

Aegle marmelos and Murraya koenigii: The wonder plants against bovine infertility

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ABSTRACT

Aegle marmelos and Murraya koenigii are the plants with impending medicinal properties. Both the plants contain various phyto-constituents that could be utilized for the treatment of various ailments in human and animal species. The A. marmelos and M. koenigii are easy to procure and their use is cost-effective which makes them important particularly in livestock health management. The plants are rich in trace minerals and antioxidants which augment nutraceutical values. In addition, recognized antibacterial and anti-inflammatory potential emphasizes A. marmelos and M. koenigii to be used against bovine infertility. The review comprises of use of Aegle marmelos and Murraya koenigii in the treatment against reproductive disorders in bovine.

Keywords: Anestrous, Antioxidant, Cow, Endometritis, Phytochemicals

Medicinal herbs are the potential source of therapeutic aids and have been used for both humans and animals all over the world since decades (Verma and Singh 2011). These plants contain certain chemical constituents that have definite physiological action on the body and constitute a defense mechanism against various infectious agents and other diseases. These green medicines or herbal drugs are healthier, have a wider margin of safety (Brull and Coote 1999, Dhankhar et al. 2011) and safer than allopathic ones (Brindha and Parvathy 2003). Therefore, the use of green medicine has emerged as a trend for benefiting health. Even, World Health Organization (WHO) recognized many herbal plants for their potential medicinal properties. Further, WHO recommended the use of herbal plants for treatment of human and animal health particularly in the developing countries as the resource for poor, small and marginal farmers (WHO 2003).

In Indian scenario, various plants such as Bambusa bambos, Ricinus communis (Das 2011), Brassica napas, Mimosa pudica (Kumar and Bharti 2013), Abrus precatorius (Lachure 2012), Cuminum cyminum, Allium sativum, Curcuma domestica, Azadirachta indica (Eswaran et al. 2013), Piper nigrum, Cucurma aromatic (Jagadeeswary et al. 2014), Lens esculenta moench, Pennisetum typhoides (Kumar et al. 2007) have been used to treat various causes of infertility. Similarly, Aegle marmelos and Murraya koenigii has emerged as plants

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with various therapeutic potential.

Aegle marmelos (L.) Corrêa

Aegle marmelos, commonly known as Bael, is a tree under family Rutaceae. The plant is found in the sub-Himalayan region, central and southern India. A. marmelos is plant with many beneficial therapeutic effects as documented in traditional system of Indian medicine (Abirami et al. 2014). The leaves, fruits, stem and roots of A. marmelos have been used against various ailments as ethno medicine (Badam et al. 2002). The plant has several pharmacologically bioactive principles (Table 1) with anti-diarrhoeal, antidiabetic, antipyretic, hepato-protective, antifungal, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and antibacterial properties (Sekar et al. 2011, Yesaswini et al. 2014).

Murraya koenigii (L.) Spreng

Murraya koenigii, commonly known as curry leaf and meethi neem is a deciduous plant with potential medicinal properties. The plant contains several phytochemicals (Table 2) that are a potential source of ethno medicine (Gahlawat et al. 2014). The plant is reported to possess pharmacological properties like antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, antioxidative, cytotoxic and antiulcer, antidysenteric, hypoglycemic, antihelminthic and antifungal (Ajay et al. 2011, Gahlawat et al. 2014).

Aegle marmelos and Murraya koenigii have drawn attention as a potential source of phytomedicine (Dhankhar et al. 2011) due to presence of bioactive principles against various ailments. A large number of recent Indian reviews have emphasized the potential of A. marmelos and M. koenigii plants for its antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties (Dhankhar et al. 2011, Patel et al.

Table 1. Various active principles found in Aegle marmelos

Activity	Principle/s	Source
Antibacterial	Eugenol, Marmelosin, Cuminaldehyde	Duke 1992, Ghosh and Playford 2003, Jagetia et al. 2004
Antioxidant	Eugenol, Marmesinin	Arul et al. 1999, Geetha and Varalakshmi 2001
Anti-inflammatory	Lupeol, Skimmianine, Citral	Rastogi and Mehrotra 1998, Geetha and Varalakshmi 2001
Anticancer	Skimmianine	Takase et al. 1994
Analgesic	Skimmianine	Goel et al. 1997
Antidiuretic	Skimmianine	Goel et al. 1997
Hepatoprotective	Eugenol	Sherwood and Toliver-kinsky 2004
Antiulcer	Marmin, Luvangetin, Eugenol, Cineol	Misra et al. 1991, Hajra et al. 1997, Capasso et al. 2000
Antihelminthic	Marmelosin	Ghosh and Playford 2003
Anti-diarrhoea	Tannin	Ghosh and Playford 2003
Antiviral	Marmelide	Badam et al. 2002
Anti-histaminic	Citral	Santos and Rao 2001

Table 2. Various active principles found in Murraya koenigii

Activity	Principle/s	Source
Antibacterial	Girinimbine, Murrayanine, Marmesin-1'-O-beta-	Reisch et al. 1994, Rastogi and Mehrotra 1998,
	Dgalactopyranoside, Mahanine, Murrayacine,	Ramsewak et al. 1999, Pande et al. 2009,
	Mahanimbine, Gurjunene, Murrayanol	Kumar et al. 2010
Antioxidant	Mahanine, Bismurrayafoline E, Euchrestine, Bismahanine,	Adesina et al. 1988, Song and Chin 1991,
	Bispyrafoline, Isomahanine	Tachibana et al. 2001, 2003
	O-methyl murrayamineA, Lutein, Tocopherol, Carotene	
Antifungal	Girinimbine, Murrayanine, Marmesin-1'-O-beta-	Kumar et al. 2010
-	Dgalactopyranoside	
Anticancer	Girinimbine, Koenoline	Bandyopadhyaya et al. 2002, Kok et al. 2012
Anti-diabetic	Mahanimbine	Dineshkumar et al. 2010
Hepatoprotective	Tocopherol, Mahanine, Girinimbine, Tocopherol	Gupta and Singh 2007
	Isomahanimbine, Mahanimbine, Murrayazolidine	
	Murrayazoline	
Anti-diarrhoea	Kurryam, Koenine, Koenimbine	Mandal et al. 2010

2012, Gahlawat *et al.* 2014, Savitha and Balamurugan 2014, Nigam and Nambiar 2015, Rautela *et al.* 2017, 2018) which advocate their role as phytomedicine.

Beneficial effect of Aegle marmelos and Murraya koenigii in reproductive disorders

Endometritis: The general principle of therapy against endometritis is to reduce the uterine bacterial population, enhance uterine defense and repair mechanism and reverse the inflammatory changes (Leblanc 2008). Aegle marmelos and Murraya koenigii have antibacterial, antiinflammatory and antioxidant properties which could be exploited for the treatment of endometritis. The zone of inhibition against bacteria derived from endometritic cows was observed when aqueous or ethanolic extract of herbal plants were used (Rautela et al. 2017). Earlier literatures of Abirami et al. (2014), Savitha and Balamurugan (2014) and Akinnibosun and Umufo (2015) further confirm the antibacterial potential of the herbal plants. Similarly, reduced inflammation using plant extract of A. marmelos and M. koenigii has been demonstrated by Arul et al. (1999), Maity et al. (2009) and Gupta et al. (2010). The reversal of inflammatory changes could be helpful in promoting uterine repair and regeneration. An association

between occurrence of endometritis and oxidative stress has been mentioned in recent literatures (Pande *et al.* 2013, Krishnan *et al.* 2014). The increased oxidant level either due to the poor antioxidant system of the body or generated in response to infection, declines the immune status of the animal. This allows the bacterial population to flare up and has long term negative impact on functioning of hypothalamus, pituitary and ovary (Sheldon *et al.* 2009). The antioxidant enriched *A. marmelos* and *M. koenigii* therefore, could be helpful to protect from the free radical damage and revival of the normal physiology and reproductive function.

In the study by Rautela *et al.* (2018), the therapeutic use of *A. marmelos* and *M. koenigii* against endometritis has been determined. The beneficial impact was perceived through reduction in uterine bacterial load, polymorphonuclear cell count and increase in blood levels of antioxidants in the study. The authors further suggested the use of herbal plants as alternative therapy against endometritis.

Anestrus: The resumption of estrous cycle following phytotherpay with Aegle marmelos and Murraya koenigii has been documented by Dutt et al. (2018). The feeding of the herbal mixture resulted in expression of cyclicity in cow

(Mehrotra et al. 2005), goat (Dutt et al. 2010) and buffalo (Dutt et al. 2011). Further, the effect was more pronounced with feeding of both herbal plants in combination rather than individually (Dutt et al. 2018). Earlier literatures have reported 85.71 and 60% estrus induction rate with 83.33 and 66.7% pregnancy rate following herbal treatment with A. marmelos and M. koenigii in anestrus goats and buffaloes, respectively (Dutt et al. 2010, 2011). The authors explained that the combination of herbal plants might have triggered gonadotropin hormones from anterior pituitary which might be responsible for restoration of cyclicity in anestrus animals.

The higher concentration of reactive oxygen species (ROS) has detrimental effect on ovarian function. The ROS impairs protein synthesis required for follicular growth and development, threatening maturation and ovulation (Derar *et al.* 2011). The documented activity of both the plants might have overwhelmed the oxidant levels resulting in restoration of cyclic activity in animals.

Delayed puberty: An induction of estrus behaviour has been observed in delayed pubertal heifers following supplementation of Aegle marmelos in combination with Murrayakoenigii (Kumaretal. 2016, Kumawatetal. 2016). A 90.9 and 92.3% onset of cyclicity following feeding of herbal mixture has been reported by Das et al. (2016) and Kumawat et al. (2016), respectively in delayed pubertal heifers. The former author further observed 54.1% pregnancy rate in herbal treated group as compared to control (16.7%) animals. The effect is attributed to phytoestrogens, mineral content and antioxidants available in the leaves of the plants. The available antioxidant might have augmented folliculogenesis by preventing ROS induced apoptosis of oocytes. The phyto-constituents might have stimulated steroidogenic activity of hypothalamus, facilitated follicular growth and steroid production resulting in onset of cyclicity (Jondhale et al. 2009, Nandini et al. 2010, Kumar et al. 2012). Further, the active principles of the plants may aid in follicular development particularly between dominance and ovulation resulting in resumption of estrus. The elucidation is also supported by study of Mehrotra et al. (2003) who reported advancement of puberty in female rats following supplementation of herbal mixture. The above observations point out potential of A. marmelos and M. koenigii in induction of estrus and fertility in delayed pubertal animal.

Conclusion

Aegle marmelos and Murraya koenigii contain numerous phyto-constituents that have been proved to have beneficial activity in terms of health and medicine. The plants draw attention as a source of green medicine as these are inexpensive and easily available to the famers. The A. marmelos and M. koenigii have antibacterial, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant potential that hold future promise for the treatment of endometritis, anestrus and delayed puberty in bovine that has been documented in earlier literatures. However, their effect on other

reproductive disorders is required to be explored so that maximum utilization of the plants can be done.

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