

CONCEPT OF RATNA DRUTI- A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Every science has its own set of principles known as basic principles. Druti is a basic principle of Rasashastra and remain as an important pharmaceutical process. There are various dosage forms like Churna, Guti, Vati, Kwatha, Bhasma, Pottali, Sindura etc described in the classics of Rasashastra and Bhaishajya Kalpana. Druti is one of the main yet neglected dosage form of Ayurveda pharmaceuticals mentioned in the Rasashastra classics. Ratnadruiti is mentioned in some classics like Rasa Ratna Samuchhaya, Rasa Prakasha Sudhakara, Ayurveda Prakasha etc; but detailed procedure for all the Ratnas is not found. Ratnadruiti is also not vividly explained in the classics. The difficulties in the preparation of druti is also elaborated in the Ayurveda. In this era of modernization there is need to bring such unexplored dosage form explained in Rasashastra into light. Hence an utmost sincere attempt has been made to review the Ratnadruiti Kalpana mentioned in Rasashastra texts.

KEYWORDS: Druti, Ratnadruiti, Rasashastra, dosage form

INTRODUCTION

Like every science, *Rasashastra and Bhaishajya Kalpana* also has its own set of basic principles. Out of various basic principles, *Druti* is one of the principles of *Rasashastra* and recognized as an important pharmaceutical process. Ayurvedic drugs are prepared and available in various dosage forms like *Churna, Guti, vati, Sattva, Swarasa, Kwatha, Bhasma, Pottali, Sindura, Parpati, Taila, Ghrita* etc. *Druti* is one of the important yet unmapped form of *Ayurveda* pharmaceuticals mentioned in the classics.

Definition of Druti:

As mentioned in *Rasaratna Samuchhaya*¹, whenever any Metal & mineral is subjected for intense heat along with few selected

Aushadha Dravya; the molten metal tends to remain in liquid state only. This liquid state of metal is called as *Druti* of that particular metal. Number of metals, minerals, Drug of Animal origin and marine origin are used to produce the various dosage forms like *Bhasma, Sattva, Pottali, Sindura* etc by employing different method of preparations. *Druti* is one among the dosage form where the drug brought into permanent liquid state. *Druti* is prepared from drugs which are more useful in processing of *parada* like *abhraka, gandhaka, haratala, Swarna* etc². As mentioned in *Rasendra Chudamani*³, when *Dhatu* and *Updhatu* etc along with *samyoga* of specific *divyaaushadhi (Tushadhanyaaadi)* are subjected to intense heat in

Musha (crucible); the *Dhatvadi* remains in *dravibhut* (liquified) state at normal room temperature is called as *Druti*.

History of Druti: *Drutis* were mainly prepared from drugs having propinquity towards *Parada* (mercury) i.e. employed in *Parada samskaras* (processes of mercury). It could also be hypothesized as *drutis* are explained after *Parada samskaras*. *Drutis* are mainly used for *Parada bandha*, *samskara*, *jarana*, etc². *Druti* is a dosage form which is employed for both *Dehasiddhi* and *Lohasiddhi*². *Druti* is mentioned in classics like *Rasa Hrudaya Tantra*(10th Century AD), *Rasarnava* (10-12th Century AD), *Rasendra chudamani*(12-13th Century AD), *Rasaratna samuchhaya* (13th Century AD), *Rasaprakash sudhakara* (13th Century AD), *Ayurved Prakash* (16th Century AD) etc.

Druti Lakshanas:

As mentioned in *Rasaratna Samuchhaya*⁴, *Druti* should possess five characteristics named *Nirlepatva* (non-sticking), *Drutatva* (Liquified), *Tejastva* (Lustrous), *laghuta* (Lighter than original one) and *Asamyogascha sootena* (Should remain separate from Mercury). For *Asamyogascha sootena*, as per the commentary⁴, until *druti* is not mixed within *Parada*; it is called as *druti*. Once it mixes with mercury, it will lose its liquid state. But it should have property of blending instantly with mercury.

Table 1: Drugs used for preparation of Ratnadruti in various texts:

Drugs ↓ Text →	Latin Name /English Name	Rasaprakash Sudhakara ¹³	Rasaratna samuchhaya ⁹	Rasendra chudamani ¹²
<i>Hinga</i>	<i>Ferul asafoetida</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Saindhava</i>	<i>Rock salt</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Samudra</i>	<i>Common salt</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes

So some scholars prefer the word '*drutamyogascha sootena*'³⁰ instead of '*Asamyogaschasootena*'.

Ratna Druti: As per *Rasaratna Samuchhaya*⁵, *Rasatarangini*⁶ and *Rasaprakash Sudhakara*⁷; there are nine types of *Ratnas* (precious gemstone) which are called as *Nava Ratnas* and they are having their astrological relations with the *Nava Grahas*. They are *Manikya*, *Mukta*, *Vidruma* (*Praval*), *Tarkshya*, *Pushpa* (*Pushkraj*), *Bhidur* (*Heera*), *Nilam*, *Gomed* and *vidur*; which are sequentially related with the nine *Grahas* (planets) from *Surya* to *Ketu*^{5&7}. There are six *Ratnas* which are important and they are used in the *Parada bandha*. They are *Pushparag*, *Gomed*, *Padmarag*, *Praval*, *vaidurya* and *Nilam*⁸. They should be stored cautiously.

In *Rasaratna Samuchhaya*⁹, the process of *Ratnadruti* is mentioned as common method for all the *Ratnas* (precious gemstone). Also, separate procedure has been mentioned for *Mukta*, *Vajra* and *Vaikrant*¹⁰.

In *Ayurved Prakash*¹¹, the *Ratnadruti* procedure of *Muktaphal* and other *Ratnas* has been mentioned together and similar procedure is mentioned for *muktadravana* in *RasaRatnaSamuchhaya*¹⁴. The drugs used for the preparation of *Ratnadruti* is also different according to various text books. (Formulated in Table No 1.)

<i>Bida</i>	<i>Black salt</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Sauvarchala</i>	<i>Potassium nitrate</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Romaka</i>	<i>Earthen salt</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Yavakshar</i>	Alkali preparation of Barley	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Sajjikshar</i>	Sodium Carbonate	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Tankana</i>	Borax	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Navsadar</i>	Ammonium chloride	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Amlavetas</i>	<i>Garcinia pedunculata</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Jaipalbeej</i>	<i>Croton tiglium</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Chitrakmul</i>	<i>Plumbago zeylanica</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Rudanti</i>	<i>Cress cretica</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Vanshlochana</i>	<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i>	Yes	No	No
<i>Jambuswaras</i>	<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Yes	No	No
<i>Dravantimul</i>	<i>Jatropha curcus</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Arkakshir</i>	<i>Calotropis gigantean</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Snuhikshir</i>	<i>Euphorbia neriifolia</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Mamsdrava</i>	Meat	No	Yes	Yes
<i>Bhallatak</i>	<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i>	No	Yes	Yes
<i>Kshirkakoli</i>	<i>Lilium polyphyllum</i>	No	Yes	Yes

Method of Preparation of Ratnadruiti:

As mentioned in Rasaratna Samuchhaya⁹ and Rasendra Chudamani¹², *Hingu*, *Panchalavana* (*Saindhava*, *Samudra*, *Sauvarchala*, *Bida* and *romaka*), *trikshar* (*Yavakshar*, *Sajjikshar* and *Tankanakshar*), *Mamsadrava*, *Amlavetasa*, *Navasadar*, *Jaipalbeej*, *Bhallataka*, *Dravanti*, *Rudanti*, *Kshirkakoli* (in *Rasendra chudamani* commentary by Acharya Siddhinandan Mishra, *Payasya* is considered as *Shatavar* while in *Rasaratna samuchchaya*, it is considered as *Kshirkakoli*), *Chitrakamula*, *Snuhikshir* and *Arkakshir*; all these ingredient should be triturated together to

form a ball like round shape (*Golaka*). In the centre of this ball, the *Ratna* (precious gemstone) of which *druiti* is meant to be prepared, is kept. This *ratna* (precious gemstone) should be of good quality and auspicious. Then this ball will be wrapped in *Bhurjapatra* (*Betula utilis*) and then tied in a cloth. It is then tied by a rope and subjected for *swedana* (Steaming) in a *dolayantra* (apparatus for steaming) containing *rasa* of *Amlavarga* drugs and *Kanji* (Sour gruel) (a fermentative product of rice). The *swedana* given for three days continuously under intense heat. Then this *pottali* is taken out, cleaned and then ball is opened and the *druiti*

inside is collected. This *ratnadruiti* is lustrous as like original *ratna*, lighter than original *ratna*, useful for *dehasiddhi* (Healthy body to attain salvation) and *lohasiddhi* (conversion of lower metals to higher metals) and gives auspicious results.

As mentioned in Rasaprakasha Sudhakar¹³, *Hingu*, *Panchalavan*, *Yavakshar*, *Sajjikshar*, *Tankan*, *Navasadar*, *Amlavetas*, *Jaipalbeej*, *Chitrakamula*, *Rudanti*, *Vanshalochana*, *Jambu swaras* (juice), *Dravantimula*, *Arkakshir* and *snuhiksheera* are taken in equal quantity. They ground on a stone (*Shila*) to form a round shaped ball. The purified *churna* (powder) of desired *Ratna* (precious gemstone) from *Navaratna* is kept inside this ball and it is wrapped by *Burjapatra* (*Betula utilis*) and tied well by rope. Then it is again wrapped in silk cloth and *pottali* is made. This *pottali* is subjected to intense heat for three continuous days in a *dolayantra* containing all *amladravya* and *kanji*. On fourth day, the *pottali* is taken out and the ball is washed with *amladrava*. The *ratnadruiti* inside is collected and stored.

As mentioned in Ayurved Prakasha¹¹, the *churna* of *Mukta ratna* is triturated for seven days with *Amlavetas Swaras*. It is then kept inside the *Jambirinimbu* (*Citrus jambhiri*) and kept in grain stack for seven days. On eighth day, it is taken out and *putapaka* (heating by *Putra*) is done to obtain the water like liquified *Mukta druti*. Lord Shiva explains that this *yogaraj* will be helpful in *Ratnadravana*.

Mukta Druti:

As mentioned in Rasaratna Samuchhaya¹⁴, The *churna* of *Mukta ratna* is triturated for seven days with *AmlavetasSwaras*. It is then kept inside the *Jambirinimbu* (*Citrus*

jambhiri) and kept in grain stack for seven days. On eighth day, it is taken out and *sharavasamputa* done and *puta* is given to obtain the *Mukta druti*.

Vajra Druti:

As mentioned in Rasaratna Samuchhaya¹⁵, the *churna* of *Vajra* (Diamond) is kept in round shaped *kalka* (fine paste) of *Vajra valli* (*Asthi-samhar*)(*Cissus quadrangularis*) and this *kalka* ball is wrapped in *bhurjapatra*. Again it is wrapped in cloth and *pottali* is made. This *pottali* is subjected to heat in *dolayantra* containing *Amladravya swaras* and *Kanji* for continuous seven days. The *druiti* of *Vajra* will be obtained.

Vaikrant Ratnadruiti: First method

As mentioned in Rasaratna Samuchhaya¹⁶, *Bhavana* of *Amlavetas swaras* is given to white colored *Vaikranta* and then kept it in intense sunlight. The same procedure should be repeated for seven days to obtain the *Vaikrant Druti*.

Vaikrant Ratnadruiti: Second method

As mentioned in Rasaratna Samuchhaya¹⁷, *Ketaki swaras* (*Pandanus odorotissimus*), *Saindhava*, *Swarnapushpi* (*Cassia fistula*) and *Indragopa* (kind of insect) are taken in equal quantity and ground well to make a round shaped ball. The *churna* of *vaikrant* is kept inside this ball and is subjected to *swedana* in *dolayantra* containing *Amladravya* and *Kanji*; for seven days by above said procedure to obtain the *Vaikrant ratna druti*.

This *druiti* is used to make *druiti* of *bhasma* (incinerated ash) of all eight *dhatu* (metals) or *bhasma* of *Vajra* by adding with it and following the above said procedure of *Ratna druti*¹⁸.

Ratna dravanvidhi (liquification of precious stone) is mentioned in Rasarnava¹⁹, where the word *ratnadruiti* is not mentioned but the word 'druiti' is mentioned in context of other metals and minerals like *Abhraka* (Mica). In the sixteenth patala of Rasarnava²⁰ under the process of *jarana* and *dravana* of *vajraadiratna*, it is mentioned that, with the help of herbs like *Uchchata* (*Gunja*)(*Abrus precatorius*), *Mina-nayana* (*matsyakshi*) (*Alternanthera sessilis*), *sarpakshi* (*Ophiorrhiza mungos*), and *raktachitraka* (*Plumbago indica*); the *ratna*, *nila*, *manikya* and *mukta* etc will liquify instantly. Here also the word *ratna druti* is not mentioned.

Ratnadruiti Lakshana:

As mentioned in Rasaprakasha Sudhakar²¹, the lustre or colour of the *druiti* will be same as that of original *ratna*. It will be lighter than original *Ratna* and useful in *Dehavedha* and *Lohavedha*. Once it combines with mercury it will become a potent formulation and will easily mix with mercury during *lohavedha*. Any type of *Ratnadruiti* when triturated with above said *Hingvadi* drugs (mentioned in table no.1) in *Kamsya patra* (bronze vessel) for six continuous hours; they will generously mix well.

As mentioned in Rasendra Chudamani²², the *ratnadruiti* will have lustre like original *ratna*, will be lighter than original *ratna*. It will be useful in *Dehavedha* and *Lohavedha* and will give auspicious results. This *druiti* will not mix with mercury but it will easily mix with the *ramathadi* drugs (drugs mentioned in table no 1) which were used in *druiti* procedure.

Fuel for Druiti Procedure:

As mentioned in Rasaratna Samuchhaya²³, for the procedure of *dravana* (process of

Liquification) or *sattvapatana* (extraction of metals from minerals); the best fuel is wood of *Mahuva* (*Madhuca longifolia*) or *Khadira* (*Acacia catechu*).

Storage of Druiti:

As mentioned in Rasaratna Samuchhaya²⁴, the *druiti* should be stored in bottle containing *Kusumbha taila* (Safflower oil). Doing so, it will be preserved for longer time and will remain in liquid state.

Hurdles in druti preparation:

As mentioned in Ayurveda Prakasha²⁵, though the *druiti* is mentioned in the classics but it is not witnessed. Without the blessings of Lord Shiva, *druiti* is not possible. Similar explanation is also found in Rasendra Chudamani²⁶, with the blessings of Lord Mahadev; the *druiti* will be easy to prepare. There are three things which are hard to get for humans having less fortune; they are *bhakti* (devotional worship) of Lord Vishnu, *Parada bandhana* (binding of mercury) and *Druiti*. As mentioned in Rasaprakash Sudhakar²⁷, Without blessings of Lord Shiva, *druiti* of *Dhatu* and *Ratna* is not possible. *Vishnu bhakti* (worship of Lord Vishnu) is very gruelling similarly the *Parada bandhana* is also very difficult to perform. Among the *dhatudruiti* and *ratnadruiti*, *Abhrakadruiti* is the most difficult to obtain. Humans are supposed to have less good fortune hence the *druiti* is not possible without the blessings of Lord Shiva.

DISCUSSION

Ratnadruiti is not available in the current market. There is no clear therapeutic indication of any *Ratnadruiti* mentioned in the classics also it seems that it is advocated more in *samskaras* than in any formulation.

As per Rasaprakash Sudhakar²⁸, *Vajradruti* bandha is mentioned where *Vajra druti* is used for *bandhana of Parada*. As per Ayurved Prakasha²⁹, it is clearly mentioned that the *drutis* are used for *ParadJarana* (an alchemical procedure of assimilation of metal into mercury). Drugs used in the preparation of *Ratnadruti* are almost similar in all the classics with minimal variations. They are of herbal origin, mineral origin and animal origin. For *ratnadruti* preparation *Vamshalochana* and *Jambu swaras* (along with other ingredients) are mentioned in Rasaprakasha Sudhakar only while *Bhallatak*, *Kshirkakoli* and *Mamsadrava* (along with other ingredients) are explained in textbooks like Rasaratna samuchchaya and Rasendra chudamani. While describing the preparation of *Muktaphaladruti* along with *Ratnadruti* in Ayurved prakasha, the *putapaka* method is advocated but which *puta* should be given, it is not clear. Similarly, in Rasaratna samuchchaya, in the procedure of *Muktadravana* by *puta* method is described but in commentary it is mentioned that any *laghuputa* can be given to obtain *muktadruti*. Exact name of *puta* advocated is not mentioned anywhere. The *Ratnadruti lakshanas* mentioned in the classics are almost similar with only difference while mentioning the characteristic of mixing with mercury. In some texts like Rasaprakash Sudhakar²¹ and Ayurved prakash³⁰, it is mentioned that, the *druti* will easily mix with *parada* (mercury) while in some texts like Rasaratna samuchchaya⁴ and Rasendra chudamani²² mentioned that, it will not easily mix with mercury. The preservation of *druti* is done in *Kusumbha taila* as *druti* is heavy and non-

miscible in oil so it will settle down in *taila*. Hence it will not be exposed to the atmosphere and oxidation will not take place resulting in preservation for longer time². Exact shelf life of any *ratnadruti* is not mentioned anywhere. As per Rasaratna samuchchaya²³ commentary, the fuel used for melting is wood of *Mahua* or *Khadira* because the coal of these woods will be hard and so the fire will be intense and will last long which is the basic requirement for the processes like *druti*. In the referred *rasashastra* classics, there is no description found for the internal or external use of any *ratnadruti*. Any therapeutic use of *ratnadruti* is not found anywhere so the dose and adjuvants. Hurdles in the preparation of *ratnadruti* are mentioned in classics. In *rasashastra* book Rasarava, the word *druti* is mentioned but the word *Ratnadruti* is not found.

CONCLUSION

Ratna druti is mentioned in classics since 10th century AD but the same is absent in many classics of 20th century AD. The *Ratna druti* is impossible without the blessings of Lord Shiva and it is said to be very difficult to get *Druti*. *Ratna druti* of any gemstone is not available in the market. They are practically not utilized in present days. There is scope of preparing these *ratna drutis* and explore them by doing tests and prepare their analytical profile.

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