

A REVIEW ON VIDANGA (*EMBELIA RIBES* BURM. F.) IN BRIHTRAYI AND NIGHANTUS: AN OVERVIEWPremlata^{1*} and B. Ram²¹Senior Resident, Department of Dravyaguna, Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India 221005.²Professor, Department of Dravyaguna, Faculty of Ayurveda, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India 221005.

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ABSTRACT

Objective: This review article aims to reveal the classical uses of *Vidanga* for health and wellness in the various disorders. **Data Source:** The available literature on *Vidanga* was collected from original scriptures, classical Ayurvedic texts and scientific databases like PubMed, Google Scholar etc. with *Vidanga* and *Embelia ribes*. **Review Methods:** This article reveals the ancient inventiveness behind the therapeutic use of *Vidanga* from ancient India to contemporary science. The traditional application confirms that the principles of available Ayurvedic classics in various periods in India have been too scientific and authentic. **Conclusion:** In this research work, it was found that *Vidanga* overcome diseases of Mutravaha srotasa and also act as a rasayan. Various herbal, Herbo-mineral and Polyherbal compound formulations of *Vidanga* used to maintain the overall health of individual.

KEYWORDS: *Vidanga*; *Embelia ribes* Ayurveda, Briahtrayi, Nighantus etc.

INTRODUCTION

Vidanga has been identified as *Embelia ribes* Burm.f. (Family- *Myrsinaceae*), large scandent shrub distributed throughout hilly parts of India upto 1600m.^[1] *Vidanga* was first listed as an official medicament in the Indian pharmacopoeia in 1966, with the botanical origin being limited to the fruits of *Embelia ribes*.^[2] In *Caraka Samhita Sutra sthana 25*, *Vidanga* is known as best *krimighna*.^[3] A large scandent shrub, branches long, slender, flexible, with long inter nodes, the bark studded with lenticels. Leaves coriaceous, 5-9 by 2-4cm, elliptic or elliptic lanceolate, shortly and obtusely acuminate, entire, glabrous on both surfaces. Shining above, paler, and somewhat silvery beneath, the whole surface covered with scattered minute reddish sunken glands, base rounded or acute, main nerves numerous, petioles 6-

15mm long, more or less marginate, glabrous. Flowers 5-merous, numerous, small, in lax paniced racemes which are terminal and form the upper axis, branches of the panicle often 8-10cm long with more or less glandular-pubescent rachises, pedicles 1.5-2mm long, glandular-pubescent, bracts minute, setaceous, deciduous. Calyx about 2mm long, sepals connate about 1/3 of the way up, teeth 5, broadly triangular-ovate, ciliate, petals 5, greenish-yellow free, 4mm long. Elliptic sub-obtuse, pubescent on both sides. Stemens 5, shorter than the petals, erect, filaments inserted a little below the middle of the petals. Fruit globose, 3-4mm in diameter, smooth, succulent, black when ripe, like a pepper-corn when dried, tipped with the persistent style enclosing a single seed covered with membrane. Flowering season: February-April.^[4]

Fig. 1: Showing A. Plant of *Embelia ribes* Burm. f. B. Dry Fruit of *Embelia ribes* Burm. f.

Table 1: Ayurvedic Properties Of *Embelia Ribes*.^[1]

Rasa	Tikta
Guna	Llaghu, Tikta
Virya	Ushna
Vipaka	Katu
Prabhava	Krimighana

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The full review of original classical Ayurvedic texts from different periods and scientific database was done.

2.1 Caraka Samhita (1000 B.C.E – 4th Cent.)

Vidanga is mentioned one among the nineteen most important phala dravya (C.Su.1/81). This is particularly

suggested for the purpose of virechana (C.Su.1/87).^[5] It is also one among Sirovirecana dravya and stated to be useful in Sirogaurava, Soola, etc.(C.S.2/3).^[6] It is also one among Trptighna mahakasaya (C.S. 4/11), Kusthaghna mahakasaya (C.S.4/13), krmighna mahakasaya (C.S. 4/15) and Sirovirecanopagani mahakasaya (C.S.4/27).^[7]

Following are the contexts in which *Vidanga* has been mentioned: Table 2.

S. N.	Preparation	Indication/Action	References
1.	Churna	Medoroga	C.Su.21/23 ^[8]
2.	Vyosadhya Saktu	Prameha, Kustha, Arsha, Kamala	C.Su.23/19 ^[9]
3.	Kaphaja pramehahara yoga	Kaphaja prameha	C.Ci.6/27-28 ^[10]
4.	Madhvasava	Kaphaja and pittaja prameh, Panḍuroga	C.Ci.6/41 ^[11]
5.	Vidangadi taila	Kustha, Arsa	C.Ci.4/18 ^[12]

2.2 Sushruta Samhita (1000 B.C.E – 5th Cent.)

Earliest reference is of the use of Vidanga for gharshana when pracchanakarma fails in bloodletting (S.Su.14/35).^[13] Vidanga, Pippali, Madhu, and Ghrta

have been advocated for use after one year i.e. Puraṇa. All other drugs are suggested for use in fresh condition (S.Su.36/7-8).^[14] Oil extracted from its fruit is effective in Krimi, Kustha, Prameha and Siroroga (S.Su.45/115).^[15]

The following are the references of *Vidanga*: Table 3.

S. N.	Preparations	Indication/Action	References
1.	Dhanvantara ghrta	Meha, Gulma, Asha Pliha, Vidradhi, Pidika	S.Su.12/5 ^[16]
2.	Vidangadi taila	Anuvasana relives Pliha, Kaphaja roga, Prameha, Arsha	S.Su.37/39 ^[17]
3.	Kalyanaka sarpi	Sarpaviṣa, Apasmāra, Panḍuroga,	S.K.6/8 ^[18]

2.3 Astanga Hridaya (7th Cent.)

In Astanga Hridaya katuskanda dravyas include Hingu, Maricha, Krmijita, Panchkola, Kuthera, Aruskara

(A.H.Su.10/30).^[19] Guda, Ghrta, Madhu, Dhanya, Pippali and Vidanga are advised to be used after one year of collection (A.H.K.6/6).^[20]

References are enlisted below: Table 4.

S. N.	Preparations	Indication/Action	References
1.	Madhukasava	Grahani, Prameha	A.H.Su.10/47 ^[21]
2.	Kasaya	Kaphaja Prameha	A.H.Su.12/7 ^[22]
3.	Dhanvantara ghrta	Meha, Gulma, Arsha Pliha, Vidradhi, Pidika	A.H.Su.12/22 ^[23]

2.4 VIDANGA IN NIGHANTU**2.4.1 SOUSRUTA NIGHANTU (7th CENTURY A.D.)^[24]**

Vidanga has been mentioned in surasadi gana. It has following synonyms- Vella, Govarniya, Citrandula and krmighnam (Surasadi gana/132) as described in this nighantu. Surasadi gana in general is stated to be effective against krimi, Pratishtaya, Aruchi, Shvasa, Kasa and Vrana (Surasadi gana 140).

2.4.2 SIDDHASARA NIGHANTU (7TH CENTURY A.D.)^[25]

It has been written by Ravigupta and presently available in the form of manuscript. In this manuscript only one synonym i.e. Krimisatru is found.

2.4.3 ASTANG NIGHANTU (8th CENTURY A.D.)^[26]

The author *Acharya Vahata* adds the synonym Shvetatandula. The other synonyms are Krimijita, Valli, Kirita. This is included in Surasadi gana (15/133).

2.4.4 PARYAYA RATNAMALA (9TH CENTURY A.D.)^[27]

The author of this nighantu is Acharya Madhavkar. He mentioned the synonyms Jantughna, Bhashmaka, Vella, Krimighna, Citratandula, Krimisatru, Gardabha and Kairala.

2.4.5 MADANADI NIGHANTU (10TH CENTURY A.D.)^[28]

Vidanga has been included in Madanadigana by the author, Candranandana. He attributes the synonyms Krmijita, Vella, Amogha, Citratandula, Krmishatru, Krimihara, Jantughna, Kriminashana. In addition he also described the properties of Vidanga. It has katu Vipaka and Kaphavataprashama property.

2.4.6 SHABDACANDRIKA (11TH CENTURY A.D.)^[29]

The author being Cakrapanidatta includes it in Vriksadi varga. Tandula and Krimighna are mentioned by him.

2.4.7 DRAVYAGUNA SAMGRAHA (11TH CENTURY A.D.)^[30]

Vidanga has been placed in phalavarga. It is stated to have Ruksa, Usna, Katu Vipaka, Laghu guna and Vatakaphahara property with ishat tikta rasa.

2.4.8 SADARASA NIGHANTU (12TH-13TH CENTURY A.D.)^[31]

Vidanga is included in Katuskanda dravyas. Also synonyms Krimijita, Vella, Citratandula, Kairala, Jantuharta and Rogatandulam are mentioned.

2.4.9 SHODHALA NIGHANTU (12TH CENTURY A.D.)^[32]

Vidanga is mentioned in Shatapuspadhi varga of Namsamgraha and Gunasamgraha.

2.4.10 SIDDHA MANTRA PRAKASHA (13TH CENTURY A.D.)^[33]

Acharya Keshava has included it in Kaphavataghna varga.

2.4.11 HRDAYADIPAKA NIGHANTU (13TH CENTURY A.D.)^[34]

Vidanga, Krimijita, Vella, Jantughna and Krimihari are synonyms mentioned by Bopadeva.

2.4.12 MADHAVA DRAVYAGUNA (13TH CENTURY A.D.)^[35]

Madhavakara places the drug in Vividhausadhi varga.

2.4.13 MADANAPALA NIGHANTU (14TH CENTURY A.D.)^[36]

Vidanga is mentioned in Sunthyadi varga. Synonyms of Vidanga like Jantuhanana, Krimighna, Bhutagni, Tandula, Ghosa, Karala and Mrgagamini are found in this *Nighantu*. It is said to have katu, Tikta rasa, Usna virya, Ruksa, laghu guna and pacifies Vata and Kapha.

2.4.14 KAIDEVA NIGHAĀŌU (15TH CENTURY A.D.)^[37]

Vidanga has been placed in Ausadhi varga. Krmijit, Vellam, Jantughnam, Mrgagamini, Krimihrt, Krimihara, Citratandula, Amogha, Tandula, Bhutaghna. In addition to this, it has been used in Medoroga.

2.4.15 BHAVAPRAKASHA NIGHANTU (16TH CENTURY A.D.)^[38]

It is placed in Haritakyadi varga.

2.4.16 RAJA NIGHANTU (17TH CENTURY A.D.)^[39]

In Dharanyadi varga, Narahari Pandit suggests the use of Purana Vidanga for better efficacy.

2.4.17 SHIVAKOSA NIGHANTU (17TH CENTURY A.D.)^[40]

Shivadatta Mishra has mentioned Vidanga a in different contexts. Sivaprakasa commentary on Shivakosa includes following synonyms Krimighna, Krmisatru and Citratandula.

2.4.18 RAJAVALLABHA NIGHANTU (18TH CENTURY A.D.)^[41]

Vidanga has been placed in Sas̥tha parik̥seda. It is said to be slightly tikta and has krimighna and Visaghna action.

2.4.19 NIGHANTU ADARSHA (20TH CENTURY A.D.)^[42]

The work is presented in a compilation form apart from authors experience. Bapalala Vaidya expressed same opinion as formed in earliar works. He places the drug in Vidangadi varga.

2.4.20 PRIYA NIGHANTU (20TH CENTURY A.D.)^[43]

Acharya Priyavrita Sharma has placed the drug in Haritakyadi varga. It is Tikсна, Ruksa, Katu rasa.

3. DESCRIPTION OF VIDANGA IN THE AYURVEDIC PHARMACOPIEIA OF INDIA^[1]

E. ribes is included as a monograph in the Ayurvedic Pharmacopoeia of India Part-1 & volume 1 and mentioned along with its definition, synonyms, macroscopic and microscopic description, identity, purity and strength, assay, constituents, properties and actions, important formulations, therapeutic uses and dose.

3.1 Purity and Strength

Foreign matter should not be more than 2%. Total ash value should not exceed more than 6% whereas acid-soluble ash should not exceed more than 1.5%.

3.2 Table 5: Active Constituents.^[44,45,46]

S. N.	Active ingredients	
1.	Embelin (2, 5- dihydroxy-3- undecyl-2, 5- cyclohexadiene-1, 4- dione)	(Golden yellow needle like insoluble in water, soluble in alcohol/chloroform /benzene) dyes with silk & wool with alcoholic solution
2.	Christembine	Crystalline compounds of embolic acid with soda, Potash and ammonia
3.	Embelin dimer	-
4.	Embelin disalts	-
5.	Embelinol	-
6.	Embeliaribylester	-
7.	Embeliol	-
8.	Gomphilactone derivative	-
9.	Homoembelin	-
10.	Homorapanone	-
11.	onopotassium embelate	-
12.	New compounds	-
13.	A nitrogen containingalkyl1, 4- benzoquinone	-
14.	An unusual nitrogen-containing 3-alkyl- 1,4- benzoquinone derivative	-
15.	N-(3- carboxylpropyl)-5- amino-2-hydroxy-3- tridecyl-1,4-benzoquinone	-
16.	Quarvital-1%	-
17.	Quercitol,	-
18.	Rapanone	-
19.	Resins	-
20.	Oleic	-
21.	linoleumacid	-
22.	Sitosterol	-
23.	Stable oil	-
24.	Tannins	-
25.	Daucosterol	-
26.	Vidangin	-
27.	Vilangine	-

3.3 Reported extracts of *Embelia ribes* and its use^[47,48,49]

Extraction refers to processes for the isolation of the active ingredients from drug material by using selective solvents in standard extraction procedures. General methods of extraction are maceration, infusion,

digestion, decoction, percolation, hot continuous extraction (Soxhlet), aqueous alcoholic extraction by fermentation, counter current extraction, ultrasound extraction (sonication). For *Embelia ribes* used hot continuous extraction and we get various activity in different solvent system are shown in **Table 6**.

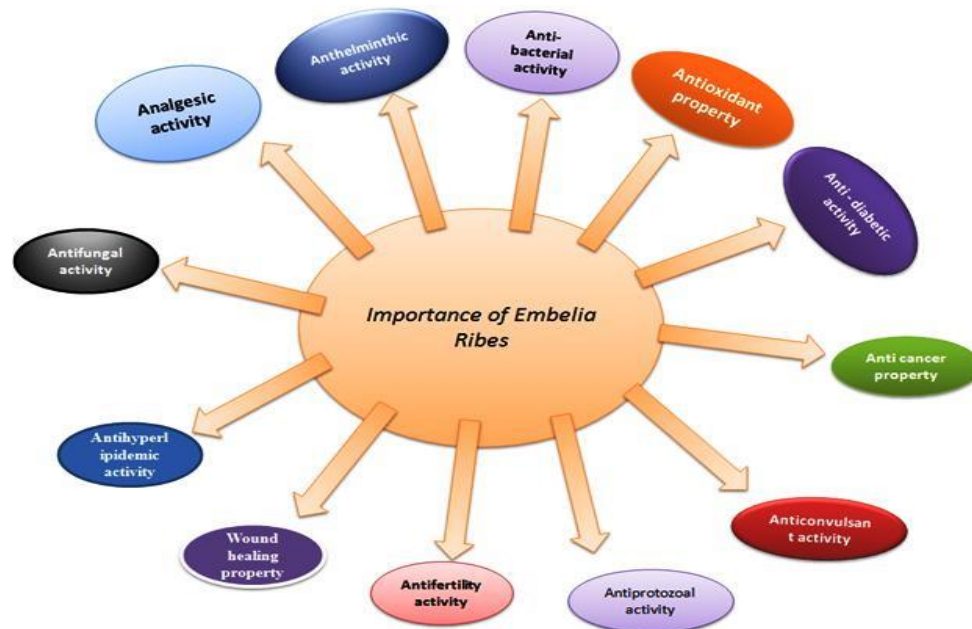
S. N.	Extracts	Uses	Dosology
1.	Methanolic extract	Acetylcholinesteraseinhibitoryactivity	Root
2.	Aqueous-Ethanol extract	Anthelminthic	(fruits-berries)
3.	Methanol extract	Preventpregnancy75%	(fruits-berries)
4.	Ethanol extract	Hepatoprotective, Antifertility,	(fruits-berries)
5.		Uterineweightlevels	
6.	Butanolextract	Antifertility	-
7.	Butanolextract Benzene extract	Antifertility Antifertility 51%	-
8.	Benzeneextract n-Hexane extract	Antifertility 51% Anthelminthic	-
9.	Petroleumether extract	Tapeworm, (butnotround/hook) Preventpregnancy 75%	-
10.	Aqueous-Ethanol extract	No Antifertility, 37% Anthelminthic	-

11.	Aqueous-Ethanol extract Fresh juice	No Antifertility, 37% Anthelmintic Cooling, diuretic and laxative	-
12.	Fresh juice Butanol extract	Cooling, diuretic and laxative No Antifertility, 37% Anthelmintic	-
13.	Butanol extract Ethyl acetate extract	Insecticidal activity	-
14.	Hexane extract	Antifertility	-
15.	Fresh juice	Cooling, diuretic and laxative	Leaves/fruit/root
16.	Powdered fruit	Antifertility	Fruit
17.	Milk extract	Digestive & upper respiratory infection	Leaves/fruit/root
18.	Aqueous extract	Hypolipidemic Anthelmintic	Leaves

4. PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTIONS AND SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE OF CLASSICAL USES OF VIDANGA

Embelia ribes Burm f. is having antibacterial, antifertility, antiprotozoal, abdominal disorders, lung diseases, constipation, indigestion, fungus infections,

mouth ulcer, sore throat, pneumonia, heart disease and obesity, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, anthelmintic, antidiabetic, anticonvulsant, anticancer, anti-hyperlipidemic, wound healing and molluscicidal activity which are depicted in Figure 2.



4.1. Analgesic activity

Embelin has non-narcotic orally effective analgesic property which acts centrally. It has a different central site of action and is not antagonized by naloxone. It is more acceptable than morphine due to high oral efficacy, high therapeutic index and absence of abstinence syndrome.^[50]

4.2. Anti helminthic activity

Embelia ribes seed oil when administered at different doses like 10 mg/ml, 50 mg/ml and 100 mg/ml reported death of the worms (*Pheretima posthuma*). But response of worms to different doses altered in the time of paralysis parameter. Increase in dose reported a decreased time of paralysis. And the values are significant when compared with standard piperazine citrate (10 mg/ml).^[51] *Embelia ribes* fruit extract in combination with *Veronica anthelmintica* seed extract administered at 1g/kg exerted a considerable decrease in

the fecal eggs per gram (EPG) count in goats suffering from mixed gastrointestinal nematode infections.^[52]

4.3. Anti-bacterial activity

Embelia ribes at a concentration of 500 mg/50 ml reported 12 mm diameter of zone of inhibition when compared to the standard drug nitrofurazone which has 22 mm diameter of zone of inhibition against test organism *Bacillus subtilis*. *Embelia ribes* did not produce any inhibitory /anti-microbial activity against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Escheresia coli*.^[53]

At 100 mg/disc dose embelin reported more diameter of zone of inhibition than standard (kanamycin) used at 39 mg/disc when tested against *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Shigella flexneri* and *Shigella sonnei*. Same kind of response greater than standard (ciprofloxacin 5 mg/disc) is observed in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* when embelin is

used at high dose of 100 mg/disc considerable antibacterial property is shown against test organisms like *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *Salmonella typhi*, *Shigella boydii*, *Proteus mirabilis*. And very mild antibacterial activity has been reported. When tested against *Streptococcus faecalis* and *Vibrio cholera*.^[54]

4.4. Antioxidant property

Aqueous extract of *Embelia ribes* administered orally at doses 100 mg/kg and 200 mg/kg body weight significantly decreased the levels of pancreatic superoxide dismutase, catalase and glutathione in the streptozotocin (at a dose of 40 mg/kg, intravenously as a single dose) induced diabetic rats. This antioxidant activity further protects the pancreatic β -cells against loss in streptozotocin induced diabetic rats.^[55]

4.5. Anti - diabetic activity

Aqueous extract of *Embelia ribes* fruits at doses 100 and 200 mg/kg orally fed for forty days produced significant ($p < 0.01$) decrease in heart rate, systolic blood pressure, blood glucose, blood glycosylated haemoglobin, serum lactate dehydrogenase, creatine kinase and increase in blood glutathione levels in streptozotocin (administered at a dose of 40 mg/kg, intravenously single dose) induced diabetic rats. Gliclazide is used as standard in this study. Further studies revealed that ethanolic extract of *Embelia ribes* fruits significantly ($p < 0.01$) reduced the pancreatic thiobarbituric acid-reactive substances (TBARS) in pancreatic tissue of diabetic rats.^[56]

Administration of ethanolic extract of *Embelia ribes* berries orally for 6 weeks at a dose of 100 mg/kg and 200 mg/kg significantly ($p < 0.01$) reduced the levels of blood glucose, heart rate (HR) and systolic blood pressure (SBP) in streptozotocin induced diabetic Wistar albino rats. Gliclazide at a dose 25 mg/day is the standard used in this study.^[57]

4.6. Anticonvulsant activity

Embelin i.p (intraperitoneal) administration at doses 2.5, 5 and 10 mg/kg body weight significantly inhibited seizures induced by electroshock and pentylenetetrazole in a dose dependent manner and the activity was comparable to phenytoin and diazepam. C.N.S depressant activity was revealed by significant decrease in locomotion. The observation suggests that embelin possess anticonvulsant activity against both grand mal and petit mal epilepsy.^[58]

4.7. Anti-cancer activity

Embelin is reported to decrease tumor size and inhibit the increase in activity of serum enzymes, viz. acid phosphatase, τ -glutamyl transferase, lactate dehydrogenase, aldose, etc in rats with experimental fibrosarcoma. Embelin interferes with carbohydrate and amino acid metabolism in tumor bearing animals.

Embelin 50 mg/kg/day in combination with curcumin

100 mg/kg/day prevented the induction of hepatic hyperplastic nodules, body weight loss, increase in the levels of hepatic diagnostic markers, and hypoproteinemia induced by N-nitrosodiethylamine in adult male Wistar rats.^[59]

Embelin has been reported to bind and inhibit XIAP protein and inhibit inflammatory pathways. The investigations whether embelin could inhibit osteoclastogenesis - associated bone loss induced by RANKL and by tumor cells in vitro reported that embelin suppressed the RANKL-induced differentiation of monocytes into osteoclasts. Thus, inhibition of RANKL - induced NF- κ B activation have great potential as therapeutic agents for osteoporosis and cancer-linked bone loss.^[60]

Furthermore, embelin down-regulated gene products involved in cell survival, proliferation, invasion, and metastasis of the tumor. This down-regulation was associated with enhanced apoptosis by cytokine and chemotherapeutic agents. Together, the results indicate that embelin is a novel NF- κ B blocker and potential suppressor of tumorigenesis.^[61]

In assessing the drug-induced cell toxicity, a fibrosarcoma cell line was exposed in vitro to increasing concentrations of embelin and simultaneously inoculated with [³H]-thymidine. The cells were examined for incorporation of the labeled thymidine in DNA, lipid peroxide and glutathione levels for regular intervals. A dose-dependent decrease in labeled thymidine uptake, lipid peroxide and glutathione levels were observed on embelin administration.^[62]

4.8. Antihyperlipidemic activity: Ethanolic extract of *Embelia ribes* administered orally at a dose of 200 mg/kg for 20 days reported significant ($p < 0.01$) decrease in blood glucose level, serum total cholesterol and triglycerides and increase in HDL-cholesterol levels when compared to pathogenic diabetic rats which are induced by streptozotocin (at a dose of 40 mg/kg intravenously). The extract further lowered the liver and pancreas thiobarbituric acid reactive substances (TBARS) values ($p < 0.01$) when compared to TBARS values of liver and pancreas of the pathogenic diabetic rats.^[63]

4.9. Antifungal activity: Antifungal activity evaluation of *Embelia ribes* using standard in vitro antifungal susceptibility was studied by test method NCCLS (The national committee for clinical laboratory standard M27-A2 Protocol). NCCLS method revealed that methanol extract of *Embelia ribes* and embelin had lowest MIC₅₀ range of 120 mg/L against *Candida albicans* (MTCC no. 183) and among four *Candida* species tested embelin had reported MIC₅₀ values below 700 mg/L. Solvent ether extract, petroleum ether extract, methanol extract and embelin reported to have MIC₅₀ in range of 300-700 mg/L against *Candida albicans* (MTCC no. 227) and *Candida parapsilosis* (MTCC no. 1744).

Petroleum ether extract shows lowest MIC₅₀ range of 250 mg/L against *Candida parapsilosis* (MTCC no. 1744) and 360 mg/L against *Candida laurintis* (MTCC no. 2898) while water extract required higher MIC₅₀ value for all species. Thus the result shows that the percentage growth was increased with the decrease in the concentration of the plant extracts, except for the water extract.^[64]

4.10. Anti hyperhomocysteinemic activity

Anti-hyperhomocysteinemic activity of *Embelia ribes* was evaluated in hyper homo-cysteinemia induced adult male Wistar rats. Hyper homocysteinemia was induced by methionine treatment (1 g/kg p.o) for 30 days. Administration of aqueous extract of *Embelia ribes* (100 and 200 mg/kg p.o) for 30 days to hyper homocysteinemic rats significantly ($p < 0.01$) decreased the levels of homocysteine, LDH, total cholesterol, triglycerides, LDL-C and VLDL-C and increased the HDL-C levels in serum. The results are comparable to the standard anti-hyper homocysteinemic drug folic acid.^[65]

4.11. Molluscicidal activity

Fruit powder of *Embelia ribes* in combination with *Azadirachta indica* and *Cedrus deodara* oil with synergists MGK-264, piperonyl butoxide (PB) in binary and tertiary combinations were used against the *Lymnaea acuminata*. It was observed that the toxic effects of these mixtures were time and dose-dependent. The binary and tertiary mixtures of plant-derived molluscicides with synergists were more toxic with respect to the single treatment of the plant-derived molluscicides.^[66] The order of toxicity of various tertiary combinations against *Lymnaea acuminata* was *Lawsonia inermis* seed + *Cedrus deodara* + *Embelia ribes* > *Lawsonia inermis* seed + *Azadirachta indica* + *Embelia ribes* > *Lawsonia inermis* seed + *Polygonum tuberosum* + *Embelia ribes* > *Lawsonia inermis* seed + *Allium sativum* + *Embelia ribes*. The toxicity of tertiary combination (1:1:1) of *Lawsonia inermis* seed powder with *Cedrus deodara* oil and *Embelia ribes* fruit powder against *Lymnaea acuminata* was highest (24 hr LC₅₀ 14.80 mg/l) when compared to other combinations in this study.^[67]

4.12. Wound healing property

Ethanol extract of *Embelia ribes* (30 mg/ml) and embelin both reported significant wound healing activity. In embelin treated groups (4 mg/ml of 0.2% sodium alginate gel), epithelialization of the incision wound was faster with a high rate of wound contraction. The tensile strength of the incision wound was significantly increased than the ethanol extract. Also in debridement model the weight of the granulation was increased indicating increase in collagenation. The histological examination of the granulation tissue of embelin treated group reported increased cross-linking of collagen fibres and absence of monocytes. The results are comparatively evaluated with standard skin ointment framycetin.^[68]

4.13. Antifertility activity

Embelin extracted from *Embelia ribes* Burm. Berries altered the testicular histology and glycogen, gametogenic counts and accessory sex gland fructose at the dose levels 0.3, 0.4 and 0.5 mg/kg body weight administered subcutaneously for 35 days. The compound is suggested to possess anti-androgenic activity. An oral herbal contraceptive would allow couples control their fertility without consulting a health worker, which in turn would likely markedly increase the number of couples practicing family planning.

Oral administration of embelin (75 mg/kg per day, daily for 15 and 30 days) to male rats caused significant elevation in the uptake of D-glucose, L-alanine, L-leucine and calcium in small intestinal segments. Embelin also produced significant increases in intestinal brush border membrane-associated enzymes (sucrose, lactase, maltase, alkaline phosphatase and leucine aminopeptidase) in both intestinal homogenates and partially purified brush border membrane preparations.

4.14. Antihyperglycemic activity

Diabetic mellitus has been treated orally with herbal remedies based on folk medicine *Embelia ribes burm* (Myrsinaceae), known commonly as vidanga, was used in Ayurveda for its anthelmintic activity. Ayurveda describes vidanga as pungent. Causes increase in digestive fire and cures flatulence and colic. A single study reported the antihyperglycemic activity of decoction of *E. ribes* in glucose-induced the lipid-lowering and antioxidant potential of ethanolic extract of *E. ribes* Burm was investigated in streptozotocin (40 mg/kg, IV, single injection) - induced diabetes in rats.

Twenty days of orally feeding the extract (200 mg/kg) to diabetic rats resulted in significant ($p < 0.01$) decrease in blood glucose, serum total cholesterol and triglycerides, and increase in HDL-cholesterol levels when compared to pathogenic diabetic rats.

Further, the extract also lowered the liver and pancreas thiobarbituric acid-reactive substances (TBARS) values ($P < 0.01$) when compared to TBARS diabetic rats. The results of test drug were comparable to gliclazide (25 mg/kg, orally), a standard antihyperglycemic agent. This is the first pilot study to provide biochemical evidence of potential of *E. ribes* in diabetic Dyslipidemia.^[69]

4.15. Antinematodal activity

The antinematodal activity of a mixed prescription of *Veronica anemintica* seed (Kali zeeri) and *Embelia ribes* fruit (Babrang) was evaluated in goats. The EPG (Egg per gram) counts were made in the faeces before and on the 3rd, 10th and 15th days of the treatment with the powder in 0.5, 1 and 2 g/kg body weight doses and with the water and methanol extracts equivalent to 2 g/kg of the original powder. The evaluation of data on 15th day of the administration showed that 2 extract and 0.01 g/kg of morantel tartrate are equally effective and safe

intreating natural gastrointestinal nematode of the local goats.^[70]

4.16. Antiproliferative activity

Biological activities of the 1, 4-benzoquinone derivatives 5-O-ethylumbelliferone (1) and 5-O-methylumbelliferone (2) were investigated. Both of them showed antiproliferative activity against a panel of human tumor cell lines upon comparison to normal marsupial kidney cells (PtK2). They arrested HL-60 cells in the G (0)/G (1) phase of the cell cycle in dose- and time-dependent manner. In HeLa cells, exposure to 100 microM of 1 or 2 for 6h induced a complete disassembly of the microtubule network and an increased number of cells blocked in mitotic stages. Treatment with 10 microM of 1 and 2 for 24h induced apoptosis in HL-60 cells. This evidence suggests that both 1 and 2 are promising novel antimetabolic and anticancer molecules targeting microtubular proteins.^[71]

4.17. Antispermogenic activity

Embelin, the active principle of the seeds of *Embelia ribes* Burm, has been isolated and the purity established. Daily subcutaneous administration of the compound at a dose of 20 mg/kg body weight to male albino rats for 15 or 30 days revealed an inhibition of: a) epididymal motile sperm count, b) fertility parameters such as pregnancy attainment and litter size, and c) the activities of the enzymes of glycolysis and energy metabolism. These changes were reversible, as seen after 15 and 30 days of recovery. Addition of embelin to epididymal sperm suspensions caused a dose- and duration-dependent inhibition of spermatozoal motility and the activities of the enzymes of carbohydrate metabolism.

Light and scanning electron microscopy showed that both *in vivo* and *in vitro* treatment with the drug causes profound morphological changes in spermatozoal head, a) decapitation of the spermatozoal head, b) discontinuity

of the outer membranous sheath in the mid-piece and the tail region, and c) alteration in the shape of the cytoplasmic droplet in the tail. Embelin from *Embelia ribes* significantly reduced the sperm count and motility and also the weight of the testes, in albino rats.^[72]

4.18. Antitumor and anti-inflammatory activities

Embelin, a plant-based benzoquinone derivative, has been found to exhibit significant antitumor activity in methylcholanthrene-induced fibrosarcoma in albino rats besides enhancing their survival time. The drug also has an appreciable action on pain and inflammation. The changes in DNA, RNA and protein levels in various organs in the tumor-treated animals were also studied.^[73]

4.19. Inhibitory activity

Seventy-six plant extracts including methanolic and successive water extracts from 37 Indian medicinal plants were investigated for acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitory activity (*in vitro*). Results indicated that methanolic extracts to be more active than water extracts. The potent AChE inhibiting methanolic plant extracts included *Withania somnifera* (root), *Semecarpus anacardium* (stem bark), *Embelia ribes* (root), *Tinospora cordifolia* (stem), *Ficus religiosa* (stem bark) and *Nardostachys jatamansi* (rhizome). The IC₅₀ values of *Embelia ribes* (Root) obtained for the extract was 23.04 µg/ml.^[74]

5. Formulation List (List of marketed products)

Embelia ribes used in various formulations like Ardrakakhandavaleha, Eranda paka, Krimighna kashaya churna, Vidangadi churna, Taramandura guda, Guduchi lauha, Abhayarishtha, Kumari asava, Manibhadra yoga, Pippalyasava, Kaishore guggulu, Vyoshadi guggulu, Saptavishantika guggulu, Eladi ghrita, Kasisadi ghrita, Chandraprabhavati, Wdangadilauha, Vidangataila (Table 7).

Table 7: List of marketed formulations.

Vidanga taila	Vyoshadi guggulu
Saptavishantika guggulu	Kasisadi ghrita
Chandraprabha vati	Wdangadi lauha
Pippalyasava	Kaishore guggulu
Kumariasava	Manibhadra yoga
Taramanduraguda	Guduchi lauha
Krimighnakashaya churna	Vidangadi churna
Ardrakakhandavaleha	Eranda paka
Abhyarista	Agnitundi vati
Amarsundari vati	Ardrakakhandavaleha
Ayaskriti	Bhallatak rasayana
Brahmachagaladya ghrita	Brahmanjisthadi kwath
Brihatguduchi taila	Brihatphalghrita
Chandanadi lauha	Chandraprabha vati
Dashmularishtha	Devadarvarishtha
Draksharishtha	Eladi ghrita
Guduchi lauha	Haridrakhanda
Kalyanakaguda	Kasisadi ghrita

Krimikuthar rasa	Krimighankashay churna
Kumaryasava	Kutaj avaleha
Lohasava	Madhukasava
Mahayogaraj guggulu	Manibhadra yoga
Narayana churna	Navayas churna
Nimbadichurna	Nityanand rasa
Panchanimbchurna	Panhatikta guggulu ghrita
Pippaladyasava	Pippalyadi lauha
Ajamodadi churna	Gudapippali
Avipatkar churna	Jatiphaladya churna
Brahmarasayan	Kasisadi taila
Brihanmarichadya taila	Krminudgar rasa
Brihatvidyadharabhra rasa	Laghucinkadiklehya
Dantodbhedgadantak rasa	Madhusnuhi rasayana
Dhanvantara ghrita	Nagarjunanjan
Pathyadi lepa	Navayas lauha
Pradarantak lauha	Palashbijadi churna

6. DISCUSSION

Embelia ribes Burm f. a medicinal woody shrub belongs to the *Myrsinaceae* family. *Embelia ribes* contain embelin as an active constituent so it show its activity like anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antifertility, antiprotozoal, antifungal, analgesic, antioxidant, anthelmintic, antidiabetic, anticonvulsant, anticancer, anti hyperlipidemic, wound healing and molluscicidal, also used in mouth ulcer, sore throat, pneumonia, obesity. its formulation in the market are Ardrakakhandavaleha, Krimighna kashaya churna, Vidangadi churna, Taramandura guda, Guduchi lauha, Abhayarishta, Eranda paka, Kumari asava, Pippalyasava, Manibhadra yoga, Kaishore guggulu, Vyoshadi guggulu, Eladi ghrita, Kasisadi ghrita, Chandraprabha vati, Wdangadi lauha, Vidanga taila, Saptavishantika guggulu etc.

7. CONCLUSION

The official botanical origin of *Vidanga* refers to fruit of *Embelia ribes* (Myrsinaceae) in the Indian Pharmacopoeia (1966) but mostly the fruit of *Embelia* is *Tsjeriam* are sold in the drug market of the country. The plant *Vidanga* has been used since centuries in Indian system of medicine. It has been used to treat krimi (worm) disorders, Kusthaghna (Skin Disorders). *Vidanga* has long been used in Indian medicine to relieve worms, diabetes, wound healing and as an analgesic and anti-inflammatory plant. It is concluded that *E. ribes* has anti-inflammatory, analgesic, antioxidant, anti-diabetic, antibacterial, anticancer and rejuvenating effect.

CONSENT

It's not applicable.

ETHICAL APPROVAL

It's not applicable.

COMPETING INTERESTS

Authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

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