

CHEMISTRY OF RASAMANIKYA-A PRELIMINARY STUDY

N.N. Pandey, S.S. Shukla and Usha Sharma

(Received on 4-8-98)

Rasamanikya is an Ayurvedic preparation obtained through Shodhana & Incineration of Patratal (Hartal). The term "Vibhavyet Dadhnachaamlan vatatha" of text Rasa Tarangini (11/90-91) used in the Shodhana process, must be used for dipping the crude Patratal in successive mentioned juices advocated in the text, because the drug obtained after standard method of processing of Shodhit Patratal has a characteristic 'Ruby' colour where as if the aforesaid verse lines are used for trituration, then the drug obtained through the same method of preparation does not show the characteristic colour. The percentage yield of Shodhit Patratal through dipping & triturating successively comes 95.0 & 88.75.

A separate method of shodhana of Hartal which is basically prescribed in the preparation of Hartal Bhasma was also applied in this particular research work to acknowledge the significancy of the method in the preparation of

Rasamanikya. The percentage yield of Shodhit Patratal was 92.5 with characteristic Ruby colour after passing it through the same method of preparation of Rasamanikya. The results prefer the use of this method to be used in the preparation of Rasamanikya where as the term 'Vibhavyet' must be used only for dipping. The standard method of preparation of drug Rasamanikya as given in Ayurvedic Formulary of India part-I (Edition First) is strictly followed in making the samples of Rasamanikya.

The chemistry of Rasamanikya is still not known. To know bit of this elemental study of drug 'Rasamanikya' was done through Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy. The character and geometrical structure of the compound formed after the incineration process was studied through X-Ray Diffraction. This method had confirmed that Rasamanikya is a mixture of Arsenic tri-sulphide (As_2S_3) and Arsenic pentoxide (As_2O_5). It showed no