are very common ingredients of most of the compound drugs of Unani (Greco-Arab) System of Medicine due to their diverse pharmacological potentials and very few side effects on human health. Black pepper (*Piper nigrum Linn.*) called as FilfilSiyah in Unani System of Medicine is an important drug being used for a variety of ailments. Although it is considered as 'The King of Spices' throughout the world but it is the most famous spice used in Indian and Indian sub-continent kitchens and as home remedy for various common diseases. Therapeutic uses are mentioned in different Folk, Traditional and Alternative systems of medicine like Unani, Ayurveda and Sidhha medicine. This review article is aimed to provide scientific description of *Piper nigrum*, its chemical constituents, Temperament, properties and uses for promotion and prevention of health

Keywords: *Piper nigrum* Linn, Microscopical, Drug of Unani System, Medicine

1. Introduction

Filfil Siyah consists of mature dried fruits of *piper nigrum* Linn. It belongs to the family Piperaceae (Khare, 2007). It is an important herbal plant is used in traditional system of medicine in Asia and Pacific Island especially in Indian medicine. The plant is native of Indo-Malaya region. It was first introduced to Europe and was highly regarded as a flavour ingredient by the romans (Sharma vinay *et al.*, 2012). It is cultivated in Assam as well as Kerala Konkan. The fruits of *piper nigrum* ripen from December to March, depending upon climatic condition and harvested from December to April. (Khare, 2007)

Vernacular Names: (Anonymous, The Unani Pharmacopoea of India, 2007)

English	: Black Pepper
Urdu	: FilfilSiyah, Kalimirch
Arabic	: FilfilAswad
Hindi	: Kalamirch
Persian	: FilfilSiyah
Gujarati	: Kalimor
Bengali	: Golmorich, Kalaorich, Morich
Tamil	: Milagu
Marathi	: Kalamiri
Punjabi	: Galmirich, Kalimirch
Telugu	: Miriyalu, Marichamu
Kannad	: Menaru, Karimonaru

Taxonomical Classification

Kingdom	: Plantae
Class	: Equisetopsida
Sub class	: Magnoliidae
Super order	: Magnolianae
Order	: Piperales
Family	: Piperaceae
Genus	: Pipe

Correspondence:
Mohd Akram
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Tahaffuzi Wa Samaji Tibb
Faculty of Medicine (Unani)
Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi.
Phone: 9891928622
Email: makram@jamiahamdard.ac.in

Species : nigrum
Binomial name : Piper longum

Habitat:

It is found in Southern India and cultivated in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. It is also found in France, Sri Lanka, Thailand and South America. (Anonymous, Standerdisation of Single drugs of Unani Medicine, YNM)

Ethanobotanical Description:

Macroscopic:

It is thick, glabrous, flowering woody plant that is easily grows in the shade on supporting trees, trellises or poles up to height of 12-13feet. (A.K, 1954) Leaves are coriacious, 5- 12.5 cmbroad, ovate and acuminate. Fruits are glabrous, 4- 6 mm in diameter which is grayish-black in colour, hard, wrinkled and called a drupe. Fruits are green initially and turn black on drying called as peppercorn. The fruit contains a single seed. The unripegreen fruits may freeze-dry to turn in green pepper (Zoheir A Damanhour, 2014) Fruits. The odoris pungent. (Chopra, 1956)

Microscopic:

Transverse section of piper nigrum shows the epicarp having polygonal cells, consisting of acuticle and also containing a dark content which is brown to black in colour. It has a zone composed of thin walled parenchymatous cells. (Kirtiker, 1996). Mesocarpprostitute a large area of pericarp. The outer layers are parenchymatous containing chlorophyll and starch grains. Various layers of cells appearing more or less compressed. Under the compressed cell region, there is a layer of large oil cells consisting of impregnate walls and a zone of small parenchymal cells. Endocarp is made up of single layer of stone cells. Testa consisting of 2-3layers of compressed elongated cells. Endosperm is very small having a thin parenchymatous cell wall. It has a minute Embryo which is embedded in endosperm. (Anonymous, Standerdisation of Single drugs of Unani Medicine part I, YNM).

Phytochemistry:

Piperine: It is the first pharmacological active compound that was isolated from various members of the family Piperaceae. It has four isomers eg. Piperine, Isopiperine, Isochavicineand Chavicine. (Nisar Ahmad, 2012) Phenols, flavonoids, alkaloids, steroids, amides, lignans, terpenesneolignans etc. are alsopresent. (Khare, 2007) N-Formylpiperidine, N-trans- Feruloyltryamine, pentadienoyl as piperidine, (2E,4E)- N-isobuty-ldecadienamid, isobutyl-eicosadienamid, Isobutyl-octadienamid, isobutyl-eicosatrienamid, Piperamid, Piperamine,Pipericide,Piperettine, Piperine, Piperolein B,Sarmentosine, Retrofractamid, Sarmentine, Tricholein, Guineensine, Trichostachine are the othercompounds that are also present in piper nigrum. (Nisar Ahmad, 2012). It is used for enhancing the efficacy of co-administered medicaments. (Khare, 2007)

Mizaj (Temperament):

Hot²⁰ Dry⁰
 (M Hakeem 2011) (H Ram lubhaya 1984) (Anonymous 2007)

Afa'al(Actions):

Externally- Jali, Musakkin, Jazib-e-Khoon.
 Internally- Muquawwi-e-Jigar, MedawaAsab, Muharrik, Kasir-e-Riyah, Mudirr-e-Baulwahaiz, Muquawwi-e-Bah, Munaffis-e-Balgham, Tiryaaq-e-meda. (Anonymous 2007)

Istematat (Uses):

Nafkh-e-Shikam, Fasad-e-Hazam, Zof-e-Hazam, Kasrat-e-Riyah, Bars-o-bahak. (Anonymous 2007)

Pharmacological Activities:

- Antiinflammatory Activity
 - Hepatoprotective Activity
 - Anti oxidant Activity
 - Anti mutagenic activity
 - Anti tumor Activity
 - Anti diarrheal Activity
 - Anti Hypertensive Activity
- (Khare, 2007) (Nisar Ahmad, 2012) (Chopra, 1956)

Miqdar-e- khurak (Dosage):1-2 g. (Anonymous 2007)

Compound Formulations:

Various compound formulations are prepared in Unani System using filfilsiyah for treatment of a number of ailments. Habb-e-Azaraq, Habb-e-Surfa, Habb-e-Gul-e-Aakh, Habb-e-Papita, Habb-e-Tinkar, Habb-e-Shahiq, Habb-e-KabidNaushadri, Qurs-e-Dawa-ul-Shifa, Qurs-e-MaltiBasant, Roghan-e-Seer, Roghan-e-Qust, Barshasha, Jawarish Jalinoos, Jawarish Zarooni Sada, Jawarish Kamooni, Jawarish Bisbasa, Majoon Jalali, Majoon Seer Alvi Khan, Majoon Falasfa (Saif Uddin, 2010); Itrifal Kabir, Anqaroya Kabir, Anqaroya Saghir, Basaliqoon Kabir, Tiryaaq Samaniya, Jawarish Safarjali Qabiz, Jawarish Falafili, Jawarish Kamooni Mushil, Chandrprabha Gogul, Habb-e-Tinkar, Habb-e-Halteet, Habb-e-Rahat, Habb-e-Anand Bhairo, Habb-e-Musakkin Nawaz, Habb-e-MusaffiKhoon, Habb-e-Summ-ul-Faar, Safoof-e-Bars, Safoof-e-Chutki, Safoof-e-Namak Sulaimani, Kohl-al-Jawahar, Kohl-e-Bayaz, Kohl-e-Kafoor, Majoon Jograj Gogul, Majoon-e-RegMahi, Majoon-e-Zanjabeel, Majoon-e-Fanjnoosh, Majoon-e-Qulanj, Majoon-e-Kalkulanj, Majoon-e-Nisyaan, Majoon-e-Halila, Mufarreh Kabir, Ikseer-e-Gurda, Tiryaaq-e-Meda (Kabiruddin M 1935)

Conclusion:

It is a well-known fact that most of the spices being used as home remedies and described in literature of Unani medicine play a vital role against variety of ailments. This review depicted that FilfilSiyah (Piper nigrum) has numerous therapeutic effects on human health.

References:

1. Khare C. "*Indian Medicinal Plants*". Heidelberg: SpringerScience, Bussiness Media, LLC, 2007.
2. Sharma vinay *et al.* "pharmacognostical and phytochemical study of piper longum L. and piper retrofractumvahl". Journal of pharmaceutical and scientific innovation. 2012, 62-66.
3. Anonymous. "*The Unani Pharmacopoea of India*"P-I(Vol. IV). Delhi: Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, 2007, 38-40.
4. Anonymous. (YNM) "*Standerdisation of Single Drugs of Unani Medicine*" P-V (Vol. II). New Delhi: CCRUM, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and family Welfare, Government of India.
5. Damanhour ZA, Ahmad A. A Review on Therapeutic Potential of Piper nigrum L. (Black Pepper): The King of Spices, 2014, 161.
6. Chopra RN, Nayar SL, Chopra IC. Glossary of Indian medicinal plants. *New Delhi. C SIR*, 1956.

7. Anonymous. (YNM) "*Standardisation of Single Drugs of Unani Medicine*" New Delhi: CCRUM, Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and family Welfare, Government of India, *P-I* (Vol. I), 62-65
8. Trimen H, Dassanayake MD. *A Revised handbook to the flora of Ceylon* Amerind Pub. Co., New Delhi, 1983, 4.
9. Ahmad N, Fazal H, Abbasi BH, Farooq S, Ali M, Khan MA. Biological role of *Piper nigrum* L.(Black pepper): A review. *Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Biomedicine*. 2012; 2(3):S1945-S1953.
10. Hakeem M. "*Bustan ul Mufradat*". Delhi Aijaz Publishing house, 2011, 241.
11. Ram HL. "*Byan ul Advia*" P-II. Delhi Goswami Farisi 2043 Gali Qasim Jan. 1984, 113-115.
12. Safiuddin Syed. "*Unanni Advia Murakkaba*", Aijaz Publishing House, New Delhi, 2010, 17-274.
13. Kabiruddin M. "*Bayaz-e-Kabir*" Edition 5, Hikmat Book Dipo, Hyderabad, 1935, 5-154.