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# Potential of ficus religiosa: An antihemorrhagic remedy

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#### **Abstract**

*Ficus Religiosa* is used as an antihemorrhagic remedy to treat haemorrhage of many kinds i.e. haematemesis, haematuria, menorrhagia, metrorrhagia, haemoptysis, dysentery mixed with blood, bleeding piles, epistaxis etc.

The tender leaves of *Ficus Religiosa* are used to prepare mother tincture, 1x potency since the 19th century.

Keywords: Ficus Religiosa, Homoeopathy, Antihemorrhagic remedy

Abbreviation: Q- mother tincture

#### Introduction

Homoeopathy is a perfectly simple system of medicine, remaining always fixed in its principles as in its practice, which, like the doctrine whereon it is based [1]. Master Hahnemann formulated these principles of homoeopathy, which are based on the Law of Nature

Homoeopathy is a natural, gentle and effective system of medicine. It works upon the principle that 'like cures like'. Homoeopathy treats each person as a unique individual with that aim of stimulating their own healing ability.

#### Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India (HPI):

**Botanical name:** Ficus religiosa Linn [2].

Kingdom: Planate [2] Phylum: Spermatophyta [2] Class: Dicotyledonae [2] Order: Urticales [2] Family: Moraceae [2] Genus: Ficus [2]

**Species:** Ficus religiosa [2]

**Distribution:** Indo- China, Indian subcontinent [2]

Part used: Tender leaves [2]

Common Names: Hindi: Pipal, Sanak, Ashwath, Pippala [2]

**Description:** A large, glabrous tree, usually at first epiphytic; bark is grey, exfoliating in roundish, irregular flakes. Leaves coriaceous; shining, long petioles, drooping, 10-18 cm long, ovate-rotund, entire, narrowed upwards and with the apex produced into linear lanceolate tails 1/3 the whole length of the blade; baseboard; rounded or truncate or sometimes in young leaves, chordate; petioles 7-10 cm long, slender, terete, stipule minute, ovate, acute. Receptacles in pairs, axillary, sessile, smooth, depressed, globose, 1.25 cm in diameter, dark purple when ripe; basal bracts-3; spreading, voracious. Male flowers few only near the mouth of some receptacles, absent in others; sessile sepals-3, broadly ovate, stamen-1, filament short. Gall and fertile flowers sessile or pedicelled the gall flowers predominating many without a perianth, sepals-5, lanceolate. Style short, stigma rounded <sup>[2]</sup>

**Microscopical:** Leaf: the hairs usually present are of glandula and non glandula types, vary in length and in the number of component cells. Glandular spots, sometimes described as wax glands on the surface are common. The epidermis of the leaf consist of one to several layers of cells. The cell walls or silicified or calcifies. Leaf dorsiventral; stomata are of ranunculaceous type and or found on the only lower surface. Mesophyll is not distinctly differentiated and entire consisting of a palisade tissue. Cytolith are present. Laticiferous

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Faculty of Homoeopathic Science, Jayoti Vidyapeeth Women's University, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India secretory cells are widely distributed in leaf and petiole. Isolated prismatic crystals of calcium oxalate are distributed around the vascular bundles in the leaf as well as in petiole <sup>[2]</sup>.

**History and authority:** Dr. Sarat Chandra, Ghose of Midnapore, did the first proving and introduced into Homoeopathic Practice. A Dictionary of Pract. Mat.Med. Clarke vol 1, 779 <sup>[2]</sup>.

**Doctrine of Signature:** The leaves of *Ficus religiosa* resemble to the shape of the heart and uterus, so it treats the diseases of the circulatory system and uterus.

On cutting the bark of a tree, it produces bright-red discharge which can treat diseases of the circulatory system [3]

**Sphere of Action:** Causes and cures hemorrhage of many kinds i.e. Haematemesis, Haematuria, Menorrhagia, Metrorrhagia, Haemoptysis, Dysentery mixed with blood, Bleeding piles, Epistaxis, & etc. [3, 4, 6]

#### Preparation

**Mother Tincture:** Drug strength 1/10 *Ficus Religiosa*, moist magma containing solids-100 g and plant moisture-265 ml 365 g. Strong alcohol-765 ml to make one thousand millilitres of mother tincture [2].

**Potencies:** 2x and higher with dispensing alcohol <sup>[2]</sup>. **Symptomatology** 

Table 1

System	According to Drugs of Hindustan by	According to William	According to
	Dr. S C Ghose	Boericke	Clarke
Mind & Head	Quiet and disinclined to move - sad and melancholy. Nausea, vertigo, and slight headache (with haemorrhages). Burning at vertex [3].	Melancholic, quiet. Burning at vertex. Vertigo and slight headache. Unwilling to move. Sensitive to noise <sup>[4]</sup> .	Nausea, vertigo and slight headache. Burning at vertex <sup>[5]</sup> .
Face & Eyes	Became yellowish; Slight Dim [3].	Dim sight <sup>[4]</sup> .	Sight dim vision <sup>[5]</sup> .
GIT	Bright-red bloody Vomiting, Bearing-down pains in lower part of abdomen; Dysentery with menorrhagia. Dysentery, blood bright red <sup>[3]</sup> .	White tongue with profuse saliva.  Nausea; vomiting of bright red blood.  Pain and sick feeling in the stomach.  Bloody dysentery with menorrhagia [4].	Vomiting of bright red blood.  Bearing down pains in lower part of abdomen. Dysentery: blood bright red; with menorrhagia [5].
Respiratory system	Epistaxis. Difficulty of breathing; cough causes spit of blood [3].	Difficult breathing; cough with vomiting of blood; pulse very weak [4].	Difficulty in breathing. Cough, causes spit blood <sup>[5]</sup> .
Urinary System	Frequent wish to micturate; urine contains bright-red blood [3].	Frequent micturition with haematuria [4].	Frequent wish for micturate & Haematuria [5].
Female	Menorrhagia, bright-red blood, bearing down sensation in lower abdomen [3].	Menorrhagia, bright-red in colour.  Bearing down sensation [4].	Menorrhagia, bright- red blood. Bearing down pain <sup>[5]</sup> .
Generalities	Great weak and restless [3].		Very weak with restlessness [5].

**Relations:** Compare: Acalypha indica, Arnica montana, Cactus grandiflorus, Hamamelis virginiana, Ipecacuanha, Millefolium, Phosphorus, Sanguisuga officinalis, Thlaspi bursa pastoris, Trillium-cernuum & Trillium-pendulum [4-6]

**Dose:** First potency give Q; 5 drops or 1x, 2 drops every 10-15 minutes or four times a day according to the nature of the case <sup>[4]</sup>.

#### Conclusion

Ficus Religiosa proves to be a valuable remedy for curing as well as causing haemorrhage. It is remarkable that the same treatment (minute doses of the same remedy) is effective in arresting the effects of the drug taken during the proving. Some more studies should be conducted on the rare remedies and its effectiveness so that we get a wide range of homoeopathic medicines to treat the patient.

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