



The Secrets behind Classification of Plants by Siddhars

S. Ushakanthan¹, M.Murugesan²

¹PG Scholar, Dept. of Gunapadam, National Institute of Siddha, Chennai.
ushakanthan19@gmail.com

²Professor & HOD, Dept. of Gunapadam, National Institute of Siddha, Chennai.

ABSTRACT

Siddha medicine is the oldest of all other medicinal system of the world it shows through the ancient texts and palm-leaves of *Siddha* Medicine that *Siddhars* were botanist and environmentalist in identifying and naming the plants. This review paper deals with the classification of plants by *Siddhars* perfect consciousness. This was based on the special features, habit, taste, smell and inherent active principles. This is a kind of scientific nomenclature.

Keywords: Siddha Medicine, Scientific nomenclature, Plant Classification

Introduction

Siddha medicine is one of the oldest and the foremost of all other medicinal system of the world. The basic philosophy of *Siddhars* is that human being is an integral part of the Universe that is, the Universe is the Macrocosm and the human body is microcosm. No animal or human life is possible on this earth in the absence of green plants. Plants are Nature's remedies and have been used on the earth for food and medicine since ancient times as per the proverb of "*Medicine itself is a food; Food itself is a medicine*".

Today the global movement towards a more natural lifestyle has brought about resurgence of interest in herbs. Names of the plants are scientific, methodological and latinized. Botanists use a standardized two part system called Binomial Nomenclature which was introduced by Swedish naturalist Carolus Linnaeus. His system developed into the rules

now set down in the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature (ICBN), a set of rules to be observed and adhered to the world over in naming the plants. Scientific plant names are generally, they are very meaningful and not mere words of reference, the sources of scientific names may be categorised in a number of ways. According to the plant response, product, habitat, colours, taste, smell, animal and their organs origin and honouring botanist etc...

The present inventory converses this thing was classified by the *Siddhars* in 3000 B.C years ago notable and natural system, which are precise With their intuitive wisdom, their level of vision crossed beyond the morphological aspects upto the life matter which is the basic essence of the plant.

“Xk;%yp rh;t %yp cd;Dila caph; cd;Dlypy; epw;f Rthfh”

This is a verse as per *siddhar* Agasthyar describing the importance of knowing about the plant essence or *jeeva* before its collection. They identified, collected and used the plant by seeing the energy or colour of aura entangled around it, this part comes on the spiritual part and the knowledge was shared only through tradition as orally and since no strong literary evidences still unfolded on this matter.

Siddhars with their uniqueness in identifying the plant its naming and describing the features of a particular herb had to be well praised as they not only chosen the plant growing in a particular habitat or *thinai* the soil nature in which it grows (geographical region), the shape of the plant parts, smell, colour, taste and the inherent active principles.

In *Siddha* system of medicine, all plants were classified by *Siddhar's* based on the characters like plant habit, plant response to stimuli, taste, smell, activity, origin, products etc.

Based on the Plant Habit:

ePH Ks;sp	<i>Hygrophila auriculata</i>
Fg;ig Nkdp	<i>Acalypha indica</i>
ePh;g; gpukp	<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>
ePH Nky; neUg;G	<i>Ammannia baccifera</i>
Ntyp gUj;jp	<i>Daemia extensa</i>

Plant Response:

njhl;llhw; rpZq;fp	<i>Mimosa pudica</i>
epd;whw; rpZq;fp	<i>Biophytum sensitivum</i>
fhQ;Nrhd;wp	<i>Tragia involucrate</i>

Based on the Taste:

mjpkJuk(;sweet taste)	<i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i>
mf;fufhuk(;pungent taste)	<i>Anacyclus pyrethrum</i>
rh;f;fiuts;sp fpoq;F(;sweet taste)	<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>
Gspahiu (sour taste)	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>

Based on the Action:

Klf;fWj;jhd;	<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i>
thj ehuhazd;	<i>Delonix elata</i>
t[;u gP[k;	<i>Caesalpinia crista</i>
thj klf;fp	<i>Clerodendrum phlomoidis</i>
vYk;nghl;b	<i>Ormocarpum sennoide</i>

Animal or their origin:

Mid neUQ;rpy;	<i>Pedaliium murex</i>
g+id tzq;fp	<i>Acalypha indica</i>
Njs; nfhLf;fp	<i>Heliotropium indicum</i>
ehf ky;yp	<i>Rhinacanthus nasutus</i>
MfhrfUld;	<i>Corallocarpus epigaeus</i>
rpq;fkfp	<i>Adathoda vasica</i>

Based on the smell:

jpUePw;Wg;gr;rpiy	<i>Ocimum basilicum</i>
gPehwp	<i>Sterculia foetida</i>
fw;g+uts;sp	<i>Plectranthus amboinicus</i>
f]j]hhp kQ;rs;	<i>Curcuma aromatic</i>
Xkts;sp	<i>Anisochilus carnosus</i>

Human Body parts:

%f;fpul;il	<i>Boerhavia diffusa</i>
jpUNthl;Lfha; kuk;	<i>Crescentia cujete</i>
rpiffha;	<i>Acasia concina</i>
mk;ikahh; \$e;jy;	<i>Cuscuta reflexa</i>
rilkhQ;rpy;	<i>Nardostachys jatamansi</i>
Nej;jpug+z;L	<i>Blepharis maderaspatana</i>

Based on plant product:

rhk;gpuzp	<i>Canarium strictum</i>
fw;g+uk;	<i>Dryobalanopsus aromaticum</i>
re;jdk;	<i>Santalum album</i>
ngUq;fhak;	<i>Ferula asafoetida</i>
Fq;fpypak;	<i>Shorea robusta</i>

Based on Colour:

kQ;rs; (yellow colour)	<i>Curcuma longa</i>
kQ;rs; myhp (yellow colour)	<i>Cerbera thevetia</i>
nts;is fhprhiy(white colour)	<i>Eclipta alba</i>
nre;ehAUtp(Red colour)	<i>Achyranthes bidentata</i>
kQ;rpl;b(Red colour)	<i>Rubia cordifolia</i>
ePyp(Indigo colour)	<i>Indigofera tinctoria</i>

Based on Action:

eQ;rWg;ghd;	<i>Tylophora indica</i>
fl;Lf; nfhb	<i>Cocculus hirsutus</i>
rjf; Fg;ig	<i>Anethum graveolens</i>
jz;zPH tpl;lhd;	<i>Asparagus racemosus</i>
nghd;dhq;fhzp	<i>Alteranthera sessilis</i>
rf;fiunfhy;yp	<i>Gymnema sylvestre</i>

Honouring Siddhar's or God:

Nfhuf;fh; %yp	<i>Cannabis indica</i>
rptdhh;Ntk;G	<i>Indigofera aspathaloides</i>
fzgj; gj;jp;uk;	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>
ru];tjp	<i>Centella asiatica</i>
rPijapd; fz;zPh;	<i>Curticularia vulgaris</i>
fpU\;z %yp	<i>Hemidesmus indicus</i>

Based on Numerical value:

Itpuyp	<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i>
Vopiyg;ghiy	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>
xhpjo; jhkiu	<i>Hybanthus enneaspermus</i>
INTyq;nfhb	<i>Diplocyclos palmatus</i>
rJufs;sp	<i>Euphoria antiquorum</i>

Conclusion:

The scientific nomenclature of plants is well established on global wise in 18th centuries, but it has been well developed in many more centuries of years before by *Siddhars* with their supernatural powers. It shows us through the ancient texts and palm-leaves of *Siddha* Medicine. Unfortunately many of texts and palm-leaves are vanished by the wars and natural disasters in this part of the country. Even though, still we have an enough literature with us. But there are some hidden and indirect words give us the problem to unable to read and understand these literatures. Therefore we have to do a campaign work to find correct meaning of plants with the current scientific nomenclature. This mission should be taken by the Scholars in *Siddha* systems of medicine with the imperative manner. Through that only we can perform our treatment system with effectively and also we could take an important role to preserve and transfer our holy medicine to the future generations. Hence, I simply indicate the possibility to inspire further researchers.