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**Rafiq Rasul Shaikh**Department of Agadtantra  
Yashwant Ayurved College,  
Kodoli, Maharashtra, India**Nayana hingmire**Department of Agadtantra  
Yashwant Ayurved College,  
Kodoli, Maharashtra, India**Vijay Patil**Department of Agadtantra  
Yashwant Ayurved College,  
Kodoli, Maharashtra, India

## Review articles of langali (*Gloriosa superba* Linn.)

**Rafiq Rasul Shaikh, Nayana hingmire and Vijay Patil**

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### Abstract

A branch of Ayurveda known as agadtantra deals with the signs and symptoms of numerous latent and overt poisons. Different Ayurvedic pharmacopoeias classify the medication Langali (*Gloriosa splend* Linn.) as a Moolavisha (toxic roots) and one of the nine Upavishas (half poisonous drugs). A poison can act as an ambrosia if administered in the right amounts and properly purified. Even food can be poisonous if consumed in excess. Ayurveda has used many poisons for therapeutic purposes since ancient times, but only after thorough cleansing. A plant known as Langli (*Gloriosa superba*) has both medicinal and toxicological characteristics. It has been suggested to use *Gloriosa Superba* to treat haemorrhoids, worm ulcers, skin conditions, and postponed labour.

**Keywords:** Langli, gloriosa superba, poison

### 1. Introduction

A substance that might cause harm to the body when delivered, inhaled, or ingested is referred to as a poison. Consequently, practically everything is poison. Actually, there is no distinction between a medication and a poison because a poison in a tiny amount may also be a medicine when taken in a deadly dose. In legal terms, the intention with which a drug is administered makes all the difference between it and a poison. In ancient Ayurvedic writings, poisons were divided into two categories: Sthavara (vegetable and mineral poison) and Jangam (animal poison) [1]. Animate poisons are referred to as Jangam visha, whereas inanimate poisons - vegetable and mineral poisons - are referred to as Sthavara Visha. In Ashtang Hrudaya Visha, natural poisons (Krutrim Visha) and artificial poisons (Akrutrim Visha) are once again distinguished [2]. Basic Rasa Shastra writings also divide visha into Visha and Up-visha categories according to how hazardous they are. Visha is thought to be more powerful than Upavisha [3]. Substances that are not fatal but nevertheless cause some toxic symptoms fall under the Upavisha category [4]. One of the mild poisons listed in Rasa Shastra books like Rasendrasar Sangraha [5], Rasa Ratna Samucchaya [6], and Rasatarangini [7] is langali (*Gloriosa superba*). An attractive climbing hedge plant called langali is found in Mysore and low jungles all throughout India [8]. In Hindi, it is known as Kalahari. *Gloriosa superba* L., a vine with unique, patterned flowers, is known as the glory lily. Glory lilies are found throughout tropical Asia, particularly India, and Africa. This magnificent lily is a native of Africa and is the country's floral emblem [9].

### 2. Medico legal importance

#### Accidental

Mostly, Due to its use in therapeutic medicine [10].

For criminal abortion it is introduced in vagina. Homicidal, Suicidal: Rare

**Fatal Dose:** 60 mg in adults [11].

**Fatal Period:** 12 to 72 hours

#### Treatment According to Modern [12]

The patient requires immediate hospitalization, followed by gastric lavage.

There is no specific antidote which is available for the treatment.

Fluid resuscitation and/or ionotropic support for correction of fluid loss.

Assisted ventilation for patients with respiratory depression.

Dialysis for patients with renal failure and oliguria.

Prophylactic antibiotic therapy is advisable if leucopaenia is present.

Vitamin K and fresh frozen plasma should be given if the clotting time is abnormal.

**Corresponding Author:****Rafiq Rasul Shaikh**Department of Agadtantra  
Yashwant Ayurved College,  
Kodoli, Maharashtra, India

### 3. Taxonomy

**Botanical Description** <sup>[13]</sup>: A perennial herbaceous climbing herb growing 3.5 to 6.0 meters in length.

**Tubers:** V or L-shaped, finger-like that are pure white when young, becoming brown with age.

**Leaves:** Pointed, dark green, glossy, each equipped with a tendril by means of which it clings onto other plants. Occur in whorls of 3 to 4, opposite or alternate, simple, sessile, ovate to lanceolate ranging from 6 to 20 cm in length and 1.5 to 4 cm wide.

**Flowers:** Attractive borne on long stalks. Have six erect petals ranging in colour from bright yellow to bicoloured, red and yellow or purple and yellow. The genus derives its name from the Latin word 'gloriosus' referring to the flowers.

**Fruits:** Capsules that split open to release several smooth red seeds with a spongy test (Maroyi *et al.*, 2011).

### 4. Aims and Objectives

1. To study the concept of Langli (*Gloriosa superba*) according to Ayurveda.
2. Study to concept according to *Gloriosa superba* modern science.
3. To compile the information of Langli in respect to therapeutic and toxicological view.

### 5. Material and methods

All available authentic books *viz.* Samhitas, books of modern science and books of toxicology

### 6. Discussion

Shodana (purification) of Langali Purificatory measures are mentioned in other Grandas in which Takra and Saindhava are made into solution and pieces of Langali are immersed in it for 3 days or 7 days <sup>[14]</sup>. UV spectroscopy method was used to analyze the media (Takra and Saindhava) before and after Shodhana to provide objectiveness to the process of Shodhana and role of media in the process. Loss on drying, total ash, water soluble extractive and alcohol soluble extractive were found to be increased in the samples after Shodhana with the media as compared to the samples before Shodhana, while acid insoluble ash was found to be decreased after Shodhana procedure. Qualitative analysis shows presence of alkaloids, saponins, tannins and carbohydrates in the samples before and after Shodhana although their quantification was not done. The article suggest further studies in the purification using different media <sup>[15]</sup>.

### Medicinal uses

1. It is used as appetizer in medicinal dose, skin disorders, scorpion & snake venom, Leprosy, Haemorrhoids, & in worm infestations.
2. Root of this plant is used as an ingredient in many Ayurveda classical formulations and indicated for various clinical conditions such as, Shotha (inflammation / oedema), Vrana (wound), Gandamala (lymphadenitis), Charmoroga (skin diseases), Khalitya (hair loss), Aagnimandya (loss of appetite), Aarsha (piles), Vatavyadhi (joint pain / arthritis) and many others.
3. Root of Langali is enlisted as an essential drug, to be kept in delivery room and especially indicated in delayed

labour and expulsion of placenta.

4. In the Indian Systems of Medicine, the tubers are used as tonic, antiperiodic, anthelmintic and against snake bites.

**Other uses:** The juice from leaves is used as pediculicide i.e. to kill head lice. Root is used to treat various ailments in folk medicines.

**Medicinal preparations:** Kasisadi Taila  
Langali Rasayana  
Langalyadivat

### 7. Conclusions

The aforementioned debate leads to the conclusion that Langli is a medication with a lower therapeutic utility and greater toxicological consequences. It mostly serves as an abortifacient. There is relatively little information on this toxin in the toxicology books now in print, although Ayurveda previously recognized it as poison. Today, the toxicological impact of this medicine is illustrated on numerous websites.

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