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Review Article.....!!!

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A REVIEW OF ZUFAH-E-YABIS (NEPETA BRACTEATES) PHYTOCHEMICAL AND PHARMACOLOGICAL STUDIES

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INTRODUCTION

It is an aromatic perennial herbaceous plant of Lamiaceae family; it is a brightly colored shrub or sub-shrub that ranges from 30-100cm in height. Found in western temperate Himalayas from Garhwal to Kashmir at altitudes of 18, 00-2400 m. Leaves are ovate-obtuse (Handa*et al.*, 1957; Kirtikar&Basu, 2003). During summer the plant produces bunches of pink blue and more rarely white fragrant flowers. The herb is sometimes subshrub or shrub, annual or perennial and usually aromatic in nature. Stem is woody at base. Leaves are opposite, rarely whorled or alternate, simple to pinnately dissected or compound, without stipules. Inflorescences generally compound, sometimes flowers solitary and axillary; verticillasters two to many flowered, subtended by leaves or bracts. Flowers are bisexual, zygomorphic, rarely sub actinomorphic, bracteolate or not. Calyx is persistent, 5-toothed, 2-lipped; upper lip 3-toothed, lower lips are 2- or 4-toothed; tube sometimes hairy inside. Corolla limb usually 2-lipped; upper lip 2-lobed and lower 3-lobed, rarely upper lip entire and lower 4-lobed, also rarely limb (4- or) 5-lobed; tube is hairy annulated inside. Stamens areepipetalous, 4 or 2, free, rarely filaments connate, sometimes one staminodial; anther 1- or 2-celled, usually dehiscing longitudinally; disc persistent. Ovary is superior, 2-celled and each cell 2-ovuled and style sub terminal, or ovary 4-parted and each lobe 1-ovuled and style gynobasic with 2-cleft apex. Fruits are usually 4 dry nutlets. Seeds are with or without endosperm. About 250 species are found in temperate Asia, N Africa, and Europe, most abundant in the Mediterranean region and SW and C Asia; 42 species in China. 1,2,3,4,23,45,22

Taxonomy

Domain: Eukaryota Kingdom: Plantae

Subkingdom: Viridaeplantae Phylum: Magnoliophyta Euphyllophytina Subphylum: Infraphylum: Radiatopses Class: Magnoliopsida Subclass: Lamiidae Superorder: Lamianae Order: Lamiales Family: Lamiaceae Genus: Nepeta Species: bracteata

Botanical name: Nepeta bracteata

Vernacular names

Arabic:Zufa-e-Yabis

Bulgarian: Isop, Kalam Chinese: SàhnHēungChóu

Danish: Isop

Dutch: Hyssop, Ipse, Ysop

Farsi: Zoufa French: Hyssope German: Ysop Greek: **Issopos** Greek (Old): Hyssopos Hebrew: Ezov Latin: Hysopum Sanskrit: Jufa English: Hyssop Hindi: Zupha Urdu: ZufaKhushk

Habitat and distribution

It occurs in Azad Kashmir (Pakistan), Baluchistan (Pakistan), East Europe, West Asia, West Himalayas. In West Himalaya, it is found from Kashmir to Kumaon. It has been known as a culinary and medicinal herb for hundreds of years. It grows wild in the coastal areas of France, Italy and Yugoslavia and cultivated in these countries and in Bulgaria, Hungary and Holland. It finds its greatest use in flavoring preparations for alcoholic beverages and meat products ^{4,5}.

Unani Mahiyat

Dioscorides names this plant hyssopos, but does not describe it since it is 'a well-known herb. According to him, there are two main types of Zufayabis, the mountain and the garden. An under shrub, usually glabrous, stem branched blow ,branches woody 30-60 cm erect or diffuse, leaves are like the leaves of Marzanjosh(*Origanumvulgare* herb) giving very good smell and bitter taste, branches give yellow flowers without seeds, some leaves are like the leaves of Satyr (*Zatriamultiflora leaf*), and some are like the leaves of Mahanadi (*Lawsonia inermis*). Mountain (Pahadi) type is stronger than garden (bustani) one. And the type which is growing near the BaitulMuqaddas Mountains is good and is called as Zufah Misry. 47,48,53,55,59,45,42

Botanical description

Macroscopic:

Flowers are pediculate, complete and hypogenous. Calyx are 15 nerved, 5 toothed, corolla, blipped. Stamens four,lower longer, anther cells linear spreading, style lobes sub equal, subulate.

Microscopic: transverse section of pedical shows a solid central stele. The epidermis is single layered having rectangular cuticularised cells. This is followed by a multilayered cortex. The central stele is enclosed in sclerenchymatouspericycle followed by continuous phloem. The xylem is formed of vessel tracheids, fibers and parenchyma. The crystals of calcium oxalate are present in the cortical cells. The uniserate and unicellular trichomes are also found on outer surface of pedicel.

Transverse section of sepal shows an upper and lower epidermis made up of rectangular cells. Epidermis is followed by 3-4 layered rounded parenchymatous cells loosely arranged with intercellular space, 4-5 vascular bundles are found in a sepal. Calcium oxalate crystals are also found in the parenchymatous cells of mesophyll.

Transverse section of petal is similar to that of sepal except the cells of mesophyll and epidermis are smaller in size than the cells of sepal. The number of vascular bundles is 3-4 only. Transverse section of anther shows four sporangia. The single layered epidermis having isodiametric cells filled with dense cytoplasm. The cells of endothelium show lignification on the radial and tangential wall.

Powder study: The powder is brownish green in color without any definite smell. Powder analysis of the crude drug reveals the presence of fragments of pedicel, calyx, corolla, and epidermal cells of anther along with endothelium and pollen grains. Tracheid's of different sizes, cells of xylem parenchyma and uniseriatetrichomesbrone on the pedicel are also observed.

Parts Used Leaves and Flowers 57,42,47,48,6,7

Maza (Taste) Mildly bitter,55,44,53,47

Mizaj (Temperament)

Hot³ and Dry³ 45,46,47,48

Hot² and Dry² 55,44,42,51;

MuzirAsrat (Adverse effects)

Adverse effects on Throat⁵⁹, Liver^{42, 51, 59}, Kidney ⁴²

Musleh (Corrective)

Following drugs have been recommended to be used along with Zufah yabis so as to avoid its adverse effects.

Babolka goond (*Gum of Acacia arabica*)^{59,45}, Anartursh (*Punica granatum*)^{42,51},Katera (*Astragallus gummifera gum*)^{59,52,42},Unnab (*Zizyfus sativa fruit*)^{42,52}

Badal (Substitute)

Persiaoshan (Adiantumcapillus herb)^{42, 51, 59}

Saterfarsi (Zatariamultiflora) 42,44

Marzanjosh (Origanumvulgare herb) 44

Podina(Menthapiperata)⁴²

Murakkabat (Formulations)

Sharbat-e-Zufah Murakab^{10,53}

Habb-e-Shahiqa⁵¹

TaryakiMasha 52,45

Majoon-e- Naankha 51,42

MuffarahKabir⁴³

Sharbat-e-Sadaf⁵⁶

Majoon-e- Azaragi⁵²

MarhamKafoori⁵¹

Miqdar-e- Khurak (Therapeutic Dose)

 $1 - 10 g^{42,45}$

 $3 - 9 g^{55,51}$

 $5 - 7 g^{52}$

9g-1 tola^{42,43}

Historical Uses

The name Hyssop is of Greek origin, it was named after azob meaning 'holy herb' because of its use for cleaning sacred places⁸.

Hyssop was mentioned in the bible 'purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean, wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. It was often used to clean the houses of lepers ⁹. In the Bible when the seven plagues were upon Egypt the Hebrews used brushes made of hyssop to paint the doorways with lambs blood to protect their children ¹⁰.

It was used in the middle ages; it was strewn on floors and shelves to repel insects, or added to pot pourri and laundry rinses If hung in the home it is said to prevent any negative energy from entering ¹¹.

Pharmacological Actions and Therapeutic Uses

Table 8 Pharmacological Actions of		Table 9: Therapeutic Uses Nepeta	
Nepeta bractaeta		bractaeta	
Action	Unani	Uses	Unani
	references		references
		Suaal	24,56,44,51,28
		(Cough)	
		Bahaq	44,67,45,38,34
Muffateh-e-		(Pityriasis)	
Sudad		Muharrik	56,44,43,54
(Resolvent)		(Stimulant)	
		Basoor and Reem	44,45,34,59
		(Boils & Abscesses)	
		Warm-e-	38,56,34
x 1:	47,56,58	Mashana(Cystitis)	
Jali	17,50,00	Dard-e-Auzn	55,45,58
		(Earache)	
(Cleanser)		Gastritis	45,44
Munafisbalgham	55,52,51,44,	Fever Rheumatism	47,56
(Expectorant)		Insect bites	43,44,45
	55,44,51	Irq-un-Nisa	43
Dafa-e-	33,11,31	(Sciatica)	
sualbalghami		Is-haal	34,59
		(Diarrhoea)	
		Istisqa-e-Ziqqi	34,55
		(Ascites)	
		Dard-e-kamar	51,42
		(Lumbago)	15.0
		Muscular pain	45,34
		Nafakh	34,45
		(Flatulence)	
		Warm-e-Lozatan	54,53,44

Muhallil	58,59	(Tonsillitis)	
		Nazla- wa- Zukam	42,45
(Anti-		(Common cold)	
		Niqras	58,53,57
inflammatory)		(Gout)	
		Zaheer	44,47
		(Dysentry)	
		Qoolanj	44
		(Intestinal colic)	
		Qurooh-e-Maida	45,47,53,52
		waAmaa	
		(Peptic ulceration)	
		Raasha	30,47,58
		(Tremors)	
		Dipthera (Khunaq)	56,44,31
		A gargle for sore	44,48
		throats and quinsy	
		Sozish-e-Baul	45,59,57
		(Burning	
		micturition)	
		Usr-ul-Bala	56,47
		(Dysphagia)	
		Usr-ul-Baul	57
Mullattif	45,27,45	(Dysuria)	
		Waja-ul- Mafasil	56,44,48
(Demulcent)		(Arthritis)	
		Waja-ul-Asnaan	34,59,53,44
		(Toothache)	
		·	
Mullayyin	45,57,43	Warm-e-Amaa	45,26
		(Enteritis)	
(Laxative)		Falij	44,47,58,54
		(Paralysis)	
		Muarriq	56,44,56
		(Diaphoretic)	
		Qatil-e-Deedan	59,57
		(Anthelmintic)	
		Jarab (Scabies)	32
		Aatash (Thirst)	44,55,51

Kasireriyah	45,34,67		
(Carminative)		Shoeb-e- Muzmin	55,53
		(Chronic bronchitis)	
		Zeequnnafas	58,53,55
		(Asthma)	
		MudireHaiz	55,50
		(Emmenagogue)	
		Ikhtanaqur-Raham	55,53,58,47,44,57
	58,32,45	(Hysteria)	
		Tashahnuj (Coli,	42,44
QatilKirmShikam		Spasm)	
		Amraz-e-Ain	50,55
(Anthelmintic)		(Catarrhal	
		ophthalmia)	
		Dafa-e-zaiqunafas	45,42,51,53,57
		(Asthma)	
		As a nervine for	43,53
		anxiety and petit mal	
	57 42 44 24	seizures	55.47
Dafa-e-Humma	56,43,44,34	As a tonic to build	55,46
(Fever)		up stamina after	
		illness or injury	58,44
		Antiviral against	36,44
		herpes simplex virus	42,53
		Healing bruise	42,33
		injuries and	
		promotes wound	
		healing	42,44,56
		Treatment of head	72,77,20
		lice with the	
		essential oil	

Chemical constituents

Several chemical constituents of hyssop have been identified, including pinocamphone, pinene, borneol, geraniol, thujone, camphene, limonene and phellandrene. Terpenoids with known pharmacological actions that are found in hyssop include marrubiin, ursolic acid and oleanolic acid. Other characteristic compounds identified in hyssop are hyssopin (a glucoside), caffeic

acid, tannins and resin. The volatile oil of hyssop is composed of camphor, pinacaphone, thujone, isopinocamphone, alpha- and beta-pinene, alpha terpinene, linalool, and bornylacetate 14,34,25,35

Pharmacological studies

- **1.Anti-hyperlipidemia effects**: From extensive *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies, both oleanolic acid and ursolic acid have recognized anti-hyperlipidemia properties ¹².
- **2. Anti-inflammatory effects:** From extensive *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies, both oleanolic acid and ursolic acid have recognized anti-inflammatory properties ¹².
- **3. Anti-proliferative effects:** Ursolic acid, a constituent of hyssop, was found to induce apoptosis in human leukemia cells. This effect may have been a result of enhanced intracellular Ca²⁺ levels, since lowering the intracellular Ca²⁺ level by different agents inhibits the apoptotic action of ursolic acid The antiproliferative action of ursolic acid was also indicated in a mouse melanoma cell line¹³.
- **4. Antiviral effects:** Crude extracts of dried leaves of *Hyssop* have shown strong anti-HIV activity *Hyssop* contain caffeic acid, unidentified tannins, and possibly a third class of unidentified higher molecular weight compounds that exhibit strong anti-HIV activity, and may be useful in the treatment of patients with AIDS ¹⁴.
- **5. Cardiovascular effects**: According to a clinical trial, flavonoids found in hyssop, including diosmin and hesperidin, may slightly improve chronic venous insufficiency (CVI) ¹⁵.
- **6. Diabetes mellitus type 1 effects:** Daflon® 500 (a mixture of diosmin [90%] and hesperidin [10%]) proved to be effective in decreasing glycation in type I diabetic patients ¹⁶.
- **7. Expectorant effects:** Marrubiin, a bitter diterpenoid found in hyssop, irritates the lining of the throat, causing an expectorant action ¹⁷.
- **8.Gall bladder effects:** Marrubiin, found in hyssop, is a bitter diterpenoid that increases the production of bile in laboratory animals ¹⁷.

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